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Canada's Path to Marijuana Legalization

Will its Harm Reduction Objectives be Reached?

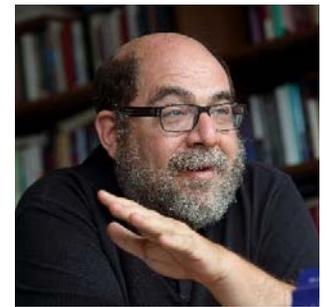
Public Event

Centre Health Policy | Seminar Series

Venue:	Theatre 2, Alan Gilbert Building 161 Barry Street, Carlton
Date:	Friday, 27 July 2018
Time:	04:00 - 05:00 PM followed by refreshments
Enquiries:	+61 3 8344 9111 CHP-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au
Bookings:	Free event, bookings required.

Professor Daniel Weinstock

Daniel Weinstock is currently the appointed Director of McGill's Institute for Health and Social Policy. His research interests have spanned across a wide range of topics in contemporary moral and political philosophy. His main research interests at present address the problem of health equity, issues of justice and inclusion as they arise in the organization of modern cities. The guiding thread of his research has been to connect philosophical and ethical argument with institutional reasoning. His work and teaching have been recognized by several major prizes. In 2004, he was made a Prize Fellow of the Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau Foundation. He was also awarded the Charles Taylor Prize for Excellence in Public Policy Research in 2017.



On October 17, the sale and consumption of marijuana for recreational purposes will be legalized across Canada. The rationale provided by the governing Liberal Party for this bold move has always been framed in terms of harm reduction, and in particular, the reduction of harms to which Canada's youth have been vulnerable under the previous regime of criminalization. The presentation will address the question of whether Canada's harm reduction objectives are likely to be met, especially with respect to younger Canadians, under the specific regulatory mechanisms that have been put in place by the federal government and by provinces. I will suggest that legalization is unlikely to eradicate the thriving illegal trade in marijuana and in other drugs. Addressing the harms to which unregulated trade subjects our youth may require a much bolder set of policies. For example, addressing concerns with dangers of unregulated marijuana widely available to youth in the illegal market may require lowering age restrictions in the access to legal, regulated, and therefore presumably safer marijuana.

The seminar will be followed by
refreshments.

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