



SOCIO-CULTURAL CONTEXTS

Günter Stummvoll

stummvoll@euro.centre.org

www.eppic-project.eu

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Three notions of “culture”:

- 1. Migration: Refugees and retreatist sub-cultures**
- 2. Ethnicity: Socialisation & habitus**
- 3. Sub-cultures of “edgeworkers”**

3 notions of “culture”: Migration



“I fled from Algeria to Spain, and then to France, and then I came to Austria“

„I started selling drugs because I had no other way to make money“

Migration, refugees, asylum seekers

„I smoked Marihuana, and then I took cocaine – to forget my troubles“

3 notions of “culture”: Ethnicity



„I became violent because I had to be a man when I was really a little boy“

„In my culture they say:
,When the father is away,
you have to be the man in
the house““

Ethnicity: Socialisation, identity, habitus

„At school they said:
,Ah..., he is the one who has
not daddy““

3 notions of “culture”: Sub-culture



„I quit my apprenticeship and began a business as a dealer – I could make so much money with it!“

„I always wanted to know what it was that I took“

„I had my clients, they new me, and I knew them“

Sub-cultures of “edgeworkers”

„Taking drugs was fun, we were just curious“

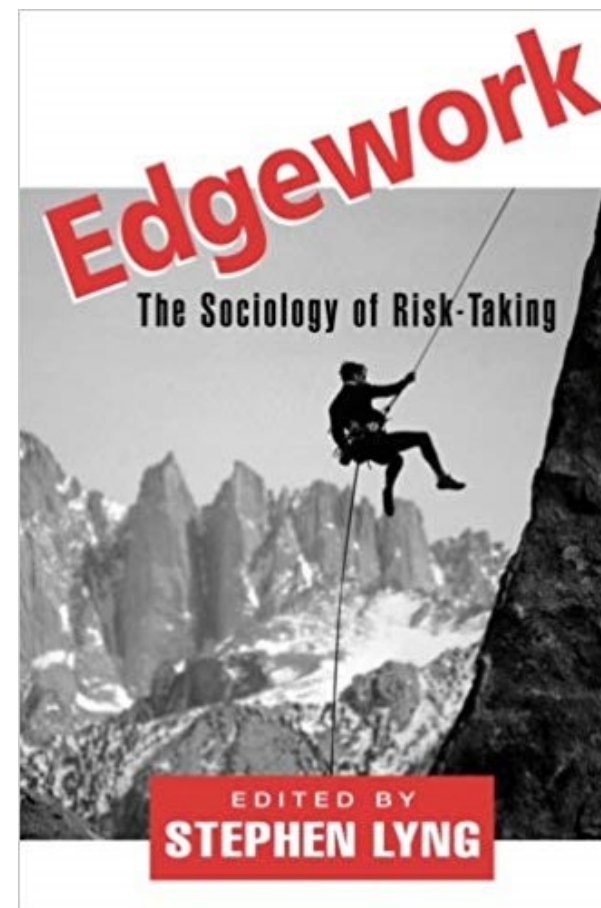
„We were good friends. When we took drugs, one of us stayed sober to look after the rest of us“



Edgework: Deliberate risk-taking

“Edgeworkers claim to possess a special ability, one that transcends activity-specific skills This unique skill, which applies to all types of edgework, is the ability to maintain control over a situation that verges on complete chaos, a situation most people would regard as entirely uncontrollable.”

(Lyng 1990:859).



"Drug cultures"

- Migration of refugees
- Ethnicity: Socialisation & habitus
- Sub-cultures of edgeworkers

"Judicial cultures"

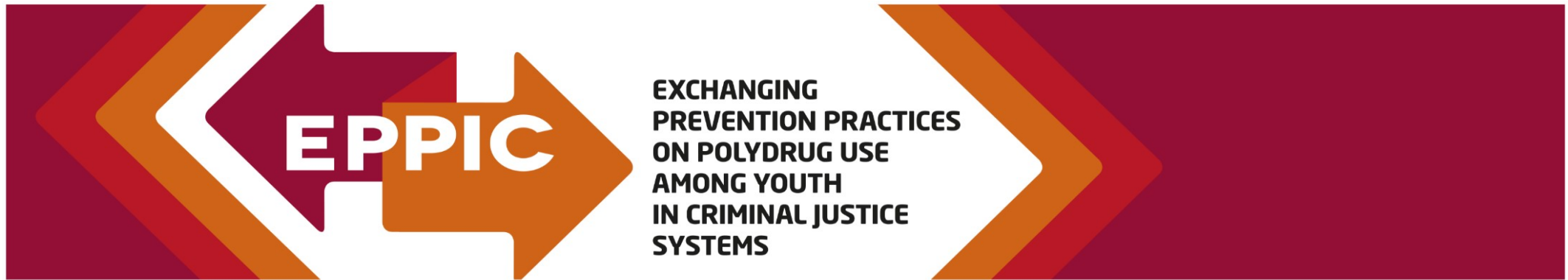
Criminalisation:

- Retreatist sub-cultures are hard to reach
- High-risk consumption patterns
- Marginalisation of socially deprived people
- Prosecution as the main driver of prices

Alternative drug control practices

- Therapy instead of punishment
- Drugs defined as "substitutes"
- Harm reduction by pill-testing services
- Syringe exchange programmes in prisons
- Shelters for consumption free of police controls.





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