

Øystein Skjælaaen

Getting high and why
Meningen med rus

Res Publica 2019
165 Pages
ISBN: 9788282260787

NON-FICTION
SOCIOLOGY



PHOTO: JOSEPH PESSAR

The meaning of altering consciousness

Some people visit a pub in the morning, others shoot heroin in a park. Some go on a wine trip to Tuscany, others take mdma and dance in the woods. Why is it that in our culture some forms of intoxication are accepted, while others are forbidden?

Through all times and all over the world, people have sought to get high. Today it is part of most people's lives. Getting high gives a break from work and routines and can give us freedom and community – it helps us. But everyone knows someone for whom alcohol and drugs no longer gives pleasure, only pain, shame and sadness. The use of substances has become a means of coping with everyday life.

Øystein Skjælaaen has researched and worked with intoxicants, but also shares his own experiences. Through meetings with people and their stories, *Getting high and why* challenges our perceptions of the importance of getting high in society and for individuals.

Øystein Skjælaaen (b. 1977) holds a PhD in sociology and wrote his thesis on beer for breakfast among alcoholics. Skjælaaen is also a musician, playing in several bands.

FOREIGN SALES

Brazilian Portuguese (Editora Rua do Sabao)

RIGHTSHOLDER

Immaterial Agents
Trude Kolaas
Via Giuseppe MerCALLI 36,
IT-20122 Milano
Italy
+39 32 4807 6828
trude@immaterial.no
www.immaterial.no



'An important book on a theme that (...) concerns us all. It is easily read and recommended for everyone.'

Forebygging.no

'(...) elegantly formulated and thought provoking about getting high'

Aftenbladet, 5 out of 6 stars

'Some books have the power to make changes. Skjælaaen has written what can become such a book'

Sykepleien.no