



Call for Papers: Critical Methodologies and Substance Abuse

Guest Editors: Rose Ann Torres, Ph.D. & Dionisio Nyaga, Ph.D.

This special issue opens up diverse and complex discussions on how society views, understands, and envisions substance use. In a world that is colonial and driven by neoliberal markets, substance use is reduced and simplified as an individual problem that must be objectified and solved like a mathematical equation. This objectifying methodology that is framed within a western culture of rationality helps to conceal and hide the implication of structures power in the issues facing those who use drugs. Such a western and colonial modality looks at substance use through a singular and easy logic; therefore, failing to look at the issue as an intersected and compounded one. This helps individualize the issue of substance use in ways that help sanitize power structures while problematizing the individual as broken and dangerous. Issues of substance use have overtime been employed to punish and discipline marginalized communities by marking them as social deplorable and therefore creating an impression that such communities must be treated in ways that are expendable. Such treatment employs punitive rationalizing methodologies meant to mark the line between those who are citizens against drug users who are marked as aliens. This punitive idea that individualizes substance use fails to consider how structures of power are equally implicated in the issues facing those who use drugs.

Language has long been a key tool in labeling drug users as broken or social misfits. The discourse around substance use is often used to label and stigmatize drug users, framing them as a problem to be solved through quantitative measures rather than ethical and humane approaches. In branding them, substance users are reduced and simplified into a commodity that can be sold in the marketplace for profit.

This dehumanizing approach to substance use needs to be critically analyzed to open up new ways of thinking and acting. It is essential to address mental health, housing, employment, and other aspects of social life as equally important in theorizing and understanding substance use. We must adopt new and imaginative methodologies of substance use, incorporating people's histories, values and lived realities. This approach will help address the challenges faced by those living with substance use in ways that are ethical, diverse, and intersectional.

The core question this call aims to address is how today's society is complicit in profiting from the pain of those living with substance use. We are looking for interdisciplinary and intersectional ideas on how substance use has been employed overtime to punish and discipline populations regarded as outside community of humans. How has this disciplinary mechanism within substance use discourse has helped reduce how we think and act when it comes to those who use and live with substances? The following topics will help stretch our imagination towards a more sustainable and ethical approach in substance use:

1. Understanding how the history of colonization and neoliberal mechanism and projects have contributed to the issue of substance use.
2. Discussion of different theoretical approaches that help understand substance abuse.
3. Discussion on different practice methodologies that have been employed overtime by communities and practitioners resolve use substances.
4. A look at the intersectional approach to substance use and issues of resistance to colonizing methodologies.
5. Various strategies of addressing substance abuse from the perspectives of different communities.

Submission Guidelines:

Authors are invited to submit original research papers, case studies, Workshop papers, reviews, commentary, and innovative practice papers related to the themes.

Instructions for Authors:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?show=instructions&journalCode=wesa20>

Important Dates:

Abstract Submission Deadline: November 30, 2024

Please email your abstract to: roseann.torres108@gmail.com

Paper Submission Deadline: April 30, 2025

Please submit your Paper online: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/wesa>