



Dr. Geoffrey Hunt is Professor at the Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research (CRF) at the University of Aarhus and the Director and Senior Scientist at the Institute for Scientific Analysis in San Francisco. Dr. Hunt's University training is in Sociology and Social Anthropology and he obtained his Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Kent in the UK in 1988. His thesis "Drinking in an English Village." was based on a two year ethnographic study of drinking in a Cambridgeshire English village. The focus was on social class and gender differences in drinking practices in the local pubs and within the home. In examining drinking in both the public and private arenas, he examined the meanings, rituals and cultures of alcohol consumption and intoxication. While working on his Ph.D., Dr. Hunt, while at London Metropolitan University, also conducted ethnographic research on three alcohol treatment agencies in the UK. Although extensive research had been done

on evaluating the effectiveness of treatment agencies, at the time, little ethnographic anthropological research had been carried out on the culture of treatment, whether from the perspectives of the clients or the staff.

Having emigrated to the US in the late 1980s, he joined the Institute for Scientific Analysis in 1990 and worked on a National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded project on Gangs, Drug Sales and Violence. This initial project on youth gangs in the San Francisco Bay area led to further research and eventually 7 qualitative projects were conducted over 20 years (1992-2013) funded both by NIH and the W.T. Grant Foundation. Although the initial projects had focused on the use of illicit drugs and drug sales, his research team shifted their attention to also examining the role of alcohol and intoxication in the lives of young men and women in the gangs. Until that time, the majority of the existing research on gangs had tended to ignore the important role of alcohol consumption, both in maintaining cohesion while also fueling conflict and violence within gang life. The research team also focused on the lives of young women in the gang. While extensive research had examined the lives of young men, little research had examined the impact of gender. Dr. Hunt and colleagues explored issues of femininity and respect in the hyper-masculine world of gang life, connecting these issues to the consumption of drugs and alcohol as well as issues of drug dealing.

In 2002, Dr. Hunt's research team, in addition to continuing the work on youth gangs, began to explore the culture of drug use among middle class young adults and their involvement in the Club and Rave scene in San Francisco. While the project was started in San Francisco, it was soon expanded to include fieldwork research in Rotterdam and Hong Kong. Conducting research in three countries allowed the team to undertake cross-national and cross-cultural research, using qualitative research methods. In addition to exploring the culture of drug use within the nighttime economy, Dr. Hunt and his team also sought to understand the ways in which young people used drugs and alcohol as identity markers and as ways of performing gender.

In 2011, Dr. Hunt was appointed as a Professor at Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research (CRF) at the University of Aarhus, Denmark. This appointment allowed him to continue further cross-national research, comparing research findings on youth cultures and alcohol consumption in the US and Denmark. Using data from an NIH funded project on Gender and Intoxication in the US, he received a Danish Research Council award, to examine the same topic in Denmark. These projects allowed the possibility of not just comparing research

findings but also benefiting from cross-cultural comparisons on youth cultures, gender, consumption and intoxication. This cross-fertilization of research between the US and in Denmark has continued. For example, a recent Danish Research Council project on the perceptions of the police among immigrant youth, arose from recent research on youth gangs and the police in the US. Finally, the on-going NIH funded research on Rural Intoxication in Northern California evolved from research findings in Denmark on the importance of comparing rural and urban youthful drinking practices.

Over the years, Dr. Hunt has been immensely fortunate to work with many collaborators and colleagues in the UK, the US, Denmark and other European countries. They have inspired and guided his work, and without their knowledge and insights, his work achievements would not have been possible. Dr. Hunt and his colleagues have attempted, over the years, to promote a theoretical framework, informed by sociology, anthropology, criminology and gender studies, which has emphasized the inherent social, cultural and relational nature of consuming substances. This approach has focused primarily on the sociocultural forces that lie behind the consumption of ingested substances. This research trajectory, begun initially in the UK, over 30 years ago, continues today in the US and in Denmark.