

Culture & Substance Misuse Conference



23 November 2009 / Manchester



Ethnic Health Initiative
bme-mentalhealth.org.uk

Promoting a better understanding of
BME psychological health and well-being



Culture & Substance Misuse

Culture & Substance Misuse

Our behaviour and attitudes are influenced by a number of factors, including our cultural background and the culture within which we are living in. What is considered to be “problematic” drug or alcohol use in one culture, may not be considered in the same fashion in another. Culture can have a powerful influence on the substance of choice, how and where it is used and with whom.

The stigma associated with drug and alcohol misuse can result in a low uptake of services by certain groups. Some service providers have established projects which work specifically with certain minority groups. Is this the way forward or should all drug and alcohol services be able to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse population in the UK?

This one day conference will focus on these issues and on a number of other key questions associated with culture & substance misuse including:

- Are some individuals and ethnic groups more or less susceptible to addiction than others?
- The global and UK picture: What are the prevalence rates for drug and alcohol misuse?
- What do we know about the impact of migration on drug and alcohol misuse?
- How can we improve access to Drug & Alcohol services by Black and minority ethnic communities?
- How can we reduce the stigma?
- What do we know about the needs and experiences of Black & minority ethnic communities who do access services?
- To what extent have these issues been considered in national policy documents and initiatives?

Who Should attend?

This conference will be relevant to all people who work with Adults and Youths who are affected by drug and alcohol misuse.

Delegates will come from a range of sectors including drugs and alcohol services, education, health, justice, government and non-government, multicultural, disability, research and policy, and from a range of professions including medicine, nursing, social work, psychology, childcare, teaching and youth work.





Misuse Culture & Substance



Ethnic Health Initiative
bme-mentalhealth.org.uk

Programme of the day

- 9.00 - 9.45** Registration, Tea & Coffee
- 10.00 - 10.15** Opening
Dr Dima Abdulrahim
Senior Researcher, National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA)
- 10.15 - 10.30** Chair & Presentation
Culture and substance misuse: some relevant results from the Department of Health's Black and minority ethnic drug misuse needs assessment project
Professor Jane Fountain
Professor of Substance Use Research, International School for Communities, Rights and Inclusion (ISCRI), University of Central Lancashire
- 10.30 - 11.20** What Makes Substance Use Abusive?
An Anthropological Perspective
Professor David Napier
Professor of Social Anthropology, University College London
- 11.20 - 12.10** Alcohol misuse amongst South Asian communities in the UK: The challenge of measuring the size of the problem, prevention interventions and in delivering appropriate service provision
Dr Shamil Wanigaratne
Consultant Clinical Psychologist & Hon Senior Lecturer King's Health Partners London
- 12.10 - 12.30** Morning session Q&A
- 12.30 - 1.30** Lunch
- 1.30 - 2.20** Khat and Somali Culture: old and new traditions
Dr Susan Beckerleg
Senior Research Fellow, University of Warwick
- 2.20 - 3.10** What works for drug prevention in BME populations: Missed opportunities?
Dr Harry Sumnall
Reader in Substance Use, Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University
- 3.10 - 3.30** Tea & Coffee
- 3.30 - 4.20** Developing staff and services to meet the diverse substance misuse needs of diverse BME communities
Harrinder Dhillon
Service Director, Drug and Alcohol Service for London
- 4.20 - 4.40** Afternoon session Q&A
- 4.40 - 5.00** Plenary, Closure & Evaluation sheets

Misuse Culture & Substance



Speaker Profile November 2009 Conference

Dima Abdulrahim, BA MA PhD, has been working in the drugs field for over 15 years. She is now employed as a Senior Researcher with the research team of the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) and is leading on the national needle exchange audit as well as on the NTA's Research Briefings publication series. Dima has previously worked with the Substance Misuse Advisory Service, the Drugs Advisory Service Haringey (DASH) and the University of East London. She sits on the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs.

Jane Fountain is a Professor of Substance Use Research and has been working in the drug research field since 1988. She is a research consultant for several international organisations, her work has been widely published in academic journals, and she has edited several books. Jane's work uses mainly qualitative research methods, particularly among so-called 'hidden' or 'hard-to-reach' populations. Most recently, Jane's research has focused on addressing drug- and other health-related issues amongst a wide variety of Black and minority ethnic communities in the UK and internationally. This research has had a particular emphasis on the risk factors for problematic drug use that are associated with social exclusion and the barriers to drug information, advice and treatment services that socially excluded people face. Jane collated 179 reports from community organisations who conducted needs assessments during the 'Department of Health's Black and minority ethnic drug misuse needs assessment project'. Earlier this year, her work on this project was published by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) as a series of five reports.

David Napier is a Professor of Anthropology at University College London. The scope and development of his research and teaching interests are readily evidenced through the publication of four books. *Masks, Transformation, and Paradox* (1986) examines the concepts of personhood both historically and cross-culturally. It focuses on embodiment, impersonation, and performance, on the one hand, and medical botany and human ecology, on the other. *Foreign Bodies: Performance, Art, and Symbolic Anthropology* (1992) examines various

ways in which the cultural construction of Otherness is employed in definitions of Selfhood. *The Age of Immunology: Conceiving a Future in an Alienating World* (2003) is a critique of the rise of a now-dominant scientific trope that relies deeply on not only "the recognition of Self", but also on the "elimination of Otherness". And *The Righting of Passage: Perceptions of Change After Modernity* (2004) argues that the variable nature of transformation and psychological growth in the contemporary world disposes us towards understanding the potentially constructive nature of stressful encounters, and especially those stressful encounters that involve how we assess well-being across cultures. His academic field interests have largely unfolded in the context of Buddhist-Hindu South and Southeast Asian studies, though these have been augmented by projects in rural primary care, among bench and theoretical immunologists, and with clinicians. David has also studied over several years the trials and tribulations of the homeless. Additionally, he maintains an active interest in applied medical anthropology through the directing of Students of Human Ecology, a registered non-profit organization that oversees a number of projects in mentored learning, but especially in the areas of medicine, environment, and culture. He also will soon launch through the Public Anthropology website www.publicanthropology.org "The Network for Student Activism" - a site designed to assist students in becoming directly involved in public debate as it relates to issues of human rights and cross-cultural understanding.

Shamil Wanigaratne, BSc, D.Clin.Psych., C.Psychol., AFBPsS is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust where he is the Head of Clinical Psychology of the Addictions Division. He is also Honorary Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College, University of London, which incorporates the National Addiction Centre. He has worked as a psychologist in the field of Substance Misuse since 1987. He has conducted research and published widely on psychological aspects of addiction, including the only British therapists' manual on Relapse Prevention and articles on race, culture and substance use in the UK. He is one of the founder members of the British Psychological Society, Special Interest Group in Addictions, which is now the Faculty of Addictions and the charity UK-Sri Lanka Trauma Group. He is a director of Samutthana the King's College London Resource Centre for Trauma, Displacement and Mental Health in Sri Lanka.

Susan Beckerleg is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Warwick and is also affiliated to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She has been researching khat in East Africa since 2004. She is a Social Anthropologist who has published widely on Africa and Arabia. For the past 25 years she has applied her training to health and development issues, both as an academic and as a freelance consultant in Africa and Asia. Her current interests include: psychotropic drugs in Africa; ethnicity and identity in East African and the Middle East.

Harry Sumnall is a Reader in Substance Use at the Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University. He gained his undergraduate degree in pharmacology at the University of Manchester and PhD in psychopharmacology at the University of Liverpool. His current research interests include prevention science, young person's substance use education and intervention theory, experimental psychopharmacology, and population prevalence of substance use. Dr Sumnall was research lead for the Department of Health and NICE funded National Collaborating Centre for Drug Prevention, and is currently pursuing prevention related projects across the EU. Dr Sumnall sits on the advisory boards of several national substance use prevention projects, has frequently presented on the subject at national and international conferences, and represents the UK in EU discussions of substance use prevention convened by the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). He enjoys working with prevention practitioners to overcome challenges faced when evidencing new initiatives.

Harrinder Singh Dhillon is the Clinical Service Director of DASL, a drug and alcohol service based in East London and Group Psychotherapist. Special interest includes the development of a residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in Punjab, India with the support of the International Clinics Foundation. Publications include co-author of 'Alcohol Issues & the South Asian & African Caribbean Communities' (AERC; 2006).