Humboldt Institute for Interdisciplinary Marijuana Research

Improving the economic, social, physical, and environmental health of individuals and communities through the interdisciplinary scientific study of marijuana

First Annual Speaker Series

+ Unless otherwise noted, all events are on Tuesdays from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Native Forum (BSS 162) Humboldt State University +

Schedule in Brief

Monday, October 8, 2012

“Requiem for a CAMP: Post-Mortem for a Drug War Institution”

Dr. Dominic Corva, Department of Public Policy, Sarah Lawrence College

Monday, October 29, 2012

“Silent Forests: How are Toxicants Associated with Marijuana Cultivation Impacting Wildlife on our Public and Tribal Lands?”

Mourad W. Gabriel, M.S., PhD Candidate (Comparative Pathology, University of California Davis) and Wildlife Disease Ecologist (Integral Ecology Research Center)

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

“Of Green Institutions and Incremental Policies: Marijuana Regulatory Reform”

Dr. Jason Plume, Department of Politics, Humboldt State University

January 29, 2013

“Data Shadows of the Underground Economy”

Dr. Monica Stephens, Department of Geography, Humboldt State University

February 26, 2013

“The Potential Economic Impact to Humboldt County if Marijuana is Legalized”

Jennifer Budwig, Redwood Capital Bank
Monday, March 25, 2013


Dr. Craig Reinarman, Department of Sociology, UC Santa Cruz

April 30, 2013

“Dispensary-Based Research: An Untapped Source”

Dr. Amanda Reiman, School of Social Welfare, UC Berkeley, Policy Manager of California, Drug Policy Alliance

Detailed Schedule

Monday, October 8, 2012

“Requiem for a CAMP: Post-Mortem for a Drug War Institution”

Dr. Dominic Corva, Department of Public Policy, Sarah Lawrence College

Dr. Dominic Corva is a Visiting Assistant Professor in Public Policy at Sarah Lawrence College. He received his PhD in Geography at the University of Washington in 2010, where he focused on the political economy of narcogovernance in Latin America. His postdoctoral research project on the political economy of policing cannabis agriculture in Southern Humboldt is a domestic sequel to his dissertation work, but remains firmly rooted in questions of social justice associated with the globalization of the U.S. war on drugs.

Presentation Summary: The life and death of California’s Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP, 1983-2012) offers a unique analytical window into the time and space of the U.S. war on drugs in a global context. This paper presentation draws on CAMP report archives, ethnographic interviews, and secondary data sources to locate the significance of CAMP, its demise, and enduring legacy for the political economy of domestic illicit cannabis production. The presentation will focus on (a) the geo-politics of its emergence; (b) industrial “balloon effects” associated with its geographies of enforcement; and (c) the eclipse of its foundational logic-and-practice (policing the “Emerald Triangle”) by new political and economic geographies of power, particularly environmental geopolitics and economic crisis.

Monday, October 29, 2012

“Silent Forests: How are Toxicants Associated with Marijuana Cultivation Impacting Wildlife on our Public and Tribal Lands?”
Mourad W. Gabriel, M.S., PhD Candidate (Comparative Pathology, University of California Davis) and Wildlife Disease Ecologist (Integral Ecology Research Center)

Mourad Gabriel is a wildlife disease ecologist and completed both his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees focusing on wildlife diseases at Humboldt State University. While completing his M.S., he co-founded MGW Biological, an environmental consulting firm, as well as Integral Ecology Research Center, a non-profit scientific research organization where he is the president and senior ecologist. Mourad is completing his Ph.D. this fall at the University of California Davis in comparative pathology. He has authored several scientific manuscripts and book chapters focusing on infectious and non-infectious diseases affecting wildlife of conservation concern. He has presented and lectured at several universities as well as regional, national and international professional conferences. He resides in Northwestern California where he and his wife, also an ecologist, try to spend as much time as possible enjoying our public lands. Today’s discussion will be on the direct and indirect impacts to our natural resources that toxicants associated with illegal marijuana cultivation on our public and tribal lands pose.

November 27, 2012

“Of Green Institutions and Incremental Policies: Marijuana Regulatory Reform”

Dr. Jason Plume, Department of Politics, Humboldt State University

My research examines medical marijuana social movement organizations selection of policy making institutions, or “venue shopping,” in pursuit of codified reform. Employing a mixed methodology of historical analysis, original interviews, and legislative data sets I identify how illicit substance control reform advocates have waged various (re)framing campaigns against the Controlled Substance Act of 1970.

Presentation Summary: In the last sixteen years, seventeen states and the District of Columbia have enacted medical marijuana laws. Marijuana advocates have employed various strategies through the ballot initiative, legislative, and judicial processes. All these reforms are tantamount to incremental consideration and adoption of an illicit substance control issue lacking substantial institutional infrastructure. If state and local governments are to implement marijuana reform, what regulatory guidelines and agencies are they to employ in order to harness the economic windfall assumed via regulation? Last year Californians rejected legalization of the substance while voters in Oregon and Colorado will consider the matter in November. Concurrently, several medical marijuana campaigns are being conducted. What will the outcomes in Oregon and Colorado lend to understanding the incremental progress marijuana reformers have made so far? Have federal, state, or local governing institutions updated their resources so as to be ready for legalization and/or more medical allowance? Does more marijuana reform inherently cause backlash from illegal growers and what could this mean for “marijuana communities?”

January 29, 2013
“Data Shadows of the Underground Economy”

Dr. Monica Stephens, Department of Geography, Humboldt State University

February 26, 2013

“The Potential Economic Impact to Humboldt County if Marijuana is Legalized”

Jennifer Budwig, Redwood Capital Bank

Jennifer has been working in the banking industry for over 20 years. She serves on the Redwood Regional Economic Development Committee, the McLean Foundation Board, the SBDC Board, the Fortuna Sunrise Rotary Club, chairs the Finance Committee for the Decade of Difference program and is an Economic Fuel Judge. She has been honored by the State Assistance Fund for Enterprise, Business and Industrial Development for her outstanding support of the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program and is a graduate of Pacific Coast Banking School where she graduated with honors in 2011.

Presentation Summary: This presentation presents the potential economic implications for Humboldt County if marijuana is legalized based on a much lower price (and margin) as a result of a huge increase in supply. The projections are premised on determining how much marijuana is grown in Humboldt County annually, then how much of the Humboldt County economy is derived from marijuana money (or unreported income) comparing it to other counties within California.

Monday, March 25, 2013


Dr. Craig Reinarman, Department of Sociology, UC Santa Cruz

Craig Reinarman is Professor of Sociology and Legal Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He earned his B.S. in Economics at Babson College, his M.A. in Sociology at San Francisco State University, and his PhD in Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow in Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley. He has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Utrecht and the University of Amsterdam, and a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Drug Research at the University of Amsterdam; a member of the Board of Directors of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence; a consultant to the World Health Organization’s Programme on Substance Abuse; and a principal investigator on research grants from the National Institute of Drug Abuse and the National Institute of Justice. Dr. Reinarman is the author of American States of Mind (Yale University Press, 1987) and co-author of Cocaine Changes (Temple University Press, 1991) and Crack in America (University of California Press, 1997). He has published numerous articles on drug use, law and policy in such journals as Theory and Society, the British Journal of Addiction,

**April 30, 2013**

“Dispensary-Based Research: An Untapped Source”

Dr. Amanda Reiman, School of Social Welfare, UC Berkeley, Policy Manager of California, Drug Policy Alliance

Amanda Reiman is the California policy manager for the Drug Policy Alliance. Based in San Francisco, Reiman leads DPA’s marijuana reform work in California. Reiman has conducted numerous studies on medical marijuana dispensaries, patients and the use of marijuana as a treatment for addiction. Reiman served as the first chairwoman of the Medical Cannabis Commission for the City of Berkeley and has consulted with various cities and states on the development of medical marijuana policy. Reiman is currently a lecturer in the School of Social Welfare at the University of California-Berkeley, where she teaches Drug and Alcohol Policy, Substance Abuse Treatment, and Sexuality and Social Work.

Presentation Summary: Since the first medical marijuana law was passed in 1996, dispensaries have become the epicenter of patient interaction, information sharing and scientific advances in the cultivation, analysis and manufacturing of cannabis and cannabis products. Great potential exists in harnessing what is happening at dispensaries for the purposes of expanding our knowledge of cannabis and cannabis use. This talk will review the research on marijuana use that has been conducted at medical marijuana dispensaries and discuss how such research can advance knowledge of the role of cannabis as a palliative treatment and curative agent. Future directions and possibilities for dispensary-based research will be explored.

*For More Information: Josh Meisel, Co-Director of the Humboldt Institute for Interdisciplinary Marijuana Research phone: 707.826.4446 • email: meisel@humboldt.edu*