

ABSTRACT

This thesis explores a specific discourse on cocaine non-use/use in the theatre environment, specifically among students and graduates of an arts college in the 20-30 age group. Thus, the research focuses on the use of psychotropic substances in a relatively privileged context. Through a phenomenological research design, an understanding of the lived experience of the actors is achieved. The data was collected through thirteen in-depth interviews. Respondents included non-users, occasional users, people in outpatient treatment and former drug distributors. The study explores how actors perceive experiences with particular drugs and how they define the boundaries of acceptability within psychotropic substance use. The thesis also focuses on what users consider essential during the act of use itself. Special attention is then given to economic relations, drug distribution and perceptions of illegality. The work also touches on the experience of abstinence and outpatient treatment. In addition to describing use in a specific theatrical setting through the eyes of the actors themselves, it is revealed how substance use is normalized in this group and how the actors (dis)define themselves from the socially supported discourse.