

## Centre for Health Equity

## **MPhil Confirmation Seminar: Daniel Perkins**

## Psychedelic healing and wellbeing with ayahuasca: risks and opportunities

## Supervisors:

Professor Robin Room, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health/Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, Latrobe University

Associate Professor Richard Chenhall, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne

Date: Wednesday, 31st May at 12:00noon to 1:00pm

Venue: Room 410, 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton

Ayahuasca is a ceremonial psychoactive tea that originated among indigenous cultures in the Amazon Basin, where it is still widely used. However, the last 15 years have seen a dramatic increase in both the number of Westerners travelling to South America to participate in drinking ceremonies and Indigenous styled neo-shamanic ceremonies being held worldwide including Australia. This project is exploring the mental health and wellbeing effects reported by individuals drinking the tea in a range of contexts around the world.

Dr Daniel Perkins is an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Social and Political Science and Senior Adviser, in the Office for Medicinal Cannabis with the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. He has experience leading health, social, and labour market research and policy projects focusing on topics including population groups with specific health needs, exclusion associated with labour market policy and programs, and currently the use and health effects of psychoactive plants.