

ANNA ROSS
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Qualifications

2020 (June) - PhD, Sociology, The School of Social and Political Science, The University of Edinburgh. Thesis Working Title: *Doing Drugs Policy: Narratives and Participation in the Development of a Critical Drug Theory*.

My PhD is in Sociology but also encompasses Social Policy, Law, Criminology and Public Health. The aim of my research has been to explore the interactions between evidence, policy and practice by engaging with a broad range of stakeholders, and focussing on individual and collectives narratives within drug policy communities. I have implemented this in my creation of The Scottish Drugs Policy Conversations (www.sdpc.org.uk), engagement with the broader stakeholder communities, and contributions to various conference panels (see below) Supervisors: Dr. Angus Bancroft and Dr. Oliver Escobar.

2012 – Masters in Alcohol and Drug Studies, The University of the West of Scotland

2009 - Diploma in Legal Practice, The University of Edinburgh

2008 – LLB with Honours, The University of Edinburgh

The Law Students Council

The McIntock Prize for Best Performance in Criminology Honours (2007)

TEACHING

I have been tutoring for the past five years, and lecturing for the past two. Student feedback provided by Edinburgh University for 2018/19 showed 80-100% positive feedback in all courses.

In 2017 I was nominated for two Student Awards: Best tutor and best feedback. The following is feedback from a student who nominated me:

"I value this tutor as she helped me understand the course content much better by giving thorough explanations through her knowledge, encouraging debates, useful and detailed feedback, and always being available to spend her extra time to answer questions and email. Consequently I really appreciated her effort and passion throughout the tutorials as this contributed immensely to my learning as a student. Even her personality – kind, funny, and caring, made the atmosphere in the tutorial very welcoming"

Dundee University

Course Organiser and Lecturer – Politics and International Relations - *The Global Politics of Illegal Drugs*

January 2020

The University of Edinburgh

Guest Lecturer: How to Make a Drug Problem -*The Sociology of Intoxication*

Spring 2019

Guest Lecturer: How to Make a Drug Problem -*The Sociology of Intoxication*

Spring 2018

Guest Lecturer: Drug Policy in Scotland- *Parliamentary Participation Programme*

Spring 2018

Tutor: Social Policy and Society

Autumn 2018

Tutor: Sociology 1B: The Sociological Imagination

Spring 2018

Tutor: Sociology 1B: The Sociological Imagination

Spring 2016

Tutor: Sociology 1A: The Sociological Imagination

Autumn 2015

Tutor: Doing and Designing Social Research (DDSR)

Tutor: Sociology 1B: The Sociological Imagination. **Spring 2015**
Tutor: Social Policy and Society **Autumn 2014**
Tutor: Doing and Designing Social Research

The City of Edinburgh Council - Adult Education

Guest Speaker – Criminology –2 hour seminar/workshops on drug policy and practice, with members of the adult education community. **Autumn 2015, Spring 2016, Autumn 2016**

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Scottish Affairs Select Committee Inquiry into Problem Drug Use in Scotland **Summer 2019**
Special Advisor to the Committee.
 Report available at:
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201920/cmselect/cm Scotaf/44/44.pdf>

SGSS Scottish Government Internship Programme **Summer 2018**
International Development: Safeguarding Issues
 Working in collaboration with Scotland’s International Development Alliance I helped to develop the Scottish Government’s Safeguarding Support Package for International Development. This package sets the standard for all organisations working in the sector and was developed using multiple consultation methods, and collaboration with OSCR, DfID, Scottish Government colleagues, and the 3rd sector.

Centre for Research on Families and Relationships. The University of Edinburgh **Spring 2016**
 Contributed to the design, updated and implemented the online course tools for the centre.

Edinburgh Q-Step Centre. The University of Edinburgh **Autumn 2015**
 Assisted with the allocation of student places and updating of external and internal web information

EXPERT WITNESS

Crew 2000 **2012- 2020**
 I was employed on a freelance basis to provide court reports and appearances on drug related charges.
 I assisted Crew 2000 by writing, compiling and producing a criminal justice handbook on the roles and duties of expert witnesses detailing the various processes of the criminal justice system in Scotland, and the way in which reports should be compiled.

WORKING WITH VULNERABLE AND MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

Harmony Employment Agency
 Harmony Employment Agency provide part time and full time temporary posts within the social sector. Detailed below are some of the longer temporary posts I held during my employment. **2005 - 2011**

Administrator with East Lothian Woman’s Aid
 Employed to assist the Change Manager in the changeover from Co-operative to Company Limited by Guarantee. Responsible for all administrative duties which included: assigning cases to workers; ensuring workers were dealing with relevant cases; writing, updating and compiling all policies and procedures; production of new policies and procedures booklet; liaising with the Board on policy issues.

Assistant Housing Officer (Edinburgh Cyrenians)

Interviewed and approved applications for the rent deposit team. Negotiated contracts between clients and landlords, and advised clients on welfare rights, support agencies and other housing options.

During my temporary contract I successfully housed 20+ applicants, achieved targets (KPIs) set by the organization and in some areas exceeded them, managed the relations between clients and landlords, and found and enrolled additional landlords for the scheme.

Smartskills Keyworker (Edinburgh Cyrenians)

Responsible for identifying suitable clients within the organization for an educational program designed to get ex-homeless people into education. The program was module based and required the worker to meet and assist the client in fulfilling the required modules.

During this post I successfully recruited the KPI of 12 clients and enrolled them in the course. I engaged with the clients in their homes, helped them meet the module requirements, was successful in preventing some clients from losing their tenancies due to rent arrears and debt problems, and provided one to one support on a range of issues.

Streetwork

Streetwork are a charity that provides advice, help and support to those experiencing homelessness or are threatened with it. I took on 2 temporary roles.

**2008-
2009**

Women's Worker

Managed and supported female clients at risk of homelessness and often multiple support needs. Examples include housing several women and helping with the provision of furniture and basic housing essentials, supporting women in their dealings with the care system, and mediating between the client, social workers and lawyers on a regular basis.

Tenancy Support Worker

Managed and supported up to 5 clients a week helping them maintain their tenancy and deal with outstanding issues such as debt. Duties involved advocacy on behalf of the client when dealing with the court system, social services or utility companies.

While working there I identified a gap in services - legal provision - and developed a framework and funding application for provision of legal services within Streetwork.

The Junction Youth Centre

Provision of sexual health and drug advice to young people identified as being disenfranchised. Key roles included managing young people attending the drop in and providing training session to young people on sexual health and drugs.

**2005-
2006**

LGBT Youth Scotland (session worker)

LGBT Youth provides support help and advice to young people regarding their sexuality. included identifying and providing suitable outreach services to young people. Achievements include: the design and setting up an internet outreach framework; designing and providing LGBT training to schools on homophobia, sexuality, and sexual health; designing and evaluating all outreach services; proving input to government consultations on sexual health and sexuality.

**2003-
2007**

VOLUNTARY WORK

PADS Harm Reduction and Drug Related Deaths Committee

The Partnership for Action on Drugs has disbanded and been replaced by the Drugs Death Taskforce. I was lived and living representative on the PADS executive advisory group on drug related harm.

**2017 -
2019**

2017-2018

Scottish Governments Partnership for Alcohol and Drugs: Lived Experience Executive Group

I was part of the PADS executive advisory group on lived experience.

Crew 2000

Crew is a charity that provides services focused on recreational drug use and sexual health. As a volunteer responsibilities included management of the shop service, provision of sexual health training to volunteers and outside members, crisis intervention and involvement with policy production. As a member of the Board of Directors in various capacities over the years (Vice Chair, Company Secretary and a member of the Human Resources Committee), key roles included policy updating, supervising contractual obligations, negotiating new contracts, funding applications and monitoring the balance between service provision and financial capability.

Powerful Partnerships 2001 – 2012

Powerful partnerships provide citizen advocacy for adults with learning difficulties. Key roles included negotiating between clients and family on the provision of legal guardianship and power of attorney. 2005 – 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Ross, A., Potter, G., Barratt, M., Aldridge, J. (2020) *Coming Out: Discretion, Disclosure and Identity in Drug Policy Research*. In press for Contemporary Drug Problems

Ross, A. (2020) *Drug Users as Stakeholders in Drug Policy*. In 'The Impact of Global Drug Policy on Women: Shifting the Needle'. Buxton, J., Burger, L., Gia, M. (Ed's.) in press for Emerald Publishing.

Reviews

Ross, A. (2016) 'Book Review: Johan Hari, *Chasing the Scream: The first and Last Days of the War on Drugs*'. Sociology, Vol 51(5). 1119-1121.

Solicited Publications

Ross, A. (2017) *Impasse on drug policy means more people are dying*. The National. Available at: http://thenational.scot/news/15661040.Annaross__Impasse_on_drugs_policy_means_more_people_are_dying/

Ross, A. (2016) *Analysis: Legislation will not address underlying causes of drug abuse and NPS-related deaths*. The National. Available at: http://www.thenational.scot/comment/14864503.Analysis__Legislation_will_not_address_underlying_cause_s_of_drug_abuse_and_NPS_related_deaths/

Ross, A., McCarron, M. (2015) *The Launch of the Scottish Drug Policy Conversations*. Scottish Justice Matters. Available at: <http://scottishjusticematters.com/launch-scottish-drug-policy-conversations/>

Official Records and Submissions

Ross, A. (2017) *SDPC 12: Drug Related Deaths*. Record of Discussion. Available at: <http://www.sdpc.org.uk/documents/>

Ross, A. (2017) *SDPC 11: Cannabis in Scotland*. Record of Discussion. Available at: <http://www.sdpc.org.uk/documents/>

Ross, A. (2017) *SDPC 10: Creating a Vision*. Record of Discussion. Available at: <http://www.sdpc.org.uk/documents/>

Ross, A (2014) *Devolving Drug Policy: A Discussion for Scotland*. Submitted to the Smith Commission for consideration.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Scottish Drugs Policy Conversations - www.sdpc.org.uk

I set up the Scottish Drug Policy Conversations, a deliberative stakeholder group that seeks to engage multiple communities in respectful dialogue on drug policy reform. The group has been going for two years and has met 12 times over that period. We have produced reports, held workshops and submitted evidence to the Scottish Government drug policy refresh of 2018.

2015 – ongoing

Adult Education workshop/seminars	2015-17
Since 2015 I have been involved in an adult education Criminology class as a specialist in drugs, where I have presented and engaged the participants in discussion of drug use and policy in Scotland.	
Beltane Public Engagement Networks' 'Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas' 2017 (Edinburgh Festival event)	2018 and 2017
Seminar and public engagement activity entitled ' <i>Doing Drugs (Policy): stories, songs and a chance to engage</i> ', (2018 is <i>doing MORE drugs</i>). I engaged the public on drug policy by telling stories collected from my research and my own experience, in addition to playing songs I have composed on the topic of drug use. I used these to encourage the audience to share their stories of drugs, and the impact it has had on them and their wider community.	
Explorathon	2016
An EU wide initiative to engage the public in academic research hosted by the Beltane Public Engagement Network. Consisted of a presentation and conversations with the members of the public in a large shopping centre. The topic was ' <i>Doing drugs policy in Scotland</i> '.	
The Edinburgh Active Citizenship Group	2016
Hosted by the Edinburgh City Council, this group meets quarterly to discuss social issues. It involves a presentation and round table discussions with the group. I presented on the topic ' <i>Highs and Lows: taking drugs policy seriously in Scotland</i> , and facilitated the following round table discussions and feedback	
Crew 2000	2001-2012
I collaborated in the design and delivery of (drug) harm reduction workshops with participants from a range a backgrounds including young people, public sector worker, the Police, and jobseekers.	
Talks and Panels	
Birham Book Festival – international reading on the war on drugs: Panel session with Loki (Darren McGarvey) Don Paterson (poet), and Anna Ross	2018
Morningside Justice and Peace centre – Drug policy in Scotland	2018
The Buchanan Institute Drug Reform Initiative Launch	2015
Igem 2015 – The University of Edinburgh	
 <u>CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP ORGANISER</u>	
Law Enforcement and Public Health (LEPH) 2019	2019
Law Enforcement and HIV Network Satellite meeting – part of the steering committee for the pre-conference consultation. International exploration of drug policing and policing.	
The International Society for the Study of Drugs Policy	2017
Workshop: ' <i>Discretion, disclosure, identity and the drug-policy researcher's drug use</i> '.	
The Scottish Drugs Policy Conversations	2016
Workshop: <i>Roger Howard from the UKDPC – Governance in Scottish Drug Policy.</i>	
 <u>CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS</u>	
New Directions – The University of Edinburgh	2019
Conference paper – ' <i>Developing a Critical Drug Theory: the role of narrative in challenging institutional barriers to reform.</i> '	

The International Society for the Study of Drug Policy Conference paper (co-author): ' <i>Coming Out: Discretion, Disclosure and Identity in Drug Policy Research</i> '.	2019
The European Society for Social Drug Research Conference paper: ' <i>Blurring the Lines Between Participant Observation and Action Research: The case of the Scottish Drug Policy Conversations.</i> '	2018
The International Society for the Study of Drugs Policy Conference paper: ' <i>Developing a Critical Drug Theory: the role of narrative, knowledge and participation.</i> '	2017
Knowledge, Organisation and Policy Seminar. Hosted by the Academy of Government, The University of Edinburgh. Seminar paper: ' <i>Broadening the Landscape: the challenges of creating civic-led policy networks</i> '.	2017
The International Society for the Study of Drugs Policy Conference Paper: ' <i>Getting Voices to the Policy Table: the role of drug consumers and experiential knowledge in measurements of drug related harm.</i> '	2016
New Directions. The University of Edinburgh. Conference paper: ' <i>Scottish Drug Policy: epistemologies of harm in knowledge and policy communities.</i> '	2016

SELECTED HONOURS AND AWARDS

Open Society Foundations Global Drug Policy Programme – <i>grant for public engagement in Scotland on decriminalisations and drug policy reform</i>	2019
SGSSS Knowledge Exchange and Impact Awards – <i>Special Commendation for work on Safeguarding Development Fund, The University of Edinburgh</i>	2019
Student Development Office, The University of Edinburgh, Public Engagement	2018
Edinburgh Association of University Women - The Presidents Fund	2018
The Principal's Career Development Scholarship – the University of Edinburgh	2014-2017
The University of Edinburgh Students Union Teaching Awards – Nomination for Best Personal Tutor	2017
The University of Edinburgh Students Union Teaching Awards – Nomination for Best Feedback	2017
Student Development Office, The University of Edinburgh, Public Engagement	2017
Conference and Travel Fund, The University of Edinburgh	2017
The PCDS Development Fund, The University of Edinburgh	2016
Conference and Travel Fund, The University of Edinburgh	2016
Working Abroad Fund, The University of Edinburgh	2016
Principals Career Development Scholarship – The University of Edinburgh	2015
The McLintock Prize for Best Performance in Criminology Honours, The University of Edinburgh	2007

REFERENCES

Academic/Teaching

Dr Angus Bancroft
Senior Lecturer in Sociology
4f1 18 Buccleuch Place
Edinburgh, EH8 9JS

Professional

Emma Crawshaw
Chief Executive
Crew: Mind Altering
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