

EXPLORING THE ETHICAL AND PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF PSYCHEDELICS RESEARCH

Livestream on Thursday, September 14, 2023 | 9:45 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. EDT
Registration not required | Access from event website



2023 OHRP EXPLORATORY WORKSHOP

Psychedelics are powerful psychoactive substances that alter perception and mood and affect numerous cognitive processes. Their origins predate written history, and early cultures used them in many sociocultural and ritual contexts. The name 'psychedelics' was coined by Humphrey Osmond in 1957, suggesting that they have a mind-manifesting capability that may reveal useful or beneficial properties of the mind. For decades, psychedelics have been classified as illegal drugs. Recent research suggests that these substances may provide a potential breakthrough in the treatment of a myriad of mental health conditions. This exploratory workshop will examine the ethical and practical considerations for psychedelics research with the goal of promoting an open and grounded discourse on how to conduct research that is inclusive and protective of participants.

AGENDA

Time	Sessions
9:45 AM – 10:00 AM	Welcome
10:00 AM – 11:25 AM	Session I: Ethics and Law Moderator: Holly Fernandez Lynch, J.D., M.BE.; <i>Assistant Professor of Medical Ethics and Law, University of Pennsylvania</i>
	Psychedelics in Therapeutic Research: Expanding the Scope of Healing Duff Waring, LL.B., Ph.D.; <i>Professor, Department of Philosophy, York University</i>
	Research, Referendum, Litigation, and Legislation: Picking the Locks on the Doors of Perception Noah Potter, J.D.; <i>Legal Market Strategies</i>
	Beyond Compliance: Building a Comprehensive Ethics Infrastructure in Psychedelics Research With Human Participants Dominic Sisti, Ph.D.; <i>Associate Professor of Medical Ethics & Health Policy, Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania</i>
	What Are the Ethical Challenges With Obtaining Informed Consent for Participation in Psychedelics Research? Andrew Peterson Ph.D.; <i>Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy, George Mason University</i>
11:25 AM – 12:10 PM	Panel Discussion
12:10 PM – 12:50 PM	Lunch
12:50 PM – 2:15 PM	Session II: Considering Practical Aspects of Psychedelics Research Moderator: Benjamin C. Silverman, M.D.; <i>Senior IRB Chair, Mass General Brigham, Director of Ethics, McLean Institute for Technology in Psychiatry, McLean Hospital, Instructor in Psychiatry and Faculty Member in the Center for Bioethics, Harvard Medical School</i>

OLD TRIPS, NEW DESTINATIONS: EXPLORING THE ETHICAL AND PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF PSYCHEDELICS RESEARCH

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	<p>What Are the Challenges in Designing Scientifically Sound Clinical Trials for Examining the Effects of Psychedelics? Rachel Yehuda, Ph.D.; <i>Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, Director, Center for Psychedelic Psychotherapy and Trauma Research at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Director of Mental Health at the James J. Peters Veterans Affairs Medical Center</i></p>
	<p>What Are the Challenges With Evaluating and Minimizing the Risks of Research Involving Psychedelics? Natalie Gukasyan, M.D.; <i>Assistant Professor, Columbia University School of Medicine</i></p>
	<p>Exploitation or Inclusion? Exploring the Ethical Obligation and the Unique Challenges With Including Black and Brown Populations in Psychedelic Research Darron Smith, Ph.D., PA-C, DFAAPA; <i>Associate Program Director, Research and Scholarship at MEDEX; Co-Director for the Center for Novel Therapeutics in Addiction Psychiatry</i></p>
	<p>Addressing the Challenges With Conducting Psychedelics Research Involving Criminal Justice-Involved Populations Logan Neitzke-Spruill, Ph.D.; <i>Postdoctoral Associate, Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy, Baylor College of Medicine</i></p>
2:15 PM – 3:00 PM	Panel Discussion
3:00 PM – 3:10 PM	Break
3:10 PM – 3:55 PM	<p>Session III: Safeguarding Public Trust; Preventing Another Psychedelics Bubble Moderator: R. Cameron Wolf, Ph.D.; <i>Senior Advisor, CSAP/Office of Prevention Innovation, DHHS/SAMHSA</i></p> <p>Rosalind Watts, Ph.D.; <i>Founder, ACER Integration</i> Dr. Watts will detail her journey as a psychotherapist whose position shifted from buying the psychedelics hype to being agnostic about the promising potential of using magic mushrooms to treat depression.</p> <p>Juliana Mercer; <i>United States Marine Corps Veteran, Political Advocate in Promoting Safe Access for Veterans to MDMA and Psychedelics for the Treatment of PTSD</i> Ms. Mercer will provide perspectives as an advocate, a veteran who healed her PTSD with psychedelics, a member of the Board of Directors for a psychedelic veteran nonprofit, and a coach to veterans pursuing psychedelic journeys in countries where they are not illegal.</p> <p>Laura Sanders, Ph.D.; <i>Senior Writer, Science News Magazine</i> Dr. Sanders will reflect on the role that media plays in reporting about psychedelics' effects on mental illness and offer advice to scientists and policymakers on how to communicate with the public to combat misinformation.</p> <p>Yuria Celidwen, Ph.D.; <i>University of California, Berkeley, Department of Psychology and Othering & Belonging Institute</i> Dr. Celidwen will provide insight on how usage of psychedelics in Western medical practices may impact the Indigenous peoples who originated psychedelic medicine and offer suggestions for relationship-building between the two groups.</p>
3:55 PM – 4:15 PM	Panel Discussion