



## PRESS RELEASE

Essen, 25.02.2021

### **Hanging out at the Riviera. Drug Consumption in Zurich, c. 1965-1975**

Narcotic City Public Lecture by Peter-Paul Bänziger

**Tuesday, 09<sup>th</sup> of March 2021, 11.00 a.m. via ZOOM**

#### **PLEASE NOTE**

The lecture will take place as a **Zoom meeting**. By registering, participants consent to the recording and possible publication on the KWI Youtube channel.

**As in many other cities, the first "open drug scene" emerged in Zurich in the second half of the 1960s. People met at the so-called Riviera on the banks of the Limmat, smoked hashish brought back from Afghanistan and Morocco, philosophised and made music.**

The lecture approaches this scene from different angles. It describes the practices of drug consumption, asks about the forms of drug supply and shows how repressive the so-called establishment was in its reaction. Had they responded in a more relaxed manner, Zurich would hardly have gained worldwide notoriety two decades later for its "Needle Park", the open drug scene on the Platzspitz peninsula near the central station.

Peter-Paul Bänziger, Dr. habil., is a senior lecturer (Privatdozent) at the Department of History, University of Basel, and a senior researcher in the HERA research project "Governing the Narcotic City. Imaginaries, Practices and Discourses of Public Drug Cultures in European Cities from 1970 until Today (GONACI)" at the Open Universiteit (NL).

#### **SPEAKER**

Peter-Paul Bänziger, University of Basel

#### **MODERATOR**

Gemma Blok, Open Universiteit, Heerlen

#### **COORDINATOR**

Stefan Höhne, KWI Research Fellow

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## **PARTICIPATION**

Participants can register for the lecture via e-mail to [presse@kwi-nrw.de](mailto:presse@kwi-nrw.de) by Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2021. Participants will then receive the Zoom link.

## **ORGANISATION**

Organised by the international HERA Research Project “Governing the Narcotic City. Imaginaries, Practices and Discourses of Public Drug Cultures in European Cities from 1970 until Today (GONACI)”

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

[Event on the KWI website](#)

**We would appreciate the circulation of this press release.**

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

The Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) Essen, Germany, is an interdisciplinary research centre following the tradition of international Institutes for Advanced Study. In its role as an inter-university institution connecting the Ruhr-University Bochum, the Technological University Dortmund and the University of Duisburg-Essen, the institute works together with researchers and scientists from its neighbouring universities as well as other partners from the federal state NRW and places in- and outside of Germany. Within the Ruhr area, the KWI is a place to share and discuss the questions and results of ambitious research with interested parties from the city and the greater region. Currently, work at the KWI focusses on the following areas: “cultural studies of science and science policy making”, “sociology of literature and culture”, “science communication”, and a “teaching lab”. Projects in the established research field “culture of communication”, as well as individual projects, will be continued.

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

**Please note:** If you do not wish to receive any further press releases from the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI), please send a short message to [presse@kwi-nrw.de](mailto:presse@kwi-nrw.de). Many thanks.

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