

**“Now that I think about it, I really hope that libertarianism speaks about a core belief in our right to a deep, unfettered and true subjectivity.”**

Drugs keep “running around my brain”. Sometimes, but not right now, it is the substances themselves, speed, caffeine, alcohol, marijuana, “running around my brain”. Usually though, during times of complete sobriety, it is ‘drugs’ as a subject. What a sprawling discourse! So often far more intoxicating and unknowable than the pharmacological realities it makes reference to.

Drawing the link between drugs and paranoia is a popular activity. But drugs themselves, the actual effect of the substances, rarely reach the heights of paranoia induced by the unstable, unregulated discourse that accompanies it. The power of its signification seems at least comparable, if not far greater, than the physical and psychological effects the substances induce.

Post-Structuralism helped us to understand that representation is never a process of reduction, but one of continual production. In picturing a subject we present an argument about its character, and add to the subject’s totality.

In this way a subject is never singular. The writing, discussion and dissemination of ideas around drug use and abuse is the perfect illustration of this fact. A pop survey reveals the subject to always be impossibly multiple. How right it seems now for Lacan to place emphasis on the speaking subject.

Growing up I experimented with plenty of drugs: Alcohol, Marijuana, Ecstasy, Speed, Mushrooms and since I left high school I have been able to take Cocaine, Ketamine and Methamphetamine. Like many people, curiosity and nihilism combined and I got fucked up in a lot of different places, with a lot of different people.

Like a cough or a sneeze, drugs seem to have acted as a symptom. The visible sign that stood in for something else... something nothing to do with the drugs but to do with psychology, emotions, motives, the base desires and fears of an individual. To write drug use and abuse as a singularity is to refuse the realities of individual

subjectivity. The drug use of my friends and acquaintances was always so many different things. It was escapism, fun, searching for difference, a way of activating new paths of cognition, something quite dark, something quite light, a very personal and individual, a very social and public, destructive, productive method of coping.

It seems that in popular discussion there is no sensitivity to this modulation within the many experiences of ‘drugs’. Why can’t we begin to work towards a truly inclusive discourse for this subject... try and build a landscape of changing experience. Perhaps then we can know and feel the for and against, passages within and without, pathways through and pathways around this difficult rhizome – ‘drugs’.