

ESSD

European Society for Social Drug Research

30th Annual Conference
26 – 28 September 2019
Riga, Latvia

The ESSD was founded in 1990 to promote social science approaches to drugs research, with special reference to the situation in Europe (<http://www.essd-research.eu>). The society holds an annual conference providing scope for collaboration and co-operation among researchers working in the drugs field. The standard Conference Fee is 100 Euro; for more information, including reduced rates for students: see page 3. ESSD members and other researchers who wish to attend the 30th Annual Conference are invited to submit abstracts of their conference papers no later than **26th April 2019**.

If you wish to attend the conference without giving a presentation, please inform essdriga@lu.lv.

Abstracts (see themes and details below) **should be submitted at <https://www.essdriga.lu.lv/en/>**

Presentations should preferably include a **European dimension** (such as reporting on research or issues from more than one European country, comparisons between data from European studies), and/or theoretical analysis that draws inferences from the local to the global. Presentations restricted to the description of interventions or (local) policies will not be accepted. **Qualitative** studies are particularly welcome. Each presentation lasts for 15 minutes (and additional time for discussion). The conference language is English.

The accepted abstracts will conform to one or more of the following **themes**:

1. DRUG USE TRENDS AND PATTERNS

Comparative, preferably qualitative research on trends and patterns in use and users (transnational) • Drug use patterns in central and eastern Europe • Patterns of use and using careers of polydrug users whose repertoires comprise both legal and illegal drugs • The use of 'new' drugs (NPS) as an alternative or in addition to 'old' drugs • Performance enhancing drugs: e.g. 'study' drugs such as modafinil or methylphenidate (Ritalin) • Use of substances such as nitrous oxide ('laughing gas') or khat that are legal in some and illegal in other European countries. • Detailed, critical work on 'new' substances

2. DRUG USE IN DIFFERENT GROUPS AND SETTINGS

Patterns of use and using careers among groups characterized by, for example, age, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, etc. • Social norms and context surrounding drugs and drug use • Drug use in 'hidden' and 'open' drug scenes, for example nightlife, street • Drug use in prisons and after release • New interventions for users in prison and after release.

3. DRUG POLICY: THEORIES, CONCEPTS AND RESEARCH

Theories or concepts that may help exploring drug policy issues from innovative perspectives • Evaluation of drug policy approaches in central and eastern Europe • Drug specific policies and combined drug/substance/addiction policies • Comparative research on cannabis policies, including the evaluation of the impact of criminalisation/decriminalisation/legalisation • Legislative/policy changes regarding NPS affecting availability and/or use • Critical reflections on drug demand interventions and stigmatisation of users • New challenges and pioneering or controversial strategies in prevention and harm reduction • Ground-breaking and inventive approaches to drug offences and/or drug related crime •

4. MARKETS: DYNAMICS IN POLICY AND PRACTICE

Changes in the illegal opioid market (heroin, new synthetic opioids) • Local and national cocaine markets (users, suppliers) in the context of a global market and open borders within the EU • Production-related harms such as crime and violence • Harm reduction approaches towards drug supply • How do drug users get their drugs? • Social norms surrounding the acquisition of illicit drugs, including sharing and gifting • Connections and blurred lines between social supply and profit-oriented dealing • Open markets: street dealers and club dealers • Connections between 'real' markets and crypto-markets • Self-perceptions of social suppliers and dealers.

5. METHODS AND ETHICS

Innovative and mixed methods • Researcher identity and reflexivity in drug research • Sampling and representativeness • Non-representational methods in drug research • Online vs. offline methods • Researching vulnerable populations • Ethical challenges in drug research.

ABSTRACT LAYOUT

1. Word format, max. 1,5 page,
2. Theme (from the list on the previous page)
3. Title of the paper
4. Author(s): name(s), qualification(s), job title(s)
5. Contact details: full postal address, telephone number, email address
6. Abstract (not more than 400 words), including objectives, methodology, significant results and conclusions

ABSTRACT REVIEW

Abstracts will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- Relevance to the conference themes
- European dimension
- Theoretical reflections
- Added value with respect to earlier contributions at ESSD conferences

In general, not more than two presentations from members of the same institute or affiliation will be accepted.

Acceptance of papers will be distributed by June 7, 2019.

Participants are very welcome to bring copies of their full papers and other material for distribution at the conference.

PAYMENT OF CONFERENCE FEE

Information about Payment of Conference Fee will be communicated in due time.

INFORMATION ON CONFERENCE VENUE AND HOTELS

The annual ESSD conferences always take place in close collaboration with local organisers; this year's local organisers will be Baiba Bela (Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Latvia) and Agnese Zile-Veisberga (Ministry of the Interior, Riga).

The venue is located at the Library of the University of Latvia:
Kalpaka Boulevard 4
LV – 1050 Riga

Further information regarding the conference venue, accommodation etc. will be announced shortly at:

<http://www.essd-research.eu/en/>
<https://www.essdriga.lu.lv/en/>

ABOUT RIGA

Riga, the capital of Latvia, was officially founded in 1201. Riga is located along the Baltic Sea at the southern coast of the Gulf of Riga. The historical core of Riga is situated on the right bank of the Daugava River. Riga has given many pearls to the culture of Europe and the world – the most important architectural sites include the Old Riga, Art Nouveau, and wooden architecture. An elusive value is the multicultural environment that has been characteristic from the very beginning, since people of many various nationalities have lived here together – the Latvians, Germans, Russians, Poles, Swedes, Finns and others. This variety through Johann Gottfried Herder and Immanuel Kant has played an important role in development of the German Enlightenment Philosophy, has been the cradle for the cinema genius Sergey Eisenstein, philosopher Isaiah Berlin and an asylum for the opera grand Richard Wagner, and for centuries has been a source of inspiration for a range of other famous European people.

For more information please visit:

Riga municipality portal: https://www.riga.lv/EN/Channels/About_Riga/default.htm

Official travel guide Live Riga - <http://www.liveriga.com/en/>

INFORMATION ABOUT CONFERENCE FEE

- **The standard *Conference Fee* is 100 Euro.**
- **ESSD Board members and students (bachelor, master and PhD students) pay a reduced rate of 50 euro.**
- **Local conference hosts are exempted from the *Conference Fee*.** Hosts may negotiate a limited number of places for guest attendees (e.g. sponsors, dignitaries) at the conference.

Until recently, some of the ESSD's activities (especially the annual book and some aspects of the administration of the society) have been financially supported by the Pompidou Group (PG) of the Council of Europe. For various reasons, the PG can no longer offer this support. In order to ensure the sustainability of the ESSD as a society and the continuity of the annual conferences and the ESSD publications, the ESSD Board needed to take some important decisions which affect some of the principal guidelines that the Society has always cherished, including the free membership and free annual conferences.

At the end of 2018, the ESSD Board launched a short survey among its members so that these decisions could be taken in a transparent, deliberate and thoughtful way. 118 members completed the survey (i.e. 42.1% of the total of 280 members). The results were discussed at the ESSD Board meeting on 15 January 2019 in Amsterdam, resulting in the following strategic decisions:

On the basis of the survey results, the ESSD Board has decided *not* to implement an annual membership fee for the Society. The member survey clearly showed this type of fee is not supported by a majority of the members as the most acceptable option, and it would usually be paid by the members from their personal budget, which is not desirable.

Instead, in order to sustain the Society and its yearly publication, all participants to the ESSD conferences will be required to pay a '**Conference Fee**'. This fee covers all costs related to the **output** of the annual conference, such as publisher fees, editing costs, costs related to the editorial board meeting(s), and distribution costs. The fee is mandatory for all participants in the annual conference (regardless of whether they actually submit an abstract for and contribute to the ESSD publication).

The *Conference Fee* is NOT a conference *registration fee*: it does not cover any aspects of the conference, such as the conference dinner, refreshments or catering during the conference, the rental costs of the conference venue, conference packs, book of abstracts, etc. Local conference organisers remain responsible for covering all costs of hosting and organizing the conference.

The fee is **only intended to support and ensure the output** of the annual conference: printing and production costs, minimal editors' fee, and the costs for board members and editors attending the annual board meeting.

The fee will be implemented for the first time at the 30th annual conference in Riga (26 – 28 September 2019): participants who pay the fee will receive two publications: free copies of the publications resulting from the 2018 and 2019 conferences. At the future conferences (from 2020 onwards) participants will receive a free copy of the publication resulting from the conference they attended.