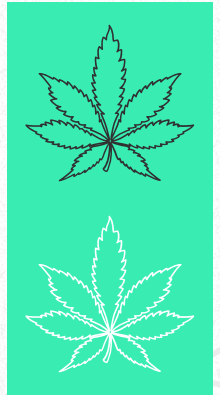


# Sacred Drugs

## Are We Talking About Drugs Wrong?



Sam Schulman

# Say the Word!

“I am intentional with using the word “drugs”, I want to be provocative, try to confuse a lot of the categories that we use in thinking about some things.”



Source: *The Chautauquan Daily*

—Gary Laderman—  
Professor of American Religious History and Cultures  
in the Department of Religion at Emory University



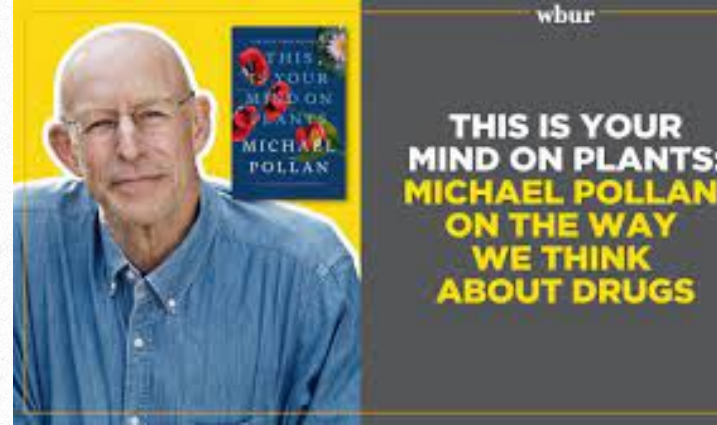
## Drugs Through the Lens of Religion

- They are often the “source of spiritual life in America” (Laderman).
- They are the “past, present, and future of religion and sacred life” (Laderman).
- Drugs influence religion and taking drugs can elicit religious experiences.

# Michael Pollan

American Author, Journalist, and Professor of Science and Environmental Journalism at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism.

- Pollan looks at more mundane substances such as alcohol, tobacco, sugar, chocolate, nicotine, and pharmaceuticals.
- His books “How to Change Your Mind” and “This is Your Mind on Plants” delve deeper into such topics
- Pollan’s work highlights the ubiquity of drugs and how discussions are not explicitly confined to Laderman’s field of Religious Studies, but in Pollan’s field and all throughout the culture as well (E.g. Health, Psychology, Anthropology, etc).



Source: [www.wbur.org/](http://www.wbur.org/)



# Problem and Solution



The **Problem** is drugs and drug users are stigmatized, causing a reluctance to talk honestly and openly about them and their role within our society.

The **Solution** is validating the field by talking about it in appropriate avenues.

- Gary Laderman legitimizes the field using a lens of religion to illustrate how drugs influence religion and how taking drugs can elicit a religious experience. He also encourages the importance of using the term “drugs” itself.
- Michael Pollan and many others have advocated for the potential in psychedelic assisted therapy (ketamine, psilocybin, MDMA) and the various other health benefits possible when taking drugs correctly and responsibly

# Conclusion

Drugs are integral to our daily lives and deserve to be understood in an open and fair manner. Educators such as Laderman and Pollan are actively working to legitimize drugs in academia and in public discourse as well, reshaping the narrative around a seemingly taboo topic.



Source: [news.emory.edu](https://news.emory.edu)

# Works Cited

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<https://www.wbur.org/events/702802/this-is-your-mind-on-plants-author-michael-pollan-on-the-way-we-think-about-drugs>.

*Drugs and Substance Abuse Clinical Case Theme Template by Slidesgo*

## Photos (In order of appearance)

- [Gary Laderman](#)
- [Michael Pollan](#)
- [Sacred Drugs](#)