

5–9 September 2016, Budapest

Drug Policy Reform after UNGASS 2016

PROSPECTS
PROPOSALS
CONSTRAINTS



Background

The four-day professional development course *Drug Policy Reform after UNGASS 2016: Prospects, Proposals, Constraints* is a timely follow up from the landmark April 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs – an event which showed intense but frustrated pressure for reform and profound division over future direction. International drug policy is at a crucial turning point, with opportunities and also risks posed by fragmentation and dissent. This course reflects on the pre- and post-UNGASS period, identifies lessons learned and considers next steps at national, regional and global level.

Health, crime, human rights, development and new challenges were identified by the UNGASS as key thematic areas and these will continue to frame priorities, debate and advocacy going forward. Each area will be considered in dedicated sessions that will unpack and assess evidence, best practice, strategies for reform, as well as spoilers and obstacles to change.

Participants' profile

"After so many lives that have been destroyed, after so much corruption and so much violence, after so many young people being marched off to jail, can we say that we have won the war (on drugs) or at least that we are winning it? Unfortunately the answer is 'no.'"

—Juan Manuel Santos Calderón,
President of Colombia



The course is intended to strengthen and diversify the knowledge base and networks of NGOs, officials, journalists and others engaged in research and advocacy on drug policy. With a view to supporting inter-regional and international experience sharing and collaboration, we encourage applications from around the world. For applicants with a background in drug policy, the four days of focused discussion and analysis will support ongoing professional development and provide an opportunity to share experiences.

We also encourage applications from those who may find themselves increasingly responsible for mainstreaming consideration of drug related issues into other policy areas (development, public health, security), with this course serving as a focused entry point for those new to the salience of drug policy concerns and debates.

The course is thus open to the following categories of participants:

- Civil society leaders with a track record of analysis, oversight, and policy advocacy;
- Government officials from departments, both central and local level, involved in policy design, implementation, and compliance;
- Professional staff from international organizations that are active in the field of drug control;
- Professionals from development agencies, including consultancies and aid agencies;
- Journalists with previous experience reporting on national or global drug policy;
- Academics and doctoral students undertaking applied research or teaching on issues related to drugs policy.



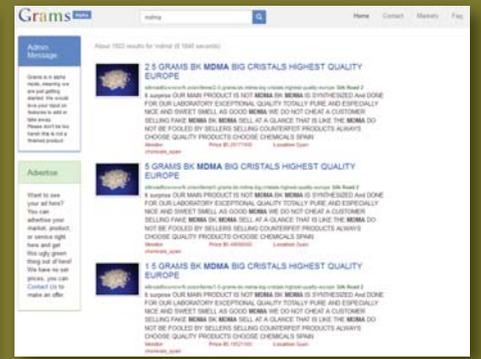
Course information

The course will be held at the **School of Public Policy**, on the campus of the **Central European University** in Budapest, Hungary.

The full cost of participation in the course is **EUR 750**. This does not include travel and accommodation (lunches and coffee breaks during the course will be provided). A discount will be available for anyone applying **before 1 June 2016**. The early bird cost will be **EUR 500**.

A limited number of scholarships covering travel, accommodation, and the full cost of tuition are available on a competitive basis. In addition, a number of tuition waivers will be available for applicants who cover their own travel and hotel accommodation. Note that scholarships or tuition waivers will not be available for applicants from the private sector or international agencies.

Interested individuals should complete the application form available on the course's website at <https://spp.ceu.edu/drug-policy-reform> by **26 June 2016**.



Course program

The course is structured around 'scene setting' lectures, working groups and panel discussions and aims to amplify the space for participants to share their professional experience and insights, as well as develop skills of team building collaboration, leadership and communication. A core faculty team of five drug policy experts will deliver the program, with additional support provided by School of Public Policy graduates allocated to each of the participant working groups. We aim to create an environment in which participants can share the experience of mistakes and setbacks and learn how to reorient activities and priorities in the post-UNGASS period.

5 September 2016

Arrival and dinner reception

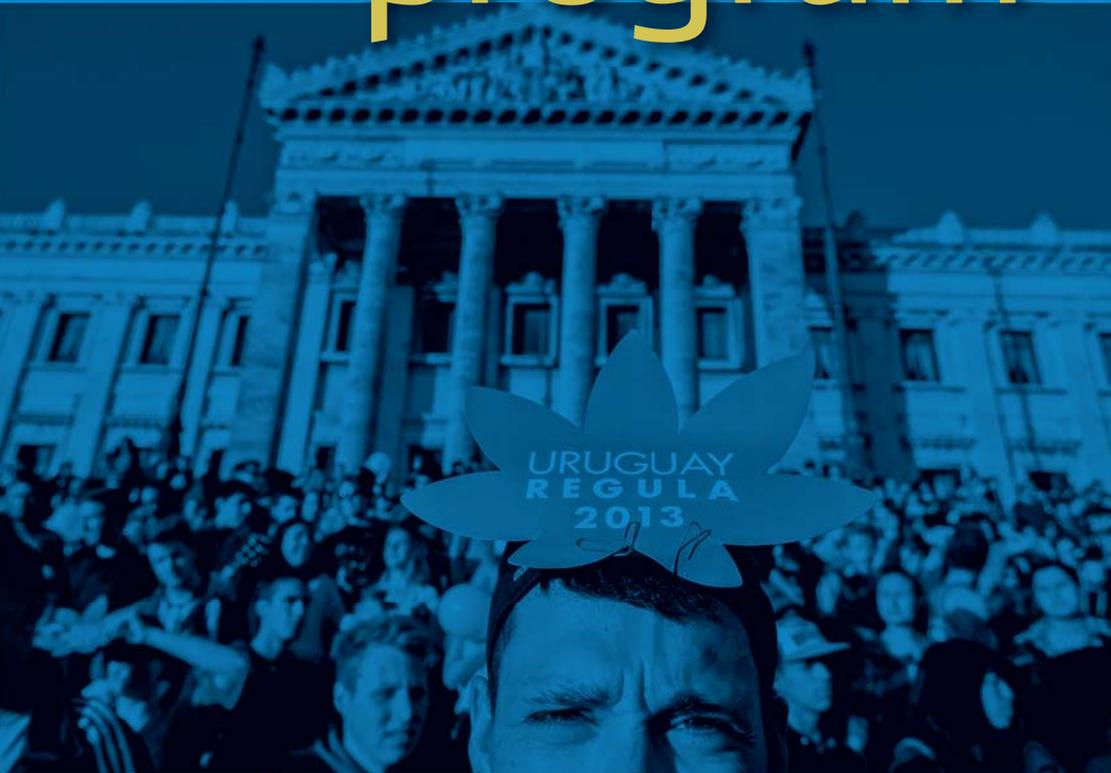
6 September 2016

Morning session

- Faculty-led opening discussion on the UNGASS experience. What are the obstacles to change and reform; how can these be mitigated; how do NGOs identify reform constraints and how to best galvanize reform momentum; what does reform look like?
- Break-out and discussion in five working groups on Treaty Reform Debates, Metrics Debate, Stakeholders in Reform, Spoilers and Obstacles, Regime Performance

Afternoon session

- *The Public Health Dimension*
—led by Joanne CSETE





7 September 2016

Morning session

- Faculty-led opening discussion on *Health and Criminal Justice Intersections*
- *The Crime and Criminal Justice Dimension*
—led by Niamh EASTWOOD

Afternoon session

- Working Groups report back
- *Understanding Cryptomarkets*
—led by Judith ALDRIDGE
- Panel discussion on *Future Challenges and Future Responses: From NPS to Online Drug Sales*



8 September 2016

Morning session

- Screening of OSF documentary on cultivation
- *The Development Dimension*
—led by Julia BUXTON

Afternoon session

- *Human Rights Dimension*
—led by Luciana POL
- Human rights practitioners have come across social impacts of drug policy all across Latin America. Participants will discuss how to incorporate this new dimension into advocacy work in human rights, as well as looking at the challenges of evidence gathering, and how to monitor and evaluate drug policy to promote evidence based policy responses.

9 September 2016

Morning session

- Faculty and working group panel discussion: drawing the five thematic areas together—linkages, rights based approaches, harm reduction

(Sessions may be subject to modification)

Faculty



Julia BUXTON

Incoming Dean and Professor of Comparative Politics, CEU School of Public Policy (course lead), Senior Research Associate, Global Drug Policy Observatory, University of Swansea

Julia is a specialist on South America and an expert on Venezuela, receiving her PhD from the LSE, where she also studied for her MA (Distinction) in Comparative Politics. Her current research focuses on the drugs and development nexus and the development impacts of counter narcotics programs. Her publications on drugs include *Drug Crop Production, Poverty and Development* (OSF 2016); *Drugs and Development: The Great Disconnect* and (with T. Bingham); *The Rise and Challenge of Dark Net Drug Markets* (both January 2015, Global Drug Policy Observatory, University of Swansea); *The Politics of Drugs*, (ed., 2010, Routledge); 'Opportunity Lost: Alternative Development in Drug Control' in J. Tokatlian (ed.) *Old Wars: New Thinking*, (2010, Libros Zorazal); 'A History of Drug Control' in P. Keefer and N. Loayza (eds) *Innocent Bystanders*, (2010, World Bank Publications); 'The UK drug problem in global perspective', *Soundings* (2009); 'The Historical Foundations of the Narcotic Drug Control Regime', World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 4553 (2008) and *The Political Economy of Narcotic Drugs*, (2006).



Judith ALDRIDGE

Senior Lecturer, University of Manchester

Judith is senior lecturer in criminology in the School of Law at the University of Manchester. Her research is focused on drug markets, policy and use. Over the last five years she has pioneered research in the area of virtual drug markets, culminating in the first publication connected to drug sales on Silk Road, the first and best-known drug cryptomarket. Research established earlier in her career had a particular focus on recreational drug use among adolescents and adults, culminating in the development of the normalization thesis as applied to adolescent recreational drug use. A substantial and



extended theoretical and conceptual response to normalization critics was published in *Illegal Leisure Revisited* (2011). With Manchester colleagues, Judith also conducted the first ever 'in situ' academic study of dance drug use in clubs (published in the book 'Dancing on Drugs'), innovating the methodology for research of this kind focused on both indoor venues and outdoor festivals, now taking place over the globe. She acts in advisory/expert capacity to agencies including the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Abuse (EMCDDA) and the European Commission.



Joanne CSETE

Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia University

Joanne is on the teaching faculty at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health in New York and works part-time as an independent consultant. Formerly a full-time Columbia faculty member, she was the founding director of the HIV program at Human Rights Watch and the deputy director of the Global Drug Policy Program at the Open Society Foundations. She worked on health programs in Africa for over ten years. Her research on health services for criminalized persons has been published in a number of scholarly journals. Joanne obtained her PhD from Cornell University and her Master of Public Health from the Columbia University School of Public Health.



Niamh EASTWOOD

Executive Director, Release

Niamh is a non-practising barrister who started at Release in 2002 as a legal advisor. She has extensive experience of service delivery, policy strategy, fundraising and operational development. Having worked in drug policy for the last ten years, Niamh is passionate about drug policy reform and believes that the most vulnerable

in society are disproportionately impacted upon by the current drug laws. Niamh has co-authored Release's two most recent policy papers, 'The Numbers in Black And White: Ethnic Disparities In The Policing And Prosecution Of Drug Offences In England And Wales' and 'A Quiet Revolution: Drug Decriminalisation Policies in Practice Across the Globe'. Niamh is also responsible for drafting many of Release's briefings for parliamentarians and policy makers. She is an associate of The London School of Economics IDEAS International Drug Policy Project, a member of the Expert Steering Group for the Global Drug Survey, a visiting lecturer at the Centre for Public Health, Liverpool John Moores University, and a trustee of Stop Watch.



Luciana POL

Senior Fellow, Centre for Legal and Social Studies (CELS)

Luciana is an Argentine sociologist from the University of Buenos Aires. She specialized in statistical methods for social sciences at the Institute of Economic Development. Since 2003 she has worked at Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS), a prominent human rights organization in Argentina. She worked as researcher and coordinator in the Institutional Violence and Public Safety Program, where she conducted fieldwork and studies on security policies, drug policies, prisons, violence, and social protests. At present she is entirely dedicated to her international work as senior fellow in security policy and human rights for the same organization and has specialised in human rights and drug policy. She led the request of the first regional hearing on the topic before the Inter American Commission of Human Rights in 2014. Luciana is a member of the boards of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs and of the NY NGO Committee on Drugs.

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