Hosted by Contemporary Drug Problems, the School of Political and Social Inquiry at Monash University, the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University, and the Centre for Population Health at the Burnet Institute, this conference will bring together leading international researchers in drug use and addiction studies from a range of research disciplines.

Conference theme
The consumption of mood-altering drugs is consistently framed as one kind of problem or another. Across the last century, drug consumption has variously been framed as a ‘law and order’ problem, a ‘health’ problem and a ‘social’ problem. In the process, an array of related phenomena are also framed, including the people who consume drugs, the putative effects of the drugs, the risks associated with their use and the drugs themselves. Indeed, as Derrida has commented, ‘drugs’ operates largely as a buzzword: a popular catch-all for a diverse collection of substances, actors and effects. What are the implications of problematising ‘drugs’? What do particular problematisations allow and disallow, create and silence? What solutions do they entail? This conference invites presenters to reflect on these questions in light of Deleuze’s observation that: [a] solution always has the truth it deserves according to the problem to which it is a response, and the problem always has the solution it deserves in proportion to its own truth or falsity – in other words, in proportion to its sense. (Deleuze, 1994: 158)

If solutions and their effects are shaped by the ways in which we constitute problems, what might we identify as the contemporary drug problems to which researchers in this rich and challenging field should address themselves? What kinds of sense do we want our understandings of drug consumption, our recommendations and our actions to make?

In considering these questions, presentations could address the following areas:
- The relationships between licit and illicit drugs
- Drugs and crime
- Gender and drugs
- Drugs and risk
- Drugs and bodies
- The ‘user’
- Treatment: what and who is being treated?
- Drug ‘paraphernalia’
- Abstinence
- Drugs research instruments and techniques
- The popular culture of drugs
- Presentations on topics other than these will also be considered.

Conference dates and venue
The conference will be held on 3rd and 4th of October, 2011 at Monash University’s Campus in Prato, Italy. Further information on this venue is available at www.ita.monash.edu.

Conference format
The conference will run over two days. Each day will begin with a plenary presentation, followed by several concurrent streams running throughout the day. Presentations will run for 20 minutes to be followed by 10 minutes for questions and discussion.

Call for papers
Delegates are invited to submit abstracts of approximately 300 words by 25 March, 2011. Participation is limited and preference will be given to abstracts that address the conference theme.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the conference committee and delegates will be notified of the outcome of their submission by late April, 2011.

Conference publication
Following the conference, Contemporary Drug Problems will publish a special issue or issues featuring selected papers from the conference. The journal publishes peer-reviewed social science research on alcohol and other psychoactive drugs, licit and illicit. The orientation of Contemporary Drug Problems is multidisciplinary and international; it is open to any research paper that contributes to social, cultural, historical or epidemiological knowledge and theory concerning drug use and related problems. While Contemporary Drug Problems publishes all types of social science research on alcohol and other drugs, it recognises that innovative or challenging research can sometimes struggle to find a suitable outlet. The journal therefore particularly welcomes original studies for which publication options are limited, including historical research, qualitative studies, and policy and legal analyses. In terms of readership, Contemporary Drug Problems serves a burgeoning constituency of social researchers as well as policy makers and practitioners working in health, welfare, social services, public policy, criminal justice and law enforcement. Further information on the journal can be found at www.federallegalpublications.com/contemporary-drug-problems.

Further information
Future announcements will carry details of accommodation options, conference registration costs and other information for delegates.

All queries should be directed to Nicola Thomson, Editorial Assistant, Contemporary Drug Problems, at CDP@curtin.edu.au