

BOOKS RECOMMENDED

Drug Policy Constellations:

The Role of Power and Morality
in the Making of Drug Policy in the UK

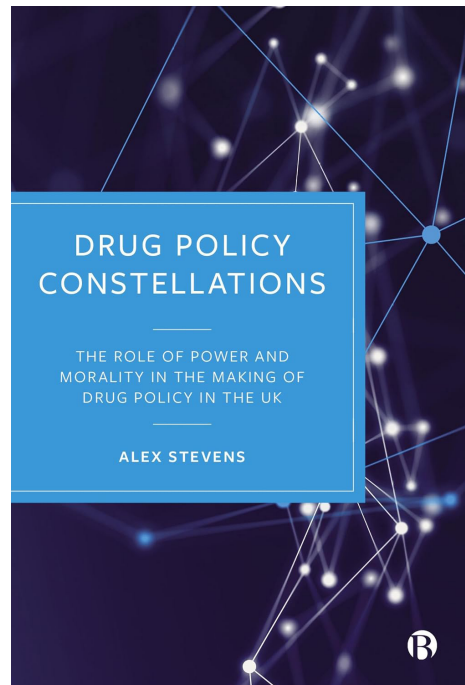
By Alex Stevens

Bristol University Press, 2024, 192 pp.

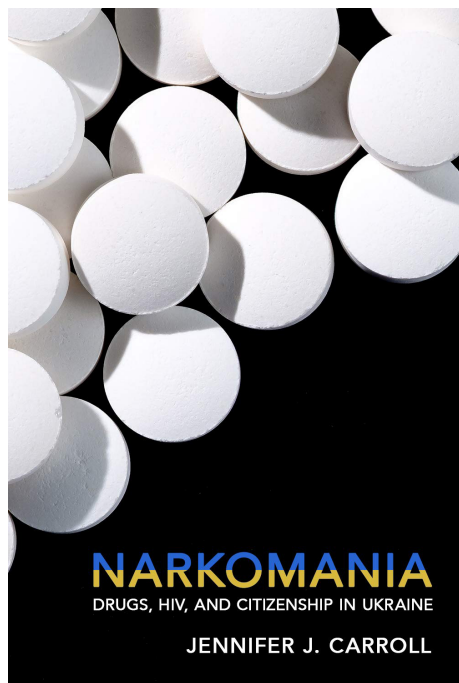
ISBN 978-1-5292-3132-8

How is UK drugs policy made, and why does it so often seem irrational when considering what works in reducing drug-related harms?

This book explains how the concept of drug policy constellations—the loosely concerted policy actors with shared moral commitments that influenced policy outcomes—explains why there is no such thing as ‘evidence-based’ drug policy. Drawing on his participation in high-level policy discussions, and a novel approach to policy analysis, Stevens presents three recent cases involving key issues in UK illicit drug policy—medical cannabis, drug-related deaths and the government’s 10-year drug strategy.



<https://bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/drug-policy-constellations>



Narkomania: Drugs, HIV, and Citizenship in Ukraine

By Jennifer J. Carroll

Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2019, 252 pp.
(new edition: Boston, MA: Academic Studies Press,
2024, in Ukrainian)

Against the backdrop of a post-Soviet state set aflame by geopolitical conflict and violent revolution, *Narkomania* considers whether substance use disorders are everywhere the same and whether our responses to drug use presuppose what kind of people those who use drugs really are. Jennifer J. Carroll's ethnography is a story about public health and international efforts to quell the spread of HIV. Carroll focuses on Ukraine where the prevalence of HIV among people who use drugs is higher than in parts of sub-Saharan Africa and unpacks the arguments and myths surrounding medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in Ukraine. What she presents in *Narkomania* forces us to question drug policy, its uses, and its effects on "normal" citizens.

Carroll uses her findings to explore what people who use drugs can teach us about the contemporary societies emerging in post-Soviet space. With examples of how MAT has been politicized, how drug use has been tied to ideas of "good" citizenship, and how vigilantism towards people who use drugs has occurred, *Narkomania* details the cultural and historical backstory of the situation in Ukraine. Carroll reveals how global efforts supporting MAT in Ukraine allow the ideas surrounding MAT, drug use, and HIV to resonate more broadly into international politics and echo into the heart of the Ukrainian public.

<https://cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/9781501736926/narkomania/#bookTabs=1>

**On Addiction:
Insights from History,
Ethnography, and Critical Theory**

By Darin Weinberg

Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2024, 200 pp.

ISBN 978-1-4780-3082-9

Mainstream addiction science sees addiction either as a biomedical disease that renders one incapable of self-control or as a voluntary practice engaged in freely. In *On Addiction*, Darin Weinberg shows how this dynamic is deeply influenced by a series of binaries (free will/determinism, mind/body, objectivity/subjectivity) that hinder our understanding of addiction. Here, he offers a new theorization of addiction in which he breaks down these contradictions and incompatibilities, calling into question the taken-for-granted distinction between the “biological” and the “social.” To the extent that it is understood as a loss of self-control over one’s behavior, addiction, Weinberg contends, requires a supple theoretical framework that provides for movements into and out of self-control, for the social and natural processes that influence these movements, for the historical contexts within which they occur, and for the ethical ramifications of taking them seriously. To create this framework, Weinberg brings together history, ethnography, and critical theory as well as the clinical and social sciences. In this way, Weinberg takes a more holistic approach to examining the fundamental nature and ethics of addiction.

<https://www.dukeupress.edu/on-addiction>

