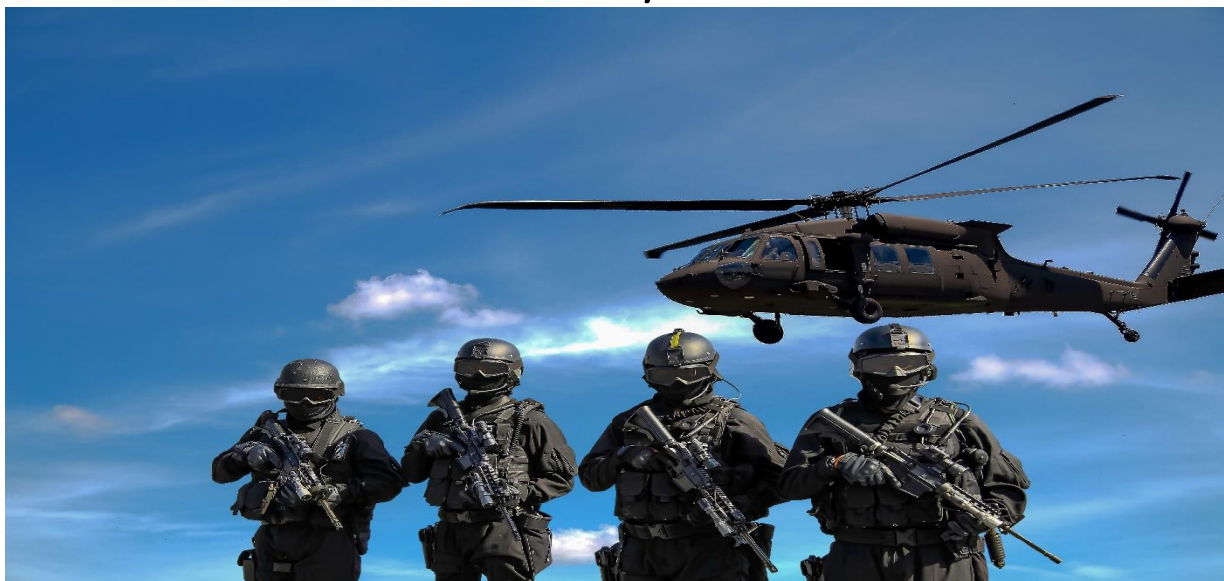


**Narcopolis:  
Cultures of the Contemporary Drug Wars  
Queen's University Belfast,  
30-31 May 2018**



Somchai Kongkamsri from Pexels

This two-day symposium, sponsored by the Centre for the Americas, the School of Arts, English and Languages, and the Senator George J Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, will examine the cultures of the contemporary drug wars primarily in the Americas. Working in the area and across a range of disciplines, including Criminology, English, Film, History, Modern Languages, Politics and IR, Philosophy and Sociology, scholars will consider how the thematizations of the drug trade in contemporary culture (e.g. media, TV, films, novels etc.) afford us pressing insights into the complex relationships between violence, borders, security, sovereignty and global capital. Particular attention will be paid to how or whether these thematizations obscure or illuminate the close relationship between the legal and illegal economy and between crime and capitalism – and hence on the ways that violent and non-violent acts combine to produce “an economic system that cares more for profit than for people” and a “war on drugs” that is more accurately characterized as a “war on the poor and the powerless, the voiceless and invisible” (Don Winslow, *The Cartel*).

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**WEDNESDAY 30 MAY**

Welcome: coffee/tea + sandwiches  
Graduate Centre, room TR6, from 12 noon

**ALL SESSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN GRADUATE CENTRE, TR6**

## **Session 1**

**1-2.30 pm**

Chair: tbc

Ailsa Peate (Lancaster University): Sexing it Up: Women, Popular Culture, and the War on Drugs in Mexico

Claudia Nitschke (Durham University): An Army of Occupation - The 'War on Drugs' in *The Wire*

**Coffee/tea**

## **"Keynote" Session 2**

**3-4.30**

Chair: Andrew Pepper

John Kraniauskas (Birkbeck University), Narco-culture, narco-territory: on *Breaking Bad*

Vincenzo Ruggiero (Middlesex University): Dirty Networks and Greed

## **Session 3: Screening + discussion**

**5-5.45**

Elayne McCabe (QUB), Losing a Whole Generation: Visualizing Global Trajectories of the Opiate Overdose Crisis in Massachusetts

**Wine reception**

**Symposium dinner, Molly's Yard, Botanic Avenue**

**7.45pm**

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**ALL SESSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN GRADUATE CENTRE, TR6**

**THURSDAY 31 MAY**

## Session 4

10-11.30

Chair: Ricki O’Rawe (QUB)

Lucy Bollington (University of Cambridge): Expanding the Necropolitical Frame: Aesthetic and Political Theoretical Confrontations with Drug War Conflict in Mexico

Joey Whitfield (Cardiff University): Narco culture/culture of prohibition: Mimesis in the aesthetics of the drug war

Coffee/tea

## Session 5

12-1.30

Chair: Sarah Bowskill (QUB)

Sharae Deckard (University College Dublin): “Medellín on line two”: Narco-epic and Drug War Capitalism in Marlon James' *A Brief History of Seven Killings*

Andrew Pepper (QUB), Violence, Representation, Ethics: Winslow and Bolaño

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The symposium organisers would like to thank the School of Arts, English and Languages, the Centre for the Americas, and Senator George J Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice for their generous assistance in putting on this event.



**QUEEN'S  
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BELFAST**

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