This course will look at the historical trajectory of the interaction between the politics of colonial or quasi-colonial empires and the cultivation, trade, and consumption of mood altering substances in the period between roughly 1700 and 2000. Apart from the economic aspects of drug-trafficking, cultural and social consequences of production and consumption on both sides of the imperial divide are put under scrutiny. The course aims at providing historical background knowledge regarding the controversies about drugs and the fight against them. It is designed to enhance the students’ capability to deconstruct normative discourses, thereby fostering their analytical skills and sharpening their critical acumen. The subject matter does not only relate to problems of a mere historical nature, as the topic under study still is of critical relevance today. Students are expected to be present in 80% of the sessions, take part in the discussion of the weekly mandatory readings, prepare an individual or group presentation and submit the written summary of a survey text.

**TIME:** Monday 15:15-16:45
**LOCATION:** IFW C 33
**INSTRUCTOR OF RECORDS** Prof. Dr. Harald Fischer-Tiné
**ONLINE READER ACCESS** [https://polybox.ethz.ch/index.php/s/lggw2zrHtW3TH4P](https://polybox.ethz.ch/index.php/s/lggw2zrHtW3TH4P)
Passwort: drugsempire17
**TEACHING ASSISTANT** MARTINA ANDERMATT martina.andermatt@gmw.gess.ethz.ch
SESSION OUTLINE

(✪ = mandatory readings available online)

Session 1 (20. 02. 2017) Introduction to the course

Session 2 (27. 02. 2017) OPIUM I Opium production in India and consumption in China in the 18th and 19th centuries

Session 3 (06. 03. 2017) OPIUM II: Anti-Imperialism or moral Empire? The Emergence of an anti-opium lobby in the West
Session 4 (13. 03. 2017) **OPIUM III: Did the Empire Strike back? — Opium consumption and addiction in the West**


Contemporary representation of an ‘opium den’ in late Victorian London
Session 5 (20. 03. 2017)  

**OPIUM IV: „High Politics“: The Emergence of an international control regime**


Session 6 (27. 03. 2014)  

**CANNABIS and colonialism**


Session 7 (03. 04. 2017)  

Keine Sitzung → Reading Week
Session 8 (10. 04. 2017)  

**ALCOHOL I: Economic und social dimensions**


- GILBERT, Marc Jason, ‘Empire and Excise: Drugs and Drink Revenue and the Fate of States in South Asia’, in: Mills and Barton (eds), *Drugs and Empires*, pp. 116-141.
**Session 9 (08. 05. 2017) ALCOHOL II: Temperance movements: Abstinence and politics in the colonial world**


Temperance cartoon (c. 1915)
Session 10 (15. 05. 2017)  COCAINE I: The global career of a new drug (1880-1930)


Advertisement for cocaine enriched toothache drops, USA 1885
Session 11 (22. 05. 2017)  
**COCAIN II: The United States and the 'War on Drugs' in Latin America**


Session 12 (29. 05. 2017)  
Keine Sitzung → Reading Week