



Presents:

# SHIFTING THE ADDICTION PARADIGM 2023: THE PSYCHEDELIC RENAISSANCE

**Current practices and what it means for the world of addiction treatment.**

June 14, 2023 • Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles

A hybrid in person/virtual conference

**What's the next wave we armchair futurists see headed for the field of problematic habits? Psychedelics, on the tongues of just about anyone willing to look beyond the ideology of disease, are the obvious answer, and the shift to these compounds is largely a welcome one for those of us who hold a humanist ethos. In the right hands, psychedelics are fine assistants for addressing attachment, self-compassion and larger existential concerns in our practices, not to mention good tools for those of us who see painful habits where our professional ancestors and colleagues saw disease. In the wrong hands? Well, they are just more B.S.**

A lot has happened since our first "Shifting the Addiction Paradigm" conference more than six years ago. The topic that first year was "Attachment and Addiction," and looking back it's now hard to believe that our suggestion that dangerous habitual behaviors be viewed through a psychotherapeutic lens of attachment was rather novel at the time, and that the subsequent connection between trauma and addiction that we discussed was far from mainstream. As time went on, however, we moved further away from a strictly "hijacked brain"/disease approach to addiction, the concept of "harm reduction" became part of popular nomenclature and harm-reductionists such as us were no longer shunned from mainstream conferences as heretics. In fact, in a lot of ways, the giant shift we predicted at our first conference is currently cresting—and some of the results are truly revolutionary.

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# SCHEDULE

**8:00 AM**  
**CHECK-IN AND BREAKFAST**

**9:00 AM**  
**OPENING REMARKS**  
Zoi Andalcio, LMHC  
*Director of IDDT Services at Ellenhorn*

**9:15 AM**  
**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INVESTMENT MONEY AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: PSYCHEDELICS AS COMMODIFIED MEDICINE**  
Ross Ellenhorn, LCSW, Ph.D.  
*Founder & CEO at Ellenhorn / Founder at CARDEA*

**10:20 AM**  
**ADDRESSING ADDICTIVE PATTERNS WITH PSYCHEDELIC-ASSISTED THERAPY: LOOKING DEEPER**  
Eva Altobelli, M.D.  
*Founder & CEO of Home-LA  
Psychedelic & Addiction Psychiatrist*

**11:30 AM**  
**LUNCH BREAK**

**12:45 PM**  
**SOBER LIVING 2.0: THE RECOVERY HOUSE IN A NEW LIGHT**  
Todd Youngs  
*Addiction and Integration Specialist*

**2:00 PM**  
**PSYCHEDELICS AND A CAPITALIST MEDICAL-CARE SYSTEM: HOW CAN THIS WORK?**  
Yarelix Estrada, MSPH  
*Director of the New York City  
Psychedelic Society*

**3:00 PM**  
**AFTERNOON BREAK**

**3:10 PM**  
**SPEAKER PANEL**

**4:10 PM**  
**CLOSING REMARKS**  
Zoi Andalcio, LMHC  
*Director of IDDT Services at Ellenhorn*

# DISTINGUISHED FACULTY BIOS & ABSTRACTS

## **The Relationship Between Investment Money and Behavioral Health: Psychedelics as Commodified Medicine** Ross Ellenhorn, LCSW, Ph.D.

There is a psychedelic renaissance underway for sure, a reintroduction and remaking of its use for the larger public. And yet, as practices once conducted underground emerge into the daylight of doctor's offices and vacation retreats worldwide, this new movement is rapidly becoming pretty un-psychedelic—no longer aimed toward novel experiences and the pursuit of novelty, but toward the uniformity and standardization of getting people back to an elusive place of “normalcy.”

Psychedelics are being subsumed into the current medical and economic structure, and rapidly molded into another medicine for conformity; less about expansiveness, curiosity and play, and more about fixing your brokenness. That, at least, is the doomsday scenario. There are, however, vital pockets of resistance—places where the spirit of the underground is still alive and thriving more than ever.

This talk will describe the results of the decades-long relationship between investment money and behavioral health, how the current introduction of psychedelics as commodified medicine is the obvious result of their entrée into this system, and how to understand the relationship between these compounds and the orientation to “normalization” in both psychedelic research and practices. It will elaborate upon how the missing element in the current predominant narrative about the psychedelic—the modern gift of play, novelty and improvisation—points toward resistance, as well as how these central elements to modern humanity are both suppressed in the current selling of miracle cures.

Trained as a sociologist, psychotherapist and social worker, Ross Ellenhorn's diverse resume of projects are all driven by a keen focus on the intersection between our personal experiences



and more public and social issues, and an orientation toward this intersection as the fruitful site for individual transformation. He is a pioneer and leader in the development and promotion of community integration services, types of care that serve and empower individuals diagnosed with psychiatric and/or addiction issues while they remain in their own communities and outside institutional settings. Believing that one's sense of social worth and connection are prime medicine for psychiatric and addiction recovery, he developed the first fully operating intensive community integration programs in Massachusetts.

In 2002, he created Ellenhorn, the first private Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) in the United States. Ellenhorn is the most robust Community Integration program in the country, serving clients in Boston, New York and Los Angeles.

In 2022, Ross co-founded CARDEA, a psychedelics based practice that assists those who seek recovery from deep and entrenched psychological anguish, and from behaviors that are out of control, as well as those who want a more awakened life and expanded sense of existence. With offices in New York City, and retreats in Jamaica, Cardea offers a unique approach to psychedelic care, focused on Dr. Ellenhorn's idea of “sacred originality”—the idea that experiencing novel moments of selfhood leads to deeper, more compassionate social experiences.

## **Addressing Addictive Patterns with Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy: Looking Deeper** Eva Altobelli, M.D.

Addiction is not the core problem; it is an invitation to look deeper. The abstinence-only model keeps us bound to a model in which relapse and shame become barriers to getting help. Psychedelics, on the other hand, invite a broader scope of contemplation about the driving forces behind our behavior and allow us to see ourselves with a greater sense of compassion and curiosity. Indeed, contemplative use of psychedelics not only allows us to change the way we view addiction and recovery, it helps us come up with language that better suits the process.





Eva Altobelli, MD started her career working as a filmmaker in New York City while exploring mindfulness, yoga, neuroscience and expanded states of consciousness. Returning to school, Dr. Altobelli completed a psychiatric residency and fellowship in addiction. Eva is a Diplomat of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Her career evolved working in detox, rehab and private practice as well as consulting in psychedelics, addiction and recovery, teaching and mentoring. She is certified in Psychedelic Therapy and Research from California Institute of Integral Studies and by MAPS (Multidisciplinary Association of Psychedelic Studies) to treat PTSD with MDMA. She has extensive post graduate trainings ranging from reiki to psychoanalysis. During her career Dr. Altobelli has evolved a holistic practice integrating mind, body and spirit into the healing process. She specializes in creative ways to help clients find their way to recovery and wholeness.

### **Sober Living 2.0: The Recovery House in a New Light** **Todd Youngs**

The human experience often prefers evolution to revolution. After all, it is in our best interest to build upon the insights of the past rather than discard them. Indeed, there is deep wisdom to be found in the philosophy of traditional 12-step recovery homes and related fellowship that offers a valuable framework as we create new, psychedelically supportive iterations of such environments. We need not reinvent the wheel—but we can enthusiastically improve its ride, efficiency and durability.

Todd has been in full recovery from addiction since 2009. He works intensively with others to help them achieve a life of satisfying and meaningful sobriety. His approach draws from a diversity of modalities including 12 Steps, CBT, MI, and Mindfulness to deeply address the bio/psycho/social/spiritual aspects of addiction. Todd has worked extensively with Ayahuasca for over 12 years within a variety of settings.



### **Psychedelics and a Capitalist Medical-Care System: How Can This Work?**

**Yarelix Estrada, MSPH**

We're living in an ironic time in the United States. Psychedelics are being touted as a tool for treating a variety of mental-health conditions and, in some instances, heralded by advocates as the very medicine that will heal society, yet, at the same time, our nation hit a grim benchmark in the number of deaths due to drug overdose during the 12-month period ending in April 2021—an estimated 100,306! Not to mention the fact that while the majority of people who use drugs do not experience problematic drug use, those who are dependent on drugs often have underlying untreated mental-health conditions and basic un-met needs, including lack of access to food, housing and health-care services.

This presentation will use the U.S. drug-treatment system as an example of how a capitalist medical-care system perpetuates harm without addressing the foundational needs of the very communities it is poised to treat—the same medical-care system into which the psychedelic industry is looking to integrate. In the process, we will also question the actual intention of this psychedelic industry and ponder what healing can look like without fundamental human needs being met.

Yarelix Estrada, MSPH, is a first-generation Central American, harm reduction researcher, advocate, community outreach worker and drug checking technician. Yarelix works as a City Research Scientist with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene conducting drug checking through the founding and implementation of the first multi-site higher-technology drug checking research project in New York City with local syringe service programs and an overdose prevention center. Yarelix is passionate about supporting people throughout the full continuum of drug use, from use for pleasure and healing to overdose prevention. She is dedicated to improving the quality of care for people who use drugs and historically oppressed communities by working to understand the intersectionality between health policy and the societal factors that impact the lives of people who use drugs. She is the director of the New York City Psychedelic Society, is on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Recovery Alliance, the Board of Directors for the Source Research Foundation, on the Advisory Board of the psychedelic media group Psymposia and is an organizer with the Urban Survivors Union and the Alliance for Collaborative Drug Checking. She received her Master of Science in Public Health in Health Policy at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



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## PRACTICE GAP:

Like harm-reduction orientation, the use of psychedelics for recovery is an age-old underground approach that's been knocking for decades at the door of a paradigm that is now shifting. This conference will feature experienced practitioners, including many who will be coming from belowground to above; those who rely on traditional practices, as well as those who employ more modern ones (including twelve-step approaches); and psychiatrists experienced in the psychedelic space who will each discuss the ways in which these medicines might assist us.

In this, we aim to lend our humble hand to the next possible shift from the tired, repetitive, ruminative notion that addiction is explainable as a distinct disease of the brain and infuse our field with the kind of plasticity, curiosity and search for novelty that the current psychedelic renaissance promises.

## AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS EDUCATIONAL LEARNING ACTIVITY, PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

Gain insight into how psychedelics and recovery can be used in conjunction with one another.

Identify three experiences that can lead to addictive patterns.

Gain an understanding of the history of investment money and the behavioral-health system and how this marriage influences current narratives and the branding of psychedelics.

Gain an understanding of the philosophy behind 12-step programs

Gain insight into the way in which the branding of psychedelics contributes to the growing tendency to "medicalize" human behavior and results in the "problem saturation" of our everyday lives.

Understand how the current psychedelic movement's most suppressed elements—the playful, novelty-seeking forms that flowed through hippy and rave cultures as well as early psychedelic psychotherapies—are key to a true renaissance.

Gain an understanding of how 12-step recovery homes and related fellowship can offer valuable frameworks for new recovery environments.

Gain an understanding of three paradigms of psychedelic therapy.

Use the practice of harm reduction as a framework in understanding structural inequities in the United States.

Further their knowledge of three medications used with psychedelic therapy.

Gain an understanding of the difficulties faced by people who use drugs and also deal with intersecting oppressing identities such as homelessness, lack of documentation and poverty.

Gain insight into how the psychedelic space is integrating into the same inequitable system under capitalism.

Determine potential alternative directions for the psychedelic space.

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Please register in advance to help us plan an optimal experience for you. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express. Registration will be finalized upon receipt of payment.

## REGISTRATION FEES

### In-Person

\$150 (\$125 if registered before 3/10/23)

### Virtual

\$75 (\$50 if registered before 3/10/23)

## SPONSORSHIP BOOTHS

\$1,000 per organization includes three tickets to the conference (one booth representative and two additional attendees). Please email the names of your two attendees to Erin Benner (ebenner@ellenhorn.com) after registering for your booth.

## REFUNDS

Ellenhorn will issue a refund (not including credit card processing fees) with a minimum of two weeks advance written notice. In the unlikely event the activity must be canceled, prepaid registrants will be given a registration-fee refund.

## ASSISTANCE/SPECIAL NEEDS (ADA)

If you need additional assistance or have specific ADA needs, please contact Gabe Dunn (gdunn@ellenhorn.com) as soon as possible. Any ADA requests should be made at least 30 days in advance.

## CONFERENCE LOCATION & HOTEL

### CONFERENCE LOCATION

Skirball Cultural Center  
2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90049  
(310) 440-4500  
www.skirball.org

### HOTEL INFORMATION

We have a limited block of discounted rooms reserved at the Hollywood Roosevelt (7000 Hollywood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90028)  
(323) 856-1970

Rate: \$229 per night plus tax. The cut off date to book a room (while available) is May 23, 2023

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR ROOM](#)

## TARGET AUDIENCE:

This activity is designed for psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, licensed marriage-and-family therapists, addictions professionals and other mental-health professionals in the greater mental-health community. All levels of experience are welcome.

## PRESENTED BY:



## CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS:

Successful completion of this conference requires 100% attendance of activity. No partial credits will be awarded. Five (5.0) contact/credit/clock hours have been designated by Ellenhorn and CE Learning Systems for the following disciplines:

- Social Workers - Ellenhorn, LLC, #1792, is approved to offer social work continuing-education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing-Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE providers. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final say in determining whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing- education credit. Ellenhorn, LLC maintains responsibility for this course. ACE provider approval period: 12/09/2021-12/9/2022. Social workers completing this course receive 5.0 continuing-education credit(s).
- New York Social Workers - Ellenhorn, LLC, is approved by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work (NYSED) as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers. Social workers completing this course receive 5.0 continuing-education credit(s).
- Psychologists - CE Learning Systems, LLC is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. CE Learning Systems maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

\*\*\*All other disciplines not listed above will receive a certificate of attendance\*\*\*

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