

H 602 Theory Construction and Multi Perspectives

3 hrs per week/7 credits

International Theories and Practice in Addiction

Prof. Dr. Marion Laging

In this seminar we undertake an interdisciplinary and international approach to understand the development of addiction and some exemplary concepts of prevention and treatment. Based on the understanding of addiction as a biopsychosocial process, we first highlight the relations between drug consumption and society. The ethnographical perspective allows us to obtain deeper insights into the meaning and impacts of cultural factors regarding the diverse facets of consumption and addiction in the world. Epidemiology - international differences in the prevalence and incidence of consumption and addiction - is another perspective which shows characteristics and differences between nations and cultures. Stigmatisation is a well-known social-psychological concept which is able to explain the far-reaching effects and implications of how a disease is viewed and labeled within a society.

After this analysis we will switch to the analyses and discussion of some current conceptions in prevention and treatment. We take a closer look at some innovative prevention programs (e.g. communities that care, echeckuptogo), at some treatment programs including the harm-reduction-approach and at self-help-groups and organisations (e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous). Finally we will define and specify the role and profile of social work in the prevention and treatment of addiction.

Examination:

The examination consists of an extended essay. The examination requirement is to deal with a topic typical for the module. The extended essay is to be written during the semester or by the end of the examination period.

Total workload in the semester: 175 hrs

Contact time: 3 hours per week = 45 hrs

Independent study: 70 hrs

Examination time (including time for revision): 60 hrs