



Models, implications and meanings of alcohol and drug treatment systems

A thematic meeting of the Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol, Stockholm, Sweden, 7-9 October 2009

Historically, most national treatment systems have developed with a lack of overall planning and evaluation of the results. The question of how to best allocate resources for treatment of alcohol and drug problems is increasingly important, not only in developing countries but also in affluent societies, with raising costs of health and welfare.

The various efforts that have aimed at identifying effective treatment methods for different groups of substance abusers have so far not been able to give a sufficient base for allocation or priority decisions within the treatment practice. Further discussions about how the treatment practices and treatment systems best can respond to the substance abuse problems have pointed to longitudinal and life course perspectives for the identification of effective measures, to the importance of analysing help-seeking behaviour and to the development of stepped-care models.

Focus in treatment research is moving away from evaluation of specific treatment methods and techniques to common factors in treatment or characteristic qualities of treatment systems and evaluation of population effects of these system characteristics.

The aim of this meeting is to develop and discuss new perspectives on alcohol and drug treatment systems. The meeting wants to encourage comparative research and to stimulate the theoretical and methodological discussion by inviting researchers from fields with similar perspectives, such as mental health research and research on care of disabled.

We are particularly interested in the following topics :

1. Theories and models of treatment systems and their evaluation.
2. Treatment in the wider social-political context, and the role of treatment in the long-term recovery process.
3. Current policy changes or trends in treatment systems, through local or comparative studies.

Among invited speakers are Harold D. Holder, Prevention Research Center, Berkeley, California; Vladimir Poznyak, Department of Mental Health & Substance Dependence, World Health Organization; Alain Topor, Department of Social Work, Stockholm University and Kristian Wahlbeck, National Institute for Health and Welfare (Finland).

Call for papers

All participants are expected to prepare an informative abstract (maximum 200 words) proposing a paper to be presented and discussed at the conference. The abstract should be submitted by **May 15 2009**. Participation at the conference is limited and preference will be given to abstracts, which are most central to the themes of the conference. Accepted papers are due by the end of August 2009.

The conference will be held in Långholmen Hotel and Center in the centre of Stockholm, Sweden.

The conference fee (200 Euros) includes lodging and partial board (breakfasts, coffees and lunches) during the conference. Scholars without the access to institutional resources may apply for support to attend the meeting.

Please send your registration and abstract through the conference's webpage at www.nad.fi or by mail to Nordic Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research (Nordic Centre for Welfare and Social Issues, NVC)
Annankatu 29 A 23
FIN-00100 Helsinki, Finland
fax +358 9 6949081, email : nads@nad.fi

More information on topics and arrangements are found on www.nad.fi.
More information can also be obtained from:
Kerstin.Stenius@thl.fi
Jan.Blomqvist@sorad.su.se
Mads Uffe Pedersen mup@crf.au.dk
and Pia.Rosenqvist@nad.fi
