

## PRESS RELEASE

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# International Research Project „Governing the Narcotic City“ Begins at KWI

Drug cultures are deeply entwined with the economies, governance and daily life of European cities. Within the framework of the European funding guideline **Humanities in the European Research Area: Public Spaces (HERA 2019-2022)**, the international and interdisciplinary project **Governing the Narcotic City. Imaginaries, Practices and Discourses of Public Drug Cultures in European Cities from 1970 until Today**, investigates how discourses and conflicts related to public drug consumption have influenced the social structures of European cities in the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Headed by **Dr. Stefan Höhne** of the **Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI)** in Essen the project ties together six multi-sited case studies in nine cities: Amsterdam, Berlin, Bordeaux, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Rotterdam, Prague, Budapest und Zurich.

Especially within the last fifty years, the consumption and trade of both legal and illegal intoxicants has become a widespread phenomenon which has radically affected social life and social structure. In both media and political discourses, the presence of drug-related practices in public urban spaces is deemed particularly problematic. These practices are often problematically attached to specific urban areas and to marginalized groups such as the homeless, sex workers, or migrants.

Which imaginary geographies and representations of urban drug cultures have been developed in this time period? How have municipalities regulated contested narcotic spaces? Which actors have called these policies into question and offered alternative strategies and visions? Seeking to address these questions, the research project **Governing the Narcotic City** will begin in June 2019 to investigate the discourses, practices and imaginaries of public drug cultures from the 1970s until today.

## PROJECT HOMEPAGE

[www.narcotic.city](http://www.narcotic.city)

### PRESSEKONTAKTE

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## PROJECT LEADER

Dr. Stefan Höhne, Mercator Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) in Essen

## PROJECT FUNDING

Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA)  
Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

## FURTHER INFORMATION

[Link to the project website on the KWI homepage](#)

### **About the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) Essen:**

The Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) in Essen is an interdisciplinary research institute for the humanities and social sciences in the tradition of institutes for advanced study. As a partner institution of the Ruhr University Bochum, the Technical University of Dortmund and the University of Duisburg-Essen, the KWI cooperates with scientists of its member universities as well as with other researchers across North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, and the globe. In the Ruhr area, the KWI offers a space for innovative research in the humanities and various opportunities to engage and include the public. Currently, work at the KWI focusses on the following areas: cultural science studies, literary and cultural sociology, science communication, and a teaching laboratory. Projects in the established research fields “participation culture” and “communication culture”, as well as individual projects, will be continued.

[www.kulturwissenschaften.de](http://www.kulturwissenschaften.de)

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