

Professional biography of Russell Newcombe, 2010

Overview

Russell Newcombe has specialized in research, lecturing, training and consultancy on drug use and drug policy for 27 years, with a broader interest in deviant behaviour and mental health. His main research areas include trends in drug use (prevalence and consumption), the psychosocial effects of drugs, and the reduction of drug-related risks and harms.

Educational Qualifications

1979 BSc (Hons - 1st class) in Social Psychology & Cognitive Science (Sussex University)

1986 PhD in Social Psychology: *Ordinary Explanations of Social Behaviour* (Kent University)

Awards

2010 National Rolleston Award, International Harm Reduction Association

Main full-time research posts

- 1983-85 Research Assistant on the *School Policy Toward Smoking Project* at Chelsea College, London University
- 1985-87 Research Associate on the *Wirral Misuse of Drugs Research Project* at Liverpool University
- 1987-88 Research Officer on *Drug Education Research Project* at South Sefton District Health Authority, Fazakerly Hospital, Liverpool
- 1988-91 Manager of *Drugs & HIV Monitoring Unit* (1988-91) for Mersey Regional Health Authority, Liverpool
- 1991-93 Research Fellow on *Alcohol & Offending Research Project* at Manchester University
- 1993-2005 Director of *3D Research Bureau*, an independent drugs agency, Liverpool [sessional researcher & consultant from 1998 to 2005]
- 2005-10 Senior Researcher for drugs charity *Lifeline* in Manchester
- 2010- Director of *3D Research*, Liverpool [re-launched]

University lecturing experience

- 1986-1989 Course Leader & Chief Lecturer, *Drugs and Society*, Liverpool University (Continuing Education Evening Course – Chester, Sefton & Liverpool)
- 1988-91 Honorary Lecturer in *Public Health*, Liverpool University
- 1994 External Examiner on Ph.D. Thesis in *Community Medicine*, University of New South Wales, Australia (Lynette Lewis: *The Inner Sydney Gay Dance Party Culture*)
- 1998-2002 Sessional Lecturer, *M.Sc. Drug Interventions*, Manchester Metro. University
- 1998-2005 Joint Programme Leader of the MSc. in *Drug Use & Addiction* at School of Psychology, Liverpool John Moore's University [full-time post]
- 2003-05 External Examiner, Diploma in *Drug & Alcohol Studies*, School of Health, Natural & Social Sciences, University of Sunderland, Tyneside
- 2005 Internal Examiner on Ph.D. Thesis in Psychology, Liverpool John Moore's University (Sally Woods: *Heroin and methadone substitution treatments*)
- 2005-now Sessional Lecturer, School of Natural Sciences & Psychology, Liverpool John Moores University

Professional training experience

- 1987-91 Sessional Trainer, Mersey & North West Regional Drug Training Centres, Liverpool & Manchester
- 1988-91 External Lecturer, *Drugs Carousel Course* for Senior Police Drug Squad Officers, Bramshill Police Staff College, Hampshire
- 1988-90 External Examiner, *Drug & Alcohol Dependency Nursing* (ENB612), Department of Nursing Studies, Manchester Polytechnic
- 2000-08 Trainer/Speaker, PHARE/ACCESS/EC Projects on Drugs Awareness & Drug Services, for IES (Brno) & Charles University (Prague), Czech Republic
- 2010-11 Tutor, *Drugs Training Programme*, HIT, Liverpool

Other professional experience

Editorial Board Member for academic journals *Adiktologie* and *Drugs & Alcohol Today*
Academic Reviewer for *International Journal of Drug Policy*, and *Addiction Research & Theory*
Consultant, advisor and/or expert witness to mass media, law firms and national drugs bodies (notably Advisory Council on Misuse of Drugs).

Pioneering work on drug-related harm reduction

In the mid to late 1980s, Russell helped to develop the foundations of the harm-reduction movement in Liverpool /Merseyside – including pioneering research work on the four cornerstones of harm reduction: needle exchange, substitute prescribing, information/ education on safer drug use, and primary health-care for drug users. From the late 1980s to the mid 1990s he helped to extend harm reduction from its initial focus on drug injecting and opiate addiction to a broader spectrum of drug problems, including use of ecstasy and dance drugs (safer clubbing) and use of stimulants (safer speeding) and hallucinogens (safer tripping). His pioneering contributions to harm reduction include:

- 1987 Published the first-ever paper about harm reduction in Druglink (January 1987)
- 1988 Produced the first educational publications on safer drug use (eg. Willy Whizz)
- 1990 Co-organized the first international conference on harm reduction in Liverpool
- 1992 Co-edited the first book on HR: *The Reduction of Drug-Related Harm* (Routledge)
- 1994 Co-produced the first safer-clubbing guidelines with Manchester City Council
- 1998 Became joint coordinator of the first post-graduate programme focused on harm reduction at Liverpool JM University, 1998-2005 (Dip/MSc in Drug Use & Addiction)
- 2004 Completed trilogy of safer drug use manuals: *Potology, Whizzology & Tripology*
- 2007 Presented a global Charter of Rights for Drug Users at 7th International Conference on Diversity, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2010 Presented a scientific theory of harm-reduction at IHRA's 2010 conference (Liverpool)
- 2010 Presented with National Rolleston Award for outstanding contributions to reducing drug-related harm (International Harm Reduction Association)

Main research commissioned from 3D Research Bureau, 1989-1997

- 1989-1995 Dance Drugs Research programme (dance nightclubs and rave parties)
- 1993 Drug Use & Drug Services in East Sussex (North Wealden)
- 1994 Drug Use & Drug Strategy in Shropshire
- 1994 Evaluation of Bradford Needle Exchange Service
- 1996 Drug Use & Drug Policy in Suffolk

Reports on main research conducted for Lifeline, 2005-2010

- 2005 *Drug use, crime and social exclusion among prisoners in England, Italy and Spain – before, during and after imprisonment.* Report to EC (VP/2000/08) by Return Project, Lifeline & other agencies. [40 pages]
- 2007 *Buprenorphine (Subutex): summary of findings from focus groups with staff and inmates at Durham Prison.*
- 2007 *Multi-Drug Injecting in Manchester* [90-page report on survey of 100 drug injectors]
- 2008 *Simple Safer Shooting Cards: assessment of viability and usability among staff and clients of Salford Drug Service.*
- 2008 *Zopiclone: assessment of the consumption of and consequences of using zopiclone (Zimovane) among drug-takers in a North-East town.* Commissioned by Safer Middlesbrough Partnership.
- 2009 *Pilot stage of RADAR: overview of the first Routine Assessment of Drug-related Activities & Risks at Lifeline agencies in Northern England across 2007 and 2008.*
- 2010 *Mephedrone: the use of mephedrone (m-cat, meow) in Middlesbrough.* Commissioned by Safer Middlesbrough Partnership.
- 2010 *Wobbled Up: Illicit use of diazepam in Redcar.* Commissioned by Redcar & Cleveland Health Authority.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

	<u>ISBN</u>
<i>Living with Heroin</i> (Open University; co-author 1988)	0-335-15564-0
<i>The Reduction of Drug-Related Harm</i> (Routledge; co-editor 1992)	0-415-06692-1
<i>Magic Mushrooms</i> (Lifeline; writer 2004)	0-952-00823-8
<i>Tripology - Guide to Mind-Bending Drugs</i> (Lifeline; writer 2005)	0-952-00822-X

Chapters in edited books (selection)

The reduction of drug-related harm: a conceptual framework for theory, practice and research. IN P. O'Hare et al. (eds), "The Reduction of Drug-Related Harm. London: Routledge (1992)

The post-heroin generation. IN Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence, "National Audit of Drug Misuse in Britain 1992", London: ISDD (1993) [with H. Parker & F. Measham]

Crack in Liverpool [with L. Matthews]; and: *The smoking option* [with J. Marks] Both IN R. Coomber, "Drugs and Drug Use in Society", Dartford: Greenwich University Press (1994)

Ecstasy deaths. IN N. Saunders (1997), "Ecstasy Reconsidered". London: Neal's Yard.

Trends in the prevalence of illicit drug use in Britain. IN M. Simpson et al. (eds), *Drugs in Britain: Supply, Consumption and Control.* Basingstoke: Palgrave-MacMillan (2007).

Academic/peer-reviewed journal papers (selection)

The new heroin users: prevalence and characteristics in Wirral. British Journal of Addiction, 82, 165-175 (1987) [with H. Parker & K. Bakx]

Heroin use and acquisitive crime in an English community. British Journal of Sociology, 38, 331-350 (1987) [with H. Parker]

Preventing the spread of HIV infection among and from injecting drug users in the UK. International Journal on Drug Policy, 1(2), 20-27 (1989)

The normalisation of recreational drug use amongst young people in North West England. British Journal of Sociology, 45, 287-312 (1994)

A survey of drinking and deviant behaviour among 14-15 year olds in North West England. Addiction Research, 2, 319-41 (1995) [both with F. Measham & H. Parker]

Does cannabis use cause psychosis? A study of trends in cannabis use and psychosis in England, 1995-2003. Adiktologie, 4, 492-507 (2004).

Syllogistic reasoning performance in MDMA (ecstasy) users. Experimental & Clinical Psychopharmacology, 13,137-45 (2005) [with C. Montgomery, J. Fisk, M. Wareing & P. Murphy]

The nature of ecstasy group-related deficits in associative learning. Psychopharmacology, 180, 141-149 (2005) [with C. Montgomery & J. Fisk]

The differential effects of ecstasy-polydrug use on executive functions: shifting, inhibition, updating and access to semantic memory. Psychopharmacology, 181 (2006) [with C. Montgomery, J. Fisk, & P. Murphy]

Ketamine case study: the phenomenology of a ketamine experience. Addiction Research & Theory, 16, 209-15 (2008).

Tweaking, bombing, dabbing and stockpiling: the emergence of mephedrone and the perversity of prohibition. Drugs and Alcohol Today, 10/1, 14-21 (2010) [with F. Measham, K. Moore & Z. Welch]

Educational publications produced for Lifeline (main writer)

Potology: Guide to the Science of Cannabis and the Sociology of Getting Stoned [1994]

Whizzology: Guide to the Amphetamine Family [2003]

Frequently Asked Questions series: Magic Mushrooms; LSD; Ecstasy; Cocaine & Crack; Amphetamine & Methamphetamine [2005-2008]

Other written work

Other sole or joint writings on drug use and drug services/policy include: over 100 research reports; over 50 papers at national and international conferences; over 50 articles for professional journals and websites (including book reviews and letters); and dozens of educational publications about safer drug use (leaflets, booklets, etc.).