



Inter·GLAM Cinema Programme

IG Video session 1: The breadth of global addiction experiences (Day 1 - 15h - 16:30h)

(6 videos + moderated discussion)

Session Moderators:

Irena Molnar (Re Generate, Serbia) & Fleur Braddick (Clínic Foundation for Biomedical Research)

1.1 Connecting with Care – Toronto

By:

- Conor Ashleigh – independent Visual Storyteller



Description: In this film, we profile the Toronto Community Hep C Program (TCHCP), which was formed to help address some of the barriers to accessing HCV care which exist for people living in poverty and who use drugs or alcohol. At its heart are peer-driven support groups, where the emotional and informational support provided is as transformational as the treatment. To reach the goal of global HCV elimination, peer support needs to be seen as the truly transformational opportunity that it is. When integrated into models of care, peer support and community engagement can have immeasurable impact. The TCHCP is a world-leading example and can inspire and inform other projects. Through real-life stories of people positively impacted by the project, the film profiles TCHCP's successful strategies: Meaningful involvement of people with lived experience of HCV in program design, delivery and research. Reducing the barriers and stigma for people who use substances and are living with HCV. Ensuring a people-centred approach grounded in the principles of harm reduction. Embedding research, evaluation and education throughout the program. But it is the personal stories that are most impactful:

"Me and Jen, we've been through so much together. She was the first person to look at me and say, 'Keith, you'd be great at this job.' We work so good together and I'm so glad that I have the team that I do to work with, it makes my job so much easier" Keith Williams, TCHCP.

1.2 SUMAYA

By:

- Esther Sammy, (independent film-maker, Uganda)
- Jane Mapenzi (independent therapist, Uganda)



Description: Access to rehabilitation centres that cater to addiction and mental health challenges remains low in Uganda. For over 44ml people, there's only one national referral mental health hospital. This film presents how addiction and mental health challenges are dealt with in the African Traditional Society. The main message is that mental health challenges are not to be feared, mental health is simply a state of mind that we all need to keep healthy if we are to thrive in society.

1.3 A trip through Kosmicare's drug checking service

By: Kosmicare Association (Portugal)



Description: Drug checking services allow people who use drugs to analyse the drugs they intend to use and get specialized counselling. They work as an effective market monitoring tool. Still, they are, in essence, a fundamental public health strategy that helps prevent the use of dangerous or very adulterated substances and promotes safer use. This service provided by Kosmicare is unique in Portugal, which despite its progressive drug policies, is still a prohibitionist country with an unregulated drug supply. We explain the analysis process from sample collection to providing results using an immersive technique, and present our onsite and stationary services. One operates in a city centre drop-in and the other in a mobile unit next to a local assisted consumption site.

1.4 Inside drug users (in)visibilities

By:

- Joana Canedo (GAT Portugal)
- Marcos Moura (GAT Portugal)
- Ligia Parodi (CASO, Portugal)
- Joana Pires (Doctors of the World)
- Inês Diniz (Kosmicare)



Description: People who use drugs experiencing multiple vulnerabilities facing different forms of stigma and prejudice have come together to overcome the invisibility of the movement. This civil society activity allows contributions to different areas, establishing new forms of local collaboration and highlighting discussions on housing, addictions, safer spaces, community care and harm reduction also through artistic practices. The film seeks to present new ways of discussing, proposing and registering initiatives related to the field of drug policy highlighting collaborative actions of civil society.

1.5 The Click

By: Mary Smyth (Technological University of the Shannon, Ireland)



Description: Within a mind-scape a character believes they are in control until they are faced with their addiction in the form of a large snake. In the throes of darkness, a light beckons, and a journey toward recovery begins. At the mountain summit the character makes a difficult decision. The Click leads to a period of change for the character as they are supported from their inner mental-scape. In time, they return to help others in their personal struggle. The animation themes were developed from focus groups with recoverees from Ireland. The participants were previous or current users of Aiséirí Recovery Services (an Irish addiction service provider) at the point of the interviews. Common motifs and ideas for aspects of the lived experience from the group are illustrated within this journey structure. These include: the changing power dynamic of addiction in the beginning, the active decision-making and inner change in recovery, and a hint to group therapy in one of the ending shot backgrounds, among others.

1.6 These walls by heart

By:

- Ana Neto - Unidade de Alcoologia de Lisboa, PT
- Caroline Cranskens - Independent filmmaker
- Elodie Claeys - Independent filmmaker
- Ricardo Fuertes - Câmara Municipal de Lisboa (2017-2021), PT
- Mário Santos - Escola Nacional de Saúde Pública, PT



Description: What is a shelter? A safe place.

However, shelter is often precarious and even in collective places, as emergency shelters, they should protect from the outside, but also provide access to one's own interiority. In 2020, during the COVID19 pandemic, more than 400 persons in homelessness situation were admitted to five new Emergency Centers adapted from pre-existing social infrastructures in Lisbon. About 70 persons self-identified as having a problematic alcohol consumption. One year after, we follow these persons and conducted telephonic interviews to understand their experience. Carefully listening to their reflexions, we will go to those places now returned to what they were before. What traces remain from their passage? The walls know the story. Some testimonies will come from the walls, others from the streets. Persons in homeless situations have a higher prevalence of alcohol use disorder. They often fail to access services that reflect their needs. Their voices are frequently not heard, especially regarding the request of full abstinence that ultimately keeps them unprotected on the street. That is why we listen to their experiences in emergency centres created to respond to an unexpected pandemic where a low threshold medication intervention was implemented to allow the collective confinement demanded, to prevent acute withdrawal syndrome and, ultimately, their drop-out due to continuous alcohol use.
