

# DRUG FORUMS AND DRUG FORUM COMMUNITIES

INTERNATIONAL PSYCHONAUT WEB MAPPING CONFERENCE,  
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# INTRODUCTION

- I. The use of drug-related Internet forums in the Psychonaut Web Mapping Project
- II. Different types of forums
- III. Forum community
- IV. Forum Members
- V. Discussion



# DRUG FORUMS AND THE PSYCHONAUT WEB MAPPING PROJECT

- Drug forums and Internet chatrooms have been monitored in each of the partner countries (UK, Finland, Norway, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain) for novel compounds, combinations, and drug trends
- Drug forums have been used as a primary source of information for the technical database and technical folders:
  - Origin of substances
  - Chemical Structure
  - Routes of administration
  - Poly-drug combinations
  - Psychoactive effects
  - Negative side-effects (psychological, physical)
  - Pharmacological action and toxicology
  - Diffusion of compound



# TYPES OF FORUMS

- Different forums with varying degrees of **long-term stability** and **public accessibility**
- Open forums
  - Membership only required to post messages but not to view
  - Most information publically accessible
  - Contain other features e.g., video, audio, chat, wiki, blogs, news
  - Example(s)
    - » Drugs-Forum ([www.drugs-forum.com](http://www.drugs-forum.com))
    - » Bluelight ([www.bluelight.ru](http://www.bluelight.ru))
    - » Entheogen ([www.entheogen.com](http://www.entheogen.com))
    - » Erowid Experience Reports ([www.erowid.org](http://www.erowid.org))
- Closed forums
  - Find ways to limit visibility
  - Keep some or all pages hidden i.e., membership required
  - Example(s):
    - » CT Forum
    - » TF
    - » LHF



Drugs Forum

http://www.drugs-forum.com/forum/index.php

Psychonaut PubMed Psychonaut Partners SGUL Email SGUL IoP IoP Email KCL Email Hotmail SMH BBC Guardian BPS TFL

**Drugs Forum**

Home Wiki Documents Images Audio Video Chat Forum Blog Groups News

Drugs Forum User Name: \_\_\_\_\_ User Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Remember Me?   
Password: \_\_\_\_\_ Password: \_\_\_\_\_ Log in

Register Tags FAQ n Rules

Notices

Create a **FREE** account now to get access to **more forums, more videos, more music, more documents, more images, more reviews, more news about drugs** and much more functionality. **Start posting now, join our groups or create your unique profile.**

Forum	Last Post	Threads	Posts	Moderator
<b>VARIOUS DRUG RELATED TOPICS</b>				
<b>About Drugs Forum</b> (5 Viewing) Everything about the site & forum itself. Sub-Forums: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>News &amp; announcements</li> <li>Registration questions</li> </ul>		182	3,100	
<b>Drug News</b> (65 Viewing) The latest news about drugs. Sub-Forums: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Culture (News)</li> <li>Drug News Portal</li> <li>Health (News)</li> <li>Justice &amp; Law (News)</li> <li>Miscellaneous News</li> <li>Politics (News)</li> <li>Weird News</li> </ul>		6,173	26,116	
<b>Drug Policy Reform &amp; Narco Politics</b> (8 Viewing) The war on drugs, drug politics, how drugs influence politics & (international) conflicts.		991	9,584	
<b>Law and order</b> (33 Viewing) Drug law, arrests, court cases, law enforcement & the legal situation of drugs. Sub-Forums: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Lawyer Index</li> </ul>		1,587	15,167	
<b>Recovery and addiction</b> (82 Viewing) Support for coping with addiction and kicking the habit.				

Bluelight

http://www.bluelight.ru/vb/home.php

Psychonaut PubMed Psychonaut Partners SGUL Email SGUL IoP IoP Email KCL Email Hotmail SMH BBC Guardian BPS TFL

**BLUELIGHT** KEEP BLUELIGHT ALIVE

Home Register Forums Donate FAQ

Bluelight Home User Name: \_\_\_\_\_ User Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Remember Me?   
Password: \_\_\_\_\_ Password: \_\_\_\_\_ Log in

**News**

- Widely Used Cocaine Additive Kills 3, Sickens Dozens** By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press Writer Jon Gambrell, Associated Press Writer - 33 mins ago LITTLE ROCK, Ark. - Nearly a third of all cocaine seized...
- DEA Medical Marijuana Bust, Obama Lies About Ending The Raids** A massive DEA operation featuring dozens of heavily armed agents and at least four helicopters ended with the arrests of five people in California's L...
- Family Sues PA Jail Over Heroin Withdrawal Death** GREENSBURG, Pa. - An inmate's surviving family is suing a western Pennsylvania jail saying the man died because his complaints about heroin withdrawal...
- Mexico decriminalizes small-scale drug possession** 21 Aug
- Myths About High Times in America** 11 Aug
- The Five Stages Of Grief Over Obama's Drug Policies** 9 Aug
- When The Drug Policies Don't Work** 9 Aug

**Forums**

- Focus Forums
  - Drug FAQs
  - Ecstasy Discussion
  - Cannabis Discussion
  - Steroid Discussion
  - Psychiatric Drugs
  - Other Drugs
- Drug Discussion
  - Drug Studies
  - Drugs in the Media
  - Basic Drug Discussion
  - Advanced Drug Discussion
  - The Dark Side
  - Trip Reports
  - Drug Culture
- Community
  - Healthy Living
  - Current Events and Politics
  - Sex, Love and Relationships
  - Philosophy and Spirituality
  - Education & Careers
  - Legal Discussion
  - Second Opinion
  - The Lounge
  - Science & Technology
- Arts & Entertainment
  - Music & DJs
  - Non-Electronic Music
  - Words
  - Film & Television
  - Sports & Gaming

Australia & Asia
 

- Australian Drug Discussion
- Australian Social & Events

 Europe & Africa
 

- European Drug Discussion
- European Events

 North America & South America
 

- North & South American Social & Drug Discussion
- North American Events

 Pillreports.com
 

- Pillreports
- Pillreports Discussion
- Pill Testing Q&A

 Bluelight Basic
 

- New Member Introductions
- Homeless Threads
- Anonymous Posting
- Testing Grounds

 Bluelight Feedback
 

- Announcements
- Support (we? try here!)

 Bluelight History
 

- Best of Bluelight
- Bluelight Shirts
- General Archives
- Harm Reduction

New posts since your last visit (can be thousands of posts!)

All times are GMT +2. The time now is 13:15.

Mark Forums Read



Edot forums

http://www.entheogen.com/forum/

Psychonaut PubMed Psychonaut Partners SGUL Email SGUL IoP IoP Email KCL Email Hotmail SMH BBC Guardian BPS TFL

**Entheogen.com**

REGISTER FAQ MEMBERS CALENDAR WHAT'S NEW SEARCH

Currently Active Users: 139 (6 members and 133 guests)  
Threads: 23,826, Posts: 255,373, Members: 10,779, Active Members: 599  
Welcome to our newest member, \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome to the Edot forums.

If this is your first visit, be sure to check out the FAQ by clicking the link above. You may have to register before you can post: click the register link above to proceed. To start viewing messages, select the forum that you want to visit from the selection below.

The Entheogen Dot Web Site

Forum	Threads	Posts
The Edot Web Site Announcements and discussion related to this web site. This is also the place to come for site-related tech support, to make a suggestion, or to read the forum rules before you post.	275	3,143
New Members Essay Requirement - by cohisewolf 8th September 2009 - 09:18 PM		

Entheogen Discussion

Forum	Threads	Posts
Cactus Discussion (5 Viewing) This is the place to discuss Peyote, San Pedro, Donna Anna, etc.	1,692	16,681
San pedro further reduction - by foucault 9th September 2009 - 01:32 AM		
Salvia Forum (47 Viewing) This is the place to discuss Salvia divinorum, splendens, and the other psychoactive salvias, their essence, extract, growing issues, etc.	3,640	46,515
Spinach or Salvia ? - by Flapjack 9th September 2009 - 06:45 AM		

Erowid Experience Vaults

Index Full List Search Submit Settings About Main Vaults

Absinthe	Amanitas	Cacti	Caffeine	Cocaine	DMT
DOB	GHB	Heroin	Ketamine	Mescaline	Mushrooms
Nutmeg	Peyote	2C-T-7	5-MeO-DMT	*** More ***	

View Full Substance List  
New Reports Submit Report

Search Experience Reports (Advanced Search)

Substance: [All] Combined With [All]  
Category: [All]  
Containing the Words: [ ] Find Matching Reports Reset

Active Review Team

3 days (+)	2 weeks (+)
<b>Review</b>	<b>Review</b>
anthela (31)	Anthela (114)
poon (1)	Spoon (14)
	Horoelma (6)

Articles & Writings

- Experience Report Rewriting: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
- Overview of the Exp Report Rewriting Process
- The Value of Experience
- Surfing the Matrix
- Measuring Psychedelic Experience
- Communicating Experience
- Descriptive Experience Sampling (DES)

Offsite Experience Collections

- The Lycaenum's Extensive Trip Report Database
- Deoxy's Chemical Experiences of a Hyperspatial Nature

Substance-Specific Collections

- Shroomary Collection (Mushrooms)
- Lycaenum Reports
- Third-Plateau Collection (DXM)
- Siebert's Collection (Salvia)
- RemedyFind.com : Patient Ratings for Medical Treatments

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# TYPES OF FORUMS

- **Stability**
  - Not all forums are stable over time i.e., they can shut-down at any time
  - Individual threads can also be removed
  - In the last 12 months several large, well known forums have closed down
  - Example:
    - » Champagne Legals Forum ([www.champslegals.co.uk](http://www.champslegals.co.uk))
      - Forum connected to the Champagne Legals vendor site (for Research Chemicals and other synthetic compounds)
      - Closed in March 2009 and has remained closed – vendor site closed in August 2009
      - Forum users all migrated to various other sites, including:
        - CT Forum (via YKIT)
        - TF
        - LHF
- **Large vs. small forums**
  - Large: More open – Cater for different regions and languages
    - » E.g., Drugs-Forums (50,000 members) and Bluelight Forum (110,000 members)
  - Small: More closed communities – can be specific to a particular region or social group



# FORUM FEATURES

- Forums can be region specific and/or reflect an existing social group, or can span several regions or social groups **but**,
- Strong group cohesion
  - Community migration
  - Group 'trips' e.g., Synced salvia sessions
  - Social support, overdoses, and fatalities
- Strong in-group/out-group divide
  - Legitimate forum users vs. vendors, journalists, police = 'narcs'
  - Do not want to bring unwanted attention to what was an underground phenomenon
- Language
  - Self Incrimination e.g., SWIM, SWIY, "My pet {...}"
  - Slang e.g., substance names, methods of administration, vendors, other forums etc
  - Language to refer to other users/outsiders e.g., "Newbies", "Narcs", "Lurkers"



# FORUM FEATURES

- Intra-group hierarchy
  - Built into membership
    - » Moderators
    - » Experienced Members
    - » Newbies
    - » Lurkers
- ‘Psychonauts’
  - Educated and informed e.g., pharmacology
  - Often first to experiment with new compounds but also
  - Assess risk
  - Often members of >1 forum



# DISCUSSION

- Considerations when using drug related forums in research
  - Appropriately recording information is important – URL **and** screen shots, convert to pdf
  - Inaccurate information and hoaxes
  - Regular monitoring
- Uses for drug related forums in public health
  - As sources of information for researchers, government agencies, and health professionals – particularly in the absence of other primary sources of information e.g., medical/scientific literature, peer-reviewed journals etc
    - » Examples:
      - Spice
      - Mephedrone
      - Lyrica (Pregabalin)
  - As part of a harm-reduction approach to prevention – information for users
- Future directions

