

OPEN DEI BRIEF 29

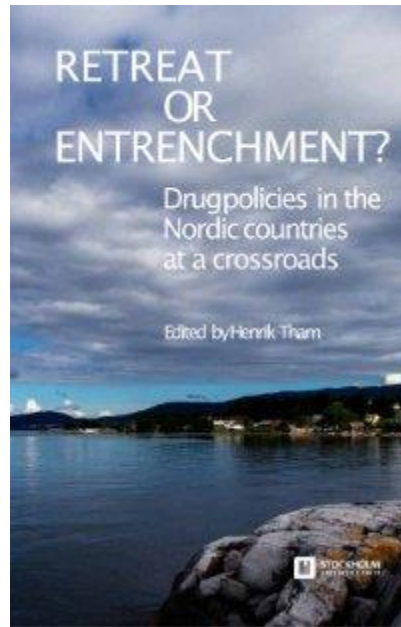
Monday July 8, 2024

The New York Times recently [reported](#) that a record 2,511 drug deaths occurred last year in British Columbia largely attributed to the decriminalization of opioids possession and use since their decriminalization in 2016. Naturally, this problem is not confined to Canada though it may perhaps be traced in part to Global Good Intentions.



[Urgent and long overdue: legal reform and drug decriminalisation in Canada](#)

By Matthew Bonn, Chelsea Cox, Marilou Gagnon. et al. The International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy recommend that States commit to adopting a balanced, integrated, and human rights-based approach to drug policy In respect of the Guidelines and its obligations under UN human rights treaties, Canada must adopt stronger and more specific commitments for a human rights-based, people centered and public health approach.³ This approach must commit to the removal of criminal penalties for simple possession and a comprehensive health-based approach to drug regulation.



[Retreat or Entrenchment? Drug Policies in the Nordic Countries at a Crossroads.](#)

Edited by Henrik Tham. The drug policies of the Nordic countries have been relatively strict. Since this seems to contradict the internationally recognized liberal criminal policy in general, analyses have been devoted to try to understand this gap. Why doesn't the "Scandinavian exceptionalism" apply to the drug policies? The new question in relation to drug policy is, however, if and how the Nordic countries will adapt to a situation when several countries all over the world are questioning 'the war on drugs' and orienting themselves in the direction of decriminalization and legalization.



[Cannabis policy reform and organized crime: a model and review for South Africa](#)

By Anine Kriegler . Cannabis legalization has the potential to weaken organized crime, but it can just as easily strengthen it unless a balance is found between restriction and liberalization, coordinated across both the supply and demand sides of the market. ...This paper summarizes the history and status of cannabis decriminalization in South Africa and draws on a review of literature to identify a key set of variables that determine the impact of legalization on organized crime....

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