

TWIST Session 13: Impact and Cost of Addiction



Wednesday 25th October, 11:00h – 12:30h (Room 1.06)



Rosalie Liccardo Pacula *PhD. Senior Economist and Co-Director of Drug Policy Research Center at the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica, CA USA. She is also a Professor in the Pardee RAND Graduate School (PhD program in Policy Analysis), and Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research (Cambridge, MA, USA)*

Dr. Pacula is an economist with extensive experience conducting studies on legal and illicit drug markets, especially marijuana and opioids, measuring the size of these markets, the factors influencing supply and demand of these goods, and the effectiveness of policy interventions targeting the behaviour of suppliers and users participating in them. She has developed technical expertise related to the measurement of markets, the behaviour of agents within them, the economic cost of intended and unintended consequences, and the use of causal models to generate unbiased estimates of policy effects on these costs. She is Vice President of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP), an assistant editor at *Addiction*, and is on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Drug Policy*.

Cláudia Costa Storti *is a Senior Economist in the XXX Division of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction in Lisbon, Portugal.*

Cláudia Costa Storti works at the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction in Lisbon and her main interests are the economic aspects of drug policy. She is currently in charge of analyzing the costs of drug policy. She holds an MSc in Economics from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and a degree in Economics from the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal. She is on the Scientific Committee of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP) and is on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Drug Policy*.



Session Description:

Learning objective(s):

- Ascertain what the difference is between social costs, public and private costs when assessing the impact and costs of addiction
- Identify the primary drivers of the social costs of addictive goods as well as the social costs of policies targeting these goods
- Discuss data sources and data gaps for generating estimates for specific countries and particular drugs.

Scope/main topics covered:

- The purpose of this session is to provide an overview of current knowledge on the social costs of drug use and how it is measured (mortality, health care costs, criminal justice costs, etc.).
- We will provide you with current estimates of the main components of social costs for various substances for specific countries, provide insights on why costs differ across substances within a single country, and describe data sources and gaps for construction of these costs in other countries.
- Micro-level approaches for assessing costs as well as public expenditure approaches will be discussed, as well as the strengths and limitations of each.

Training/Learning formats:

- Lecture and discussion format



TWIST Session 12: Impact and Cost of Addiction

Session Description (cont.):

Learning outcome(s) (what should the trainee be able to do following the session?):

- Interpretation of cost studies and what should/should not be drawn from them;
- Understand the necessary components for constructing a social cost estimate within their own country in light of the existing social/tax/welfare system;
- Understand the estimates available for social costs of substance abuse and addictions public expenditure;
- Understand the difference between the economic cost of addiction and the cost-effectiveness of a policy aimed at reducing addiction;
- Understand the difference between intended and unintended consequences of drug policy.

Related LxAddictions 2017 sessions:

Plenary session II – Measuring addictions, SS32 (treatment expenditure) & Plenary III (van Hout – security implications).