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He studied sociology at the Charles University in Prague. He defeated his doctoral thesis „Defining problems in drug policy: construction of illegal drugs and their users in knowledge of experts” in 2007. He is interested in defining problems in drug policies, qualitative research in addiction science and informal social control of drug use.

abstrakt

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Controlled Drug Use: What We Can Learn by Researching Users Who Know How to Handle Drugs



autoři

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Apart from populations of addicted drug users in need of treatment, there are populations of regular users who manage to avoid addiction and harmful effects of use (controlled users). The article reviews relevant empirical studies of controlled drug use. Thirty years of research have provided us with a developed theory of controlled heroin and cocaine use as well as some findings on cannabis. The level of user control over patterns and harmful effects of drug use depends on the following factors: drug (pharmacological properties), set (user's personality and attitudes), setting (informal sanctions and rituals), life structure, and drug availability. Studies of controlled drug use can be utilized in harm reduction based education efforts. Despite its achievements, this theory continues to be an understudied and underutilized area of contemporary addiction science.

Key words: controlled drug use – informal kontrol – secondary preventiv – heroin – cosine – cannabis

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