Beyond “Subculture” in the Ethnography of Illicit Drug Use

Drawing on ethnographic material on two groups of drug users, “Players” and “Bohemians,” in Perth, Western Australia, it is argued that a characterization in terms of social “scenes” located on urban “pathways” is more useful than the catch-all term “subculture.”

DAVID MOOM

Drug Use Within the Finnish Club Culture as Marks of Distinction

Drawing on 60 interviews with club culture participants, it is found that the small Finnish club culture distinguishes itself from mainstream society, adopting a global identity, technological, libertarian and intellectual commitments, and a commitment to a sensitive male role. Members of the culture are critical of Finnish alcohol culture, viewed in stereotypical terms.

MIKKO SALASUO AND PAULINA SEPPÄLÄ

The Ambiguous Excuse: Attributing Violence to Intoxication—Young Swedes About the Excuse Value of Alcohol

In eight male, female and mixed focus groups with Stockholm youths ages 16-20, alcohol was seen as crucial in the origin of violence. There was agreement that intoxication was not a good excuse for violence, but, on the other hand, that it was used as an excuse and it worked.

KALLE TRYGGVÉSSON

Alcohol Prevention in the Swedish Workplace—Who Cares?

Interviews with personnel managers, union representatives and employees at 16 Swedish companies revealed that there was little interest in primary prevention of either alcohol or drug problems. Workplace responsibility was seen as limited to dealing with problems when they had occurred.

MIMMI ERIKSSON, BÖRJE OLSSON AND JOHANNA OSTERG

CONTEMPORARY DRUG PROBLEMS
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY QUARTERLY

VOL. 31, NO. 2
SUMMER 2004
On the Verge of EU Membership: Alcohol Culture in the Baltic Sea Region in a European Perspective

In adult population surveys in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in 2001, about half of men and 15%-23% of women drank at least once a week. Rates of Baltic men reporting that drinking had harmed their home life or their health were quite high (18%-42%) compared with responses in six western European countries.

Therese Reitan

Psychoactive Substance Use Among Young People: Findings of a Multi-Center Study in Three African Countries

In probability samples of youths ages 10-21 in rural and urban sites in South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia, most thought alcohol and tobacco easy to obtain, and 25% (Zambia) to 50% (Tanzania) thought cannabis easy to obtain, but current use rates were generally fairly low, with use of painkillers more common. For those who used alcohol, tobacco or cannabis, the median age of first use was generally in the range 13-16.

Mwansa A. Hlewane, Lee Rocha-Silva, Shikhar Saxena, Joseph Mtata, Phelimon Ngubani and Gina Weir-Smith

Characteristics of Former Heavy Drinkers: Results from a Natural History of Drinking General Population Survey

In a sample of 841 Ontario respondents who had reduced or quit their former heavy drinking, it was found that the most common reasons for the change were new responsibilities, marriage and health concerns. Those now abstaining were the most likely to report having experienced alcohol-related harm and dependence in the past.

John A. Curran, Jani Elovqvist, Anja Koki Jänne, Joanna Corbridge and Russell Callaghan

Books: Reviews/Commentary

Circles of Recovery: Self-Help Organizations for Addictions, by Keith Humphreys, reviewed by Bill White