Between Kansas and Oz: Drugs, Sex, and the Search for Gay Identity in the Fast Lane

Steven P. Kurtz, Nova Southeastern University

Document Type
Book Chapter

Department
Department of Justice and Human Services

Book Title
The Story of Sexual Identity: Narrative Perspectives on the Gay and Lesbian Life in the Fast Lane

Description
This book assembles a diverse group of scholars working within a new, pathbreaking paradigm of sexual science, fusing perspectives from history, sociology, and psychology. The contributors are united in their commitment to the idea of "narrative" as central to the study of sexual identity, offering an analytic approach to social science inquiry on sexual identity that restores the voices of sexual subjects. The result is a rich examination of lives in context, with an eye toward multiplicity and meaning across the life course. Central to the chapters in this volume is the significance of history, generation, and narrative in the provision of a workable and meaningful configuration of identity.

ISBN
978-0195326789

Publication Date
3-6-2009

Publisher
Oxford University Press

City
New York

First Page
151

Last Page
176

Disciplines
Social and Behavioral Sciences

Comments
Phillip L. Hammack (Author), Bertram J. Cohler (Author)

NSUWorks Citation
Kurtz, Steven P., "Between Kansas and Oz: Drugs, Sex, and the Search for Gay Identity in the Fast Lane" (2009), CAHSS Faculty Books and Book Chapters, 76.
https://nsuworks.nova.edu/shss_facbooks/76
In general, gay men report higher levels of drug and alcohol addiction than their straight counterparts. Over the last 15 years, crystal meth has grown into a particularly destructive force in the gay community. “The number of arrests involving crystal meth has doubled so far this year over 2013,” said Michael Kasten, a committee chairperson on Florida’s No More Meth Task Force. Meth is Combined with Other Drugs. The gay community is the largest consumer of “party” drugs. Though crystal meth is by far the most popular party drug, a lot of gay men and women combine their meth use with other drugs. A few of the substances commonly combined with meth include Special K, Poppers, Viagra, GHB and Ecstasy. Sexual orientation, on the other hand is the “inherent or immutable enduring emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to other people.” Basically, it’s who you are interested in dating and being intimate with. Someone can be transgender, but also be gay, straight, bisexual, asexual, or a whole host of other sexual identities that exist. The gender identity terms you need to know. “Sexuality is who you go to bed with, and gender identity is who you go to bed as. That’s the simplest way I can describe it,” explained YouTuber Brendan Jordan, who identifies as gender fluid. But it is often not tha