



University  
of Victoria

# ANTHROPOLOGY COLLOQUIUM

## The Establishment of North America's first Supervised Injection Site: Anthropological Activism and Application

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**Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**11:30 am – 12:50 pm**  
**Cornett Building: A229**



This lecture will begin with the assumption that barriers to efficacious innovations addressing the harms of illicit drug use are not scientific, medical or epidemiological, but cultural. The audience will learn that the establishment of Insite is a story of intentional cultural change that required the identification of implicit and explicit values about addiction as part of an anthropological action plan to create and protect a medically defensible but culturally controversial initiative. The presenter will argue that confronting today's seemingly unfathomable opioid overdose epidemic requires that we first unravel the most central of our sociocultural values about addiction. This journey will take us into the realm of outlaw academia: a space where public policy and social change are an entirely appropriate part of the research process. It is a place where we move beyond analysis of culture to engaging with key stakeholders to actually change it. The presenter intends to paint a hopeful future for academia, one that moves beyond the realm of social research to a more socially conscious phase that begins and ends with social doing.

**EVERYONE WELCOME.**