

MEDICATIONS, DRUGS & THE DIVIDING LINE... (FOCUSING ON METHAMPHETAMINES)

AN ANALYSIS INTO THE NATURE OF SIN AND RATIONAL CONDUCT WITH DRUGS.

The issue of drug use has both a moral and legal dimension. On the one hand, even if drug use is legal, we can ask whether the use of such drugs is immoral. Just because the law permits me to do something doesn't mean that I should do it—such as smoking or riding a motorcycle without a helmet. On the other hand, even if it is immoral to take drugs, we can still ask whether the use of such drugs should be illegal. The law permits us to do a range of immoral activities, such lying to others or cheating on one's spouse. While these are things that we shouldn't do morally speaking, at the same time we don't want our laws telling us how to conduct our private lives. For the moment, let's set aside the issue of whether drugs should be illegal and look specifically at whether drug use is immoral. We'll consider two lines of thought: one based on the pleasure that drugs bring to the user, and another based on the duty to avoid harming oneself and others through drug use.

FACT FOR YOU TO KNOW...

*All rational reasoning dictates that police judgement (or individual law enforcing entities) must first deductively warrant a case and test (aka. a reason) to rationally first warrant whether drugs (i.e. on a given 'drug bust') are having a negative effect on the incumbents and surroundings in question. That is, at first a **prima facie**¹ justification must be made for immediate inaction – something most police grunts are incapable of possessing the sentience to make an authoritative ruling unless, to a major extent, they are to take into account the drug user's educational status, level of seniority, and common sense account plus consideration of the positive effect the usage of drugs had on a given incumbent's life. Thankfully police officers are human people too, and the reality is (especially in America, the gloried land of the free) that officers most likely DO POSSESS sufficient sense in disciplining to make such assertions at their own discord. Something that seems would prevail on 'common law' countries to a greater extent.*

When trying to understand the moral ramifications of drug use in such safe conditions, the first thing we need to recognize is that the whole purpose of taking recreational drugs is for the pleasure that they produce, and the pursuit of pleasure comes natural to us. Regular drug use, as we've seen, is associated with a range of harms to the user, such as organ damage, brain damage, and death. While we all recognize the obligation to avoid harming others, within traditional moral philosophy there is an additional obligation to avoid harming oneself. German philosopher Samuel Pufendorf (1632-1694) describes this duty here:

*1) people have the right to harm themselves as they wish, though it may not be wise.
2) people have the right to exercise control over their own consciousness. And on top of that, drugs can still be very harmful when used therapeutically, but nobody seems to judge people who take medicine. As for the altered states of consciousness argument, some of the altered states induced by drugs can have spiritual/religious significance--and there's nothing wrong ethically with that.*

¹ Based on the first impression; accepted as correct until proved otherwise.

Since the mind is upheld by the body, the powers of the body must therefore be strengthened and conserved by suitable food and labors, and not injured by intemperance in eating and drinking, untimely and unnecessary labor, or any other means. Hence one must avoid gluttony, drunkenness, excess in love, and the like. And since disordered and violent passions are not only an incentive to disturb society, but also greatly injure the man himself, one must consequently take pains to restrain one's passions so far as possible thus justifying indirectly that a balance in life with ethical indoctrination and usage of drugs is not only rational, but a necessity for the truly ambitious in life to attain in this modern dawn where ethical transhumanism is inherently a daily part of 'our' lives. [The Whole Duty of Man, 1.5]

While Pufendorf's reference to "drunkenness" in the above concerns alcohol—the mind-altering drug of choice in his day—it certainly applies to the recreational drugs that we have at our disposal now. Damage to our bodies through any kind of excess is wrong for the simple reason that our bodies keep our minds alive. We in essence are engaged in suicide when we intentionally reduce our life spans through harmful behavior.

NEWSFLASH... SCIENTISTS SHOW METHAMPHETAMINES ARE NOT SO BAD, INSTEAD GOOD!

"According to our own studies, meth is fine for you—completely fine," lead researcher Dr. Meredith Walters said in agreement with several dirty, disheveled physicians disassembling the circuit breakers in an amplifier box. "They say that using meth causes premature aging, psychological dependency, and a bunch of other things. But if you look at the data with an open mind, you'll see that it doesn't do that at all. In reality, meth actually makes you better. Much better."

Our notions of morality today are much more confined to how our behavior impacts other people. I may indeed have a moral obligation to put smoke detectors in my house, but that would be primarily for the protection of my family. I may also have a genuine moral obligation to make healthy lifestyle choices, but, again, that would largely be because of the obligation that I have to not be a burden on my family. When other people are out of the picture, and would in no way be harmed by my actions, am I still under a "moral" obligation to avoid self-destructive behavior? While it may be stupid for me to do such things, it is less clear that it would be immoral. As long as I'm acting freely and not being manipulated by someone, it's my choice to do stupid things. And the value that we place on the freedom to choose may be stronger than the value that we place on protecting oneself through harm.

All countries have laws that classify and prohibit specific recreational drugs – but affirmation of these laws, by logical rational deduction, is that they have been established by taking in consideration only imposition and enforcement in practicality to ultimately maximize the 'greater good' (aka. Utilitarianism at its forefront and thus abstaining partially from individualized Virtue and Deontology Ethics, of which the three in unison can account for most, if not all, sensibly derived laws within humanity in the modern age²). In the U.S. this is accomplished with the Controlled Substances Act, first created in 1970, which defines five categories or "schedules" of drugs.

ARGUMENTS PRO AND CONTRA

The Conservative Position

1. Harm to society.
2. Harm to user's health.
3. Decrease in user's motivation

² I, the compiler of this spontaneous crude rough essay, actually graduated in honours in ethics...

The Liberal Position

1. Autonomy: drug use should be a matter for individuals to decide for themselves, so long as their use of drugs does not negatively impact others.
2. Pleasure: recreational drugs provide a great source of pleasure to people, and this counterbalances the harm to themselves.
3. Cultural tradition: the use of mind-altering substances has been an important part of human culture.

A Moderate Compromise

We may not always like the choices that people make in their lives, but we should acknowledge a person's freedom to make those choices. We already grant this when it comes to alcohol use. So why not with other drugs too? There are good reasons for society to restrict the use of highly addictive drugs because of the harm they cause to society (independent of the harm that results from the illegal drug trade itself).

CAMBRIDGE, MA — According to the doctors' research, which was conducted over the past straight 96 hours, methamphetamine and its derivatives confer a wide range of benefits to users. During trials on subjects between the ages of 50 and 53, for example, the team found that small amounts of crystallized meth were shown to drastically improve mental processing, physical strength, and emotional experience, effects that only intensified as doses of the drug were increased.

In one particular study conducted on a 51-year-old male subject, researchers observed the drug produce a range of positive side effects allowing the subject to organize an entire closet full of scalpels, make important discoveries about friends' medical histories, and discern formerly imperceptible diseases and bacteria festering within public spaces.

Doctors confirmed that if you use the "really good, high-quality stuff," the effects are even more pronounced.

NOW, here is another interesting fact... Contrary to what anti-drug ads claim, Carl Hart (a neuropsychopharmacologist at Columbia) observes, addiction "is not an equal-opportunity disorder." He notes that even rats, whose voracious consumption of cocaine in certain contrived conditions supposedly shows how powerfully addictive that drug is, tend to use it in moderation when they have other options, such as food, sex, or an interesting environment to explore. The proven reality of the fact that is plainly and simply proven (see sources at end) is that only a small minority of people subjected to crack use become heavy users. EVEN AT PEAK HISTORICAL USE only 10-20 percent of crack cocaine users become addicted – surprising hey, not for me, an individual who discovered from the benefits and hazards of drugs by becoming internalized in mental institutions at one stage when exploring his/mine limits to tolerance with different grades of cannabis, where at such intuitions I was presented with a diverse range of candidates all institutionalized through ABUSE of drugs. A playing arena where I was able to openly learn, from first hand interaction the psychological effect on addicts and the immature associative traits that are necessary to be present in people for drugs to pose a harm to the self and society (a case of ignorance).

The history of regulation of human subjects research suggests that rules that are "born in scandal and reared in protectionism" often fall short of providing meaningful protections to research participants and that, once adopted, regulations can ossify and become difficult to dislodge. ☹

PLEASE JUDGE THE USER, NOT SOMETHING INANIMATE. THE USER HAS EMOTIONS + A STORY!

COMPRESSED SUMMARY OF POINTS AGAINST DRUG PROHIBITION

- Currently Illegal Drugs have not Always been Illegal
- Decades of Drug Prohibition: A History of Failure
- Drug Prohibition is a Public Health Menace
- Drug Prohibition creates more Problems than it Solves
- Prohibition is a Destructive Force in Inner City Communities
- Drugs are Here to Stay -- Let's Reduce their Harm
- Ending Prohibition Would not Necessarily Increase Drug Abuse

Ending prohibition would bring one very significant benefit: It would sever the connection between drugs and crime that today blights so many lives and communities. And finally, on a conclusionary note, I include a photo taken by an affiliate of mine from a poster showing some visual proof that methamphetamines has less of a permanent effect on individual's brains than something openly accepted as 'norm' in most societies from time immemorial; in this case alcohol, but a further comparison of different drugs are made for users that have used 'drugs' for periods of 3 years or so on (and this has to be *stressed*) copious extravagant amounts that are only justified when utterly addicted, on those few 10-20 percent it is presumed and logically deduced.

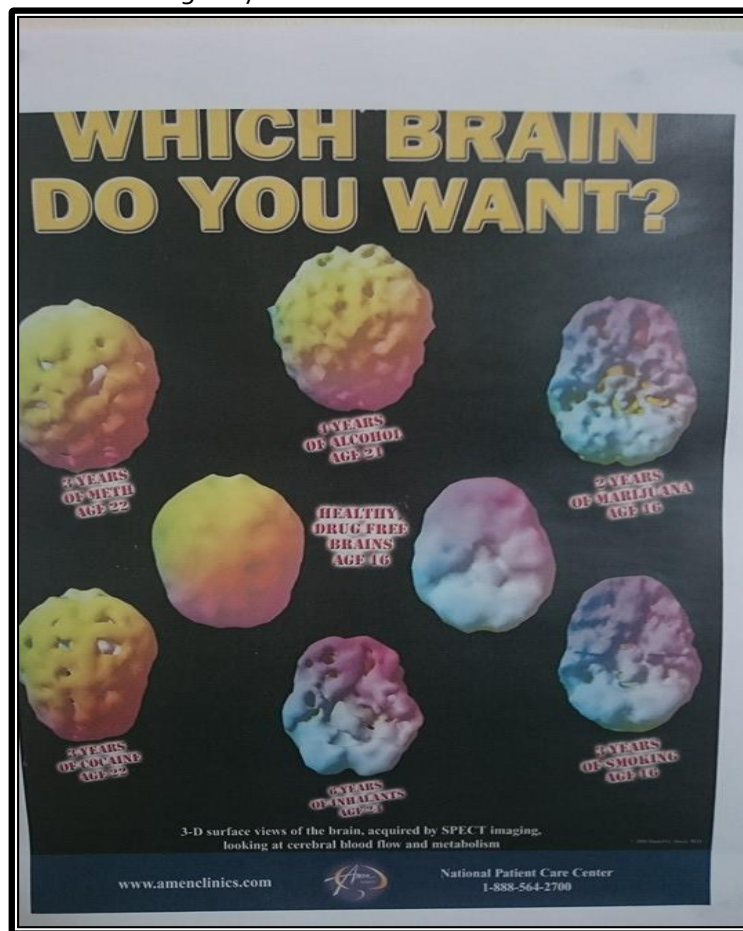


Figure 1: An Australian Scare Campaign Aimed at YOUTH!

MORAL OF THE STORY... If you are going to be a parent, make sure you become wise. Wisdom is associated throughout history, biblical texts, and philosophical lore, with seniority, interaction with others, and experience... **(Australian Motto: "Don't Ask, Don't Tell...")**

References @ 2016:

1. Self-derived knowledge from numerous educational sources and points of knowledge.
2. <https://www.utm.edu/staff/jfieser/class/160/3-drugs.htm>
3. <http://forums.philosophyforums.com/threads/what-is-the-moral-problem-with-drug-use-52363.html>
4. <http://www.theonion.com/article/meth-actually-not-that-bad-for-you-report-doctors--31319>
5. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/jacobsullum/2013/11/04/everything-youve-heard-about-crack-and-meth-is-wrong/#4cbda4c11e02>
6. <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMhle1207160#t=article>
7. And the list of online sources, library sources, PhD article papers, and etcetera, on the matter and issue of this extremely quick compilation are simply unaccountable as they are too many (often 'silenced' for the benefit of the bourgeoisie and elite who in turn often possess the disciplinary balance to handle drugs without spreading this adulterous habits to the masses for the sake of order and non-homogenization and open trans-humanistic acceptance by the masses for the 'greater good' of diversity and securement of their own innate power, one leads to assume.

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“Drugs are made for the exuberantly abundant & affluently rich and wealthy of society – be that wealth physical, immaterial, or intellectual. So bored with the simple and most beautiful pleasures in simplicities of life, this segmented misfortunate group more often than not *NEEDS* some external stimuli just to enjoy life to a comparable extent to those blessed and gifted with humbleness in means and lifestyle. It all works out the same in God’s divine plan for humanity” —

Anonymous