Third call: Nordic Alcohol and Drug Researchers’ Assembly (NADRA)
In Voksenåsen, Oslo, Norway 29-31.8.2018

We warmly welcome Nordic researchers and others working with social and health approaches to alcohol and drug-related issues to present and discuss work within all sorts of perspectives on trends, prevention, policy, consumption and treatment.

Registration is now open at: https://www.lyyti.in/nadra2018

Further information about the conference and participation is available at: www.nordicwelfare.org/nadra2018

The conference will include the following keynote speeches:

What do we need alcohol policy research and researchers for? Lessons learned from the process leading to the new Finnish Alcohol Act
Pia Mäkelä, research professor, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland

What kind of information do alcohol policy-makers need, and where do they obtain this information? How well do researchers serve the society’s information needs? Do policy-makers need research carried out nationally, or is it enough to know what’s written abroad? Such questions will be explored in this presentation, drawing on experiences from the process with the new Finnish Alcohol Act in the parliament, and in view of the anticipated forthcoming battles on “next steps” in alcohol policy. It seems that the impact of rational expert views in the policy process has weakened, while the more feeling-based argumentation, portrayed in social media and amplified by the alcohol industry, has gained influence. In the argumentation, new discoveries appreciated in academic circles are not necessarily needed. There continues to be a need for smart dissemination of worn-out basic findings regarding population-level impacts and connections, which often continue to be doubted by the general public.

Long term ethnography in illegal street economy: how to get in and gain trust as a listener and as a person of meaning.
Philip Lalander, professor, Malmö University, Sweden

This talk will focus on people who are not interested in taking part in survey investigations and who often are very difficult to reach. Philip Lalander will draw on his own and on other researchers’ long-term ethnographic experiences on the experience of establishing contact with young people deeply involved in illegal street economies.

Lalander will discuss themes such as development of trust, why the young people wanted to see the researcher again, and why they were willing to let the researcher stay present and allow them to listen to their stories. Additionally, Lalander will reflect on the impression the young people developed of the researcher, as well as the social bonds that developed between researcher and participants. Lastly the talk will focus on how the relationship between the researcher and the participant can affect both parties involved.
Health surveys and the challenge of declining participation levels: what are the consequences and how can we overcome?
Linsay Gray, senior investigator scientist, Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow, UK

Participation levels for population-based health surveys have, for some time, been in decline. This is problematic as it presents a threat to the reliable production of knowledge on alcohol consumption levels and their trends over time. Not only do we lose the power that the higher numbers provide, there are potential distortions arising from the likely systematic differences between the selected individuals that participate and those that do not. While it is optimal to secure the collection of the desired data rather than to use statistical methods to compensate for the fact that they are absent, approaches which can be applied following field work are developing and increasingly can be applied. Drawing on work based on surveys including those from Scotland, the United States, and Denmark, this presentation will outline the nature of the challenge and give an overview of traditional and innovative “post-hoc” ways of addressing non-participation.

Call for abstracts

We warmly welcome abstracts related to the above presented topics, as well as other topics within the field of social alcohol and drug research.

Abstracts can be written and presented in English, Swedish, Norwegian or Danish and should not exceed 400 words. We also welcome participants without abstracts.

The maximum number of participants is 70. Participants with accepted abstracts are prioritised.

The deadline for registration and submission of abstracts is 13.5.2018.

Notification of accepted abstracts will be given 15.5.2018 per email.

Session on how publication strategies can come to form fields of research: As part of the conference, the Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs (NAD) will arrange a session regarding how academic publishing policies affect profiles and identities of institutions; singular researchers; or, the alcohol and drug research field as a whole. The session, which invite to a broader discussion of how the Nordic field of alcohol and drug research is developing, is open for conference participants in all stages of their career.

The conference is organised and funded by the Nordic Welfare Centre, an institute under the Nordic Council of Ministers.

If you have questions, please contact project manager Nina Karlsson, nina.karlsson[at]nordicwelfare.org, tel. +358 (0) 45 872 0270