

# ESSD

European Society for Social Drug Research  
35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
in Manchester / UK

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS (redistributed with correct email address!)

The ESSD was founded in 1990 to promote social science approaches to drugs research, with special reference to the situation in Europe ([www.essd-research.eu/](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. After 2 years of virtual meetings due to COVID-19, we successfully returned to our traditional in-person conference format in Vienna 2022 and Copenhagen 2023 and look forward to another in-person event in Manchester in 2024.

### ➤ ABSTRACTS

ESSD members and other researchers who wish to attend the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference are invited to **submit abstracts** of their conference presentations **no later than 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024**. Abstracts (see themes and details below) should be sent as a word file to [ESSD2024mcr@gmail.com](mailto:ESSD2024mcr@gmail.com). If you wish to attend the conference without giving a presentation, please inform us. For any correspondence, please, use the above e-mail-address.

### ➤ CONFERENCE FEE AND REGISTRATION

**The standard fee is 100 euro.** ESSD Board members and students (bachelor, master and PhD students) pay a **reduced rate of 50 euro**. This fee is used only to support and ensure the output of the annual conference, and you can find more information on the financial policy of the ESSD here: <http://www.essd-research.eu/about.html>. All conference participants will receive a free copy of the latest ESSD publication. Further **details on conference registration will follow later** – after we have reviewed abstracts.

### ➤ CONFERENCE VENUE

The annual ESSD conferences always take place in close collaboration with **local organisers**; this year's local organisers will be **Robert Ralphs, Rebecca Askew, Liviu Alexandrescu and Mike Salinas** (Manchester Metropolitan University), **Lisa Williams, Meropi Tzanetakis, Felipe Neis Araujo and Julia Buxton** (University of Manchester).

The **venue** is located at Manchester Metropolitan Universities All Saints Campus, on Oxford Road, near Manchester city centre. Further information regarding the conference venue, accommodation etc. will be announced shortly via e-mail and at <http://www.essd-research.eu>

### ➤ DATE, START and END TIME

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 9:00am BST – Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 14:00 pm BST. (**Please note** that we have moved from the traditional Thursday-Saturday format to Wednesday-Friday for the 2024 conference.)

### CONFERENCE THEMES

Presentations should preferably include a European dimension (such as reporting on research or issues from more than one European country and 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 will last for 10-15 minutes, followed by ample time for jointly discussing the presentations of each session. The conference language is English.

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

### 1. TRENDS IN DRUG USE

Preferably qualitative research on new trends in drug use • Shifting boundaries of legality/regulation and the impact on use • The illicit use of legal drugs • Trends in new psychoactive substances and image and performance enhancement drugs • Novel ways of using traditional drugs • Cycles and trajectories of drug use across the life course

### 2. DRUG MARKETS, PRODUCTION, AND SUPPLY

Dynamics of demand and supply • Online drug markets and dark web fora • Impacts of crime control and policing • Echoes of global conflicts on local supply • The role of digital technologies and the rise of AI • Social media advertising and sales • Trends in cannabis and other drug production • Drug smuggling and transnational networks • The role of organised crime networks

### 3. DRUG POLICY: LOCAL AND NATIONAL APPROACHES, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Interplays between national and regional approaches • Evaluation of drug policy approaches • Comparative drug policy analysis • Legislative/policy changes affecting availability and/or use • Critical reflections on drug demand and supply interventions • Marginalised voices in drug use, drug markets and drug research

### 4. HARM REDUCTION

Innovations in harm-reduction interventions • Local responses to emerging risk environments • Peer-led interventions • Creative approaches to drug education and public awareness campaigns • Integrating research into practice • Accounting for pleasure in safer use strategies • Critical approaches to harm-reduction

### 5. CULTURE AND MORALITIES

(De)Stigmatisation of drug cultures • Values, moralities, and discourse in drug policy and practice • Drugs in popular culture • Negotiating ethics in drug research • Media and political narratives in framing drug problems • Cultural contexts of use, markets, and controls

## ABSTRACT LAYOUT

1. Max. 1,5 A4 page
2. Theme (from the list on the previous page)
3. Title of the presentation
4. Author(s): name(s), qualification(s), job title(s), portrait photo [\*Where there are multiple authors, please make clear who will be the presenter(s)]
5. Contact details: full postal address, telephone, email address(es)
6. Abstract (**not more than 300 words**), including objectives, methodology, significant results, and conclusions
7. Technical equipment required for the presentation
8. Word format using a template. This template should be applied to allow the book of abstracts to be assembled without complicated reformatting and communication needs such as requests for additional information!
9. A photo of the presenter(s) to be included in the book of abstracts is appreciated but is not mandatory
10. Short bio (**maximum 100 words**)

## ABSTRACT REVIEW

Abstracts will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- Overall quality
- 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 abstracts will be communicated by 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024.**