

Research & Research Training Office

Faculty Seminar

May 8, 2007

Dr Jason Mazanov

Abstract:-

Drugs in Sport and the Social Science of Performance Behaviour

When asked why athletes take prohibited performance enhancing drugs, the most obvious answer is “to win”. This is a good starting point from which to base a social science of drugs in sport. Instead of using any particular disciplinary perspective, this seminar uses the individual/group/organisation distinction to explore the role of performance enhancing drugs in sport. The analysis of performance enhancing drugs in sport leads to speculation of whether it is representative of behaviours people are willing to engage when seeking to maximise their performance in other contexts. The framework is generalised to the vanity (eg cosmetic surgery) context, academic context, those seeking to maximise share value, and the military context.