Anabolic Steroids and Dependence

The difficulties in applying the construct "dependence" to anabolic steroid use are discussed. For example, can use that is a carefully planned instrumental activity be considered "impaired control"? It is concluded that the ambiguities in part reflect ambiguities in the concept of dependence.

HELEN KEANE

Drug Policy as Policy with Foreigners: The Austrian Case in Times of European Integration

Analyzing the special Austrian police reports on drugs since 1975, it is found that drug use tends to be identified in the reports with foreigners, particularly those seen as most different from traditional Austrian culture—currently, Africans—though foreign drug offenders are most commonly from Austria's near neighbors.

IRMGARD EISENBACh-STANGLI

Tragic Beauties: Heroin Images and Heroin Users

In a study of 102 young-adult heroin users in San Francisco, an attraction to particular fashions, musical groups, films and novels was often involved in their decision to use heroin—even where the media images were negative about heroin use. For some, their heroin use became part of their subculture capital, conveying status and giving meaning to life.

MICHELINE DUTERTE, KRISTIN HEMPHILL, TERRENCE MURPHY, AND SHEIGLA MURPHY

Drinking and Life: The Meanings of Alcohol for Young Namibian Women

From 18 focus-group interviews with women ages 15–30, a number of cultural meanings for drinking were elicited, including time out, solidarity and equality, but also status and distinction, and power, suppression and protest. Non-drinking also had a meaning, often expressing a desire for achievement.

ANNE SKJELMERUD
Recovery Careers of People in Alcoholics Anonymous: Moral Careers Revisited

Drawing on observations from attending 22 different AA groups in a southern US city, the author describes different trajectories of “moral careers” in AA, both those normatively described in the AA literature and alternative career paths.

HEATH C. HOFFMAN

Comparing Drinking Patterns in Finland and Ontario (Canada)

Comparing 1996 adult-population surveys in Finland and Ontario, Canadian and Finnish drinking patterns seem fairly similar—contrary to stereotypical expectations. Both males and females consume 5+ drinks on an occasion more often in Ontario than in Finland, though Finnish males may be more likely to consume larger amounts than this.

JOHN A. CUNNINGHAM AND PIA MÄKELÄ

Interpretations of Survey Questions on One’s Partner’s Alcohol Consumption

In an in-depth study of how 30 volunteer respondents answered questions about their partners’ drinking, it became clear that respondents do not always answer in the frame of reference intended by the researchers. Recommendations are given based on the study’s results on improving such questions.

KIRSIMARIA RAITASALO

Books: Review/Commentary

School-Based Drug Prevention: What Kind of Drug Use Does It Prevent?, by Jonathan P. Caulkins, Rosalie Liccardo Pacula, Susan Paddock, and James Chiesa, reviewed by Peggy Tonkin and Zili Sloboda.

Handbook for Conducting Drug Abuse Research with Hispanic Populations, by Robert C. Freeman, Yvonne P. Lewis, and Hector Manuel Colón, reviewed by Gregory Acevedo