



# Psychedelic Science – A Paradigm Shift?

*Panel Discussion along the 2020 session of the UN Commission of Narcotic Drugs*

**March 5, 2020, 18-20:00** | Medical University of Vienna | **Jugendstuhörssaal** | BT 88, Spitalgasse 23

The **Center for Addiction Research & Science (AddResS)** of the Medical University of Vienna & **Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP Vienna)** invite you to join international and local pioneers of psychedelic research, discussing the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead in the field of **psychedelic science, psychotherapy, addiction treatment, mental health & drug policy reform.**

**Leslie Booher**, MAPS (Santa Cruz, CA, USA) | **Eva Césarová**, NIHM (Prague, CZE)

**Vivian Winkler**, NIHM (Prague, CZE) | **Maja Kohek**, ICEERS (Barcelona, ESP)



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## Panel Discussion – 3rd annual Psychedelic Lecture

# Psychedelic Science – A Paradigm Shift?

**March 5, 2020, 18-20:00** | Medical University of Vienna | **Jugendstilhörsaal** | BT 88, Spitalgasse 23

We invite you to explore the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead in the field of **Psychedelic Science**, a multi-disciplinary research endeavor that spans medicine, psychology, neuroscience, policy, human rights & beyond.

In the last decade, Psychedelic Science has moved **from scientific periphery to academic institutions**, and from esoteric occultism to mainstream media. While leading universities have opened specialised research centers, scheduled substances like MDMA & psilocybin have been granted breakthrough status, and ketamine treatment is gradually considered a promising therapy for depression. Discourse about drug classification, the psychedelic experience, its history and its potential has entered major news outlets.

What constitutes the ongoing "**Psychedelic Renaissance**"? What is in store for psychedelic medicine? What differentiates these progressive interventions from established treatments? How are global trends reflected at the local level? How do "bottom-up" processes influence the future of politics?

Covering these questions, **AddResS & SSDP Vienna** are hosting a panel discussion at the Medical University of Vienna, to foster a rational and evidence-based approach to the ongoing changes in treatment of addiction, trauma, depression, and related fields.

We want to discuss the **interdependency** of **public opinion, politics, and clinical research & therapy**. Hosting this event during the annual session of the **United Nation's Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)** in Vienna, gives us the unique opportunity to engage with policy advocates who work directly on reforming the international drug control system.

**Our goal** is to...

- ... **facilitate fruitful dialogue**, by bringing together professionals from psychiatric, therapeutic & political backgrounds, and thus to...
- ... **encourage** and **support** respective **research** and civil initiatives.
- ... contribute to a **sensible & ethical discours** on drugs & addiction.
- ... create a **collaborative & progressive social environment** for Psychedelic Science.

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## Hosting & Introduction

*AddResS - Center for Addiction Research & Science*

**Univ. Prof. Dr. Harald Sitte**

*Institute of Pharmacology, Medical University of Vienna*

**Ao. Univ. Prof. Dr. Matthäus Willeit**

*University Clinic of Psychiatry & Psychotherapy, Medical University of Vienna*

## Presentation & Moderation

**Marian Hochgerner**

*Chairman, SSDP Vienna (Students for Sensible Drug Policy)*

*Student, Medical University of Vienna & University of Vienna*

## Speakers

**Leslie Booher**

*Policy and Advocacy Fellow of MAPS*

*Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies, Santa Cruz, CA, USA*

Leslie Booher received her juris doctor (J.D.) from University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. Her work at MAPS combines many of her passions: learning and educating others about our shared human physiology and psychology, striving for social contentment through imaginative socio-economic structures, aspiring for criminal justice reform, and calling attention to the unique role that altered states of perception play in conceptualizing, contextualizing, and coping with our own consciousness.

**Vivian Winkler**

*Psychiatrist and neuroscience researcher*

*National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) & 3. Medical Faculty, Charles University, Prague*

Her field of interest in research is the therapeutic potential of psychedelic substances for the treatment of mental health conditions, especially depression and anxiety. Vivian Winkler is currently developing a therapy manual for a clinical trial of psilocybin and ketamine for depression and anxiety in cancer patients. She is also a sitter in a clinical trial at NIMH exploring the effects of psilocybin on healthy volunteers and a trained assisting therapist in the Compass clinical trial of psilocybin for treatment-resistant depression. She has been the program coordinator of the Global Psychedelic Forum "Beyond Psychedelics 2018" in Prague and the first Czecho-slovak Psychedelic Forum 2019. Since 2019, she is chair of the board of directors at Beyond Psychedelics NPO.

## Eva Césarová

*Co-founder of the Czech Psychedelic Society. Student of Addictology*

*Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Prague*

Eva Césarová is currently working in the National Institute of Mental Health as a media person and event organiser for the psychedelic research team and coordinator of PSYRES - Foundation for Psychedelic Research. She was an active member of the Youth RISE organisation for four years, working closely with activists for rights of young people who use drugs.

## Maja Kohek

*PhD student of Medical Anthropology and Global Health*

*University Rovira i Virgili in Tarragona, Spain*

Writing her PhD thesis in medical anthropology, Maja Kohek is currently investigating the ritual use of psychoactive plants in rural Catalonia and its personal and societal effects. As part of the research department of the *International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research & Services (ICEERS)*, she is also researching the impact of long-term ayahuasca use on public health. She believes that knowledge about psychedelic compounds can have an important impact on how we treat and understand addiction.

## Topics we want to touch on:

### Research & Science

- Where does the **scientific fascination** about psychedelics come from?
- What are the scientific, institutional and political **challenges** of the field?
- How do the changes in legislation affect the research landscape – and vice versa?

### Clinical Innovation, Principles & Implications

- Is this a “**shift of therapeutic paradigms**”?
- Which are currently – and potentially – the fields of application?
  - Focus on: addiction treatment.

### Current Policy

- Which **policy reforms** are on their way – globally, in Europe, in Austria?
- What are the **driving powers** and major players of current political change?
  - What is the role of research in the current transformations?
- What are the **major changes** we will face **as clinicians, patients & citizens**?

### Interdisciplinarity & Interdependence

- How can the relation between research, science, legislation and the public be sustainably shaped in **progressive ways**?

After the event, SSDP Vienna invites you to a **get-together & party at Sneak In**, to further exchange, socialize, mingle, & create bonds. We'll have local DJ's play. 🎵

*Siebensterngasse 12, 1070 Wien*