



NEIL MONTGOMERY MSc MSc(Research) FRSA FRAI

3 Kinburn Place
St Andrews
KY16 9DT

C/ San Luis 132/5
Sevilla
41003

DRUGS including:

Cannabis (*Cultivation and Therapeutic use*)

Cannabis Resin

Diamorphine

Cocaine

Amphetamines

MDMA

Benzodiazepines

Cathinones

Psilocybin

DEFENCE WITNESS

*in the Sheriff Courts and High Courts of
Scotland and the Crown Courts of England*

CROWN WITNESS

in the Crown Courts of England

HOUSE OF LORDS EVIDENCE

in writing and in person

SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE SECTION

*Metropolitan Police Consultant and Expert
Witness*

SCIENTIFIC ADVISER

*on the topic of therapeutic cannabis and the
social circumstances of drug use*

Private & Legal

Call for a QUOTE or use LEGAL AID GUIDELINES

The privileged role of the Expert Witness is to offer an opinion to the Court so that it may be better informed to make a judgement, it is a role for which I have the greatest respect.

I have presented Expert Witness Evidence on over five hundred occasions to the High Courts and Sheriff Courts in Scotland and the Crown Courts in England; predominantly, but not exclusively, those which involve the cultivation of cannabis. I have also presented evidence, written and in person, specifically on the topic of purity and dosage, to the House of Lords, Select Committee on Science and Technology, Sub-Committee I - Cannabis. As the basis of a television 'special', broadcast on 4th March 1995, Channel Four Television commissioned me, in January 1994, to carry out extensive research into the current use of cannabis in society. I had previously researched the subject for a speculative proposal. I also drew on my own experience as a user of cannabis from the age of 21. I produced my findings in the form of a report entitled 'Cannabis Sativa - An Investigation of Cannabis Sativa'. Between the writing of my report and the broadcast of the subsequently commissioned programmes during 'Pot Night', I took a crew to Holland to investigate and film cannabis culture and coffee shop society in Amsterdam. I spent several days with a company called 'Positronics' who market equipment for the home cultivation of cannabis; they are experts in the field. I was shown everything to do with the cultivation process and recorded it for inclusion in the film 'Amsterdam by Night', one of the programmes in the event. In conjunction with the programmes, Channel Four published a booklet with the same name as the event, 'Pot Night'. I wrote two articles in the booklet, as well as the unsigned text. My investigation and research into the use of cannabis continues within the Institute for the Study of Psychoactive Substances and through postgraduate study; I am in the final stages of a PhD on the subject. I hold two Master of Science degrees from Edinburgh University's Department of Social Anthropology; I am a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute and a member of the International Cannabinoid Research Society.

I have acted as a consultant anthropologist to the UK Medicinal Cannabis Project. The project, conducted by GW Pharmaceuticals, was issued with a Home Office license in 1998 to possess, supply and cultivate cannabis for research purposes. The principle aim of the research is to investigate the potential for cannabis-based medicines that use whole-plant extracts in a non-smoking mode of administration, and to proceed via clinical trials to an application for a product license. Their product, Sativex™, is a sub-lingual spray. I have contributed to numerous experiments in the cultivation of different strains of cannabis by GWP and advised them on patterns of behaviour within the 'underground' world of cannabis therapeutics. Following the House of Lords enquiry, a charitable trust called The Medicinal Cannabis Research Foundation was formed. The trustees, Lord Rea, Lord Butterworth, Sir Robin Ibbes, Lord Kirkwood, Lord Perry of Walton and Baroness Walmsley invited me to become one of the foundation's four scientific advisors and I served as such since its inception in 1999 with fellow advisors, Professor Leslie Iversen, Dr. William Notcutt and Dr. Amala Raman. This work included the monitoring of clinical trials into the use of cannabis-based medicines for bladder dysfunction issues; the foundation is currently inactive.

My research has been and is conducted in the empirical style of anthropological fieldwork, which has meant developing a long-term, intimate relationship with cannabis users, both recreational and therapeutic, at a local, national and international level. Anthropological method provides the richest of qualitative data. My current specific interests are purity and dosage in the medicinal and recreational use of cannabis and the relationship between cannabis use and the law. My general research interests lie in the areas of cross-cultural behavioural phenomenon; the anthropology of law; ritual and symbolism in the use of cannabis; and, forms of knowledge and agency in discourses of power and resistance between the individual and the State. My PhD title is 'Cannabis, Medicine and the Law: transcending hegemony, dividing power and realising consciousness'. I continue to communicate with growers and users in the UK, Holland, Australia, Germany, Spain, Denmark, Switzerland, Kenya, Morocco, Canada and the USA. My specific research into purity and dosage, including consumption rate categories has been published in the House of Lords Report (HL Paper 151), and also in Professor Leslie Iversen's book, 'The Science of Marijuana' (Oxford University Press, 2000). My 'Brief History of Cannabis' originally published by Channel Four Television has been translated and published in five different languages and my specific work on impurities has been published in E. H. Downing's book '¿Sabes lo que te metes? - pureza y adulteración de las drogas en España' (Amargord, 2007). [Do you know what you're getting? - purity and adulteration of drugs in Spain]

I am the Director of Research and Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for the Study of Psychoactive Substances. The I.S.P.S. has gained Home Office approval to receive samples of cannabis resin, from the police and Customs & Excise, for C.R.I.S.P. (Cannabis Resin Impurities Survey Project), a research project combining anthropology and chemical analysis, which is studying the purity of 'Soap Bar' the most commonly consumed cannabis resin in the UK.

I have worked with the Crown Prosecution Service and the Metropolitan Police, Special Intelligence Section as a consultant and Expert Witness, on significant operations within their crackdown on drugs and organised crime; principally but not exclusively with reference to international trafficking in Cannabis and Cocaine; specifically on aspects of language and behaviour, valuation, and on distribution patterns.

As part of my research I have been interested in the relationship between cannabis use and the use of Class A and 'designer drugs'. As such, I have gathered considerable knowledge about the use of Amphetamine and Ecstasy-type drugs like 'Base', 'Speed', 'E's', and 'Molly' containing MDMA (Methylenedioxy-methyl-amphetamine) or MDEA (Methylenedioxyethyl-amphetamine); also, the use of 'Legal High's and the Cathinones, like 'M-Cat'. I have become familiar with the habits of casual and heavy users of Cocaine and other drugs that play significant and particular parts in poly-drug use, including anaesthetics such as Ketamine and GHB (Gamma Hydroxybutyrate), the benzodiazepines, including Diazepam and Temazepam, and psychedelics such as Psilocybin and LSD (Lysergic Acid Dithylamide). Diamorphine (Heroin) is of particular interest because of its commonly represented relationship with Cannabis, which is mistakenly regarded as a 'gateway' to heroin addiction.