

# 2019-2020 Annual Report



BECKLEY  
FOUNDATION





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# 2019-2020 Annual Report

The Trustees of The Beckley Foundation are pleased to present their Annual Report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2020. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland effective 1 January 2015.

## Structure, Governance and Management

The Foundation is an unincorporated Charity established by Amanda Feilding under a Deed of Trust dated 20 September 2002.

It is registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (Charity Number: SC033546).

The Foundation is managed and administered by the Trustees. At all times there shall be no less than three Trustees. Training is provided to new Trustees as required.

The following Trustees have held office since 1 April 2018:

Amanda Feilding or Charteris, Countess of Wemyss & March

The Right Honourable James Donald Charteris, 12th Earl of Wemyss and 9th Earl of March The Hon Anthony Ramsay

Dr Jose Lopez Portillo

## Objectives and Activities

The objects of the Trust are exclusively charitable and are:

1. To advance the education of the public (by the support of studies, research, including scientific research, and educational activities or otherwise) in the knowledge of human consciousness (meaning the totality of the impressions, thoughts and feelings that make up a person's conscious being) generally and in particular but not exclusively the nature of human consciousness, in relation to human health, influences on human consciousness, changes in human consciousness, how such things can be and are brought about, the detection, monitoring and observation of human consciousness, changes thereto, and influences thereon, and the science (including the pharmacological, psychological, biochemical science) of human consciousness and all or any of the foregoing and other facets of human consciousness.
2. To promote the protection and preservation of public health through the advancement of the education of the public organisations in the knowledge and understanding (by the support of studies, research, including scientific research, and educational activities or otherwise) of drug policies and drug related issues.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Foundation's activities include organisation and directing research programmes and seminars in order to inform researchers, professionals, policy-makers and the public. There are three main sections of its work, namely; Science programmes, Policy programmes and Seminar programmes.



## Achievements and Performance

2019 was a pivotal year for both the science and policy around psychedelics and cannabis, as well as for the Beckley Foundation. Many new projects and scientific collaborations took root, and a rich calendar of conferences and seminal meetings also took place throughout the year. Amanda designed a network of new studies, particularly around microdosing LSD, and significant progress was made in developing the concept of Beckley Clinics in order to provide psychedelic-assisted therapy for those in need - the next essential step in providing access.

The next phase of the Beckley Foundation's work will combine exploratory studies into the underlying mechanisms of a wider range of psychoactive compounds, as well as clinical trials investigating their therapeutic efficacy. We are also making steady progress towards the important aim of getting these breakthrough compounds into a regulated market.

Following over a decade of great success at the Beckley/Imperial Psychedelic Research Programme here in the UK, 2019 saw the happy expansion of international collaborations with wonderful scientists from around the world, such as in Brazil, the Netherlands, US, Jamaica and elsewhere.

When Amanda set up the Beckley Foundation over twenty years ago, her aim was to both reform global drug policy and liberate scientific research. These two strands are intrinsically interlinked in a positive feedback circuit, which will create a paradigm shift in the treatment of mental and physical health.

Over the years, Amanda has convened a number of reports, including the 2006 report *Cannabis Policy: Moving Beyond Stalemate* and more recently a series entitled *Roadmaps to Regulation*. In December 2019 we launched a report on MDMA indicating the benefits of decriminalisation, rescheduling and working towards a fully regulated, legal market. Two further reports will be launched, one on Cannabis and the other on Coca/Cocaine.

The end of this accounting period, however, saw the beginning of what will be a challenging 2020 not just for the Beckley Foundation, but for the entire globe, as the coronavirus spread quickly to become an epidemic, and then a global pandemic. The Foundation will work hard to adapt quickly to the lockdown measures, and other restrictions to be imposed.

Amanda had already been developing new and exciting research projects using new remote technologies, which we will be ever more useful tools as we adapt to this new reality. We will also continue work hard to support efforts to tackle another epidemic, the mental health epidemic, that has been exacerbated by the pandemic, by refocusing some of our research programmes towards depression and anxiety, and study ways to improve underlying health conditions which are risk factors of Covid, such as diabetes.

Amanda will also continue developing projects to provide legal access to psychedelic-assisted therapy for those in need, such as a clinic in Barcelona, which will collaborate with the Beckley Foundation to fund and conduct clinical research. Amanda always envisaged a further component coming into play when the time was right, namely ensuring that psychedelics are made available to those in need, in an efficient and safe manner. Amanda has always seen this as the third pillar that will help ensure that psychedelics will gain a strong foothold in the medical world, compiling a blueprint for what the next wave of access to psychedelics can look like.

## Beckley Foundation Science Programme

Through her leadership of the Beckley Foundation's Science Programme, Amanda Feilding has initiated much ground-breaking research and has co-authored over 50 scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals.

Amanda is closely involved in the design, development and oversight of each scientific research project, and the close ties that she has developed over the years with leading academics in the field and universities across the globe have contributed to the re-awakening of a long-ignored field of research.

In this accounting period, Amanda has been busy broadening her network of scientific collaborations with leading institutions in the Netherlands, Brazil and the USA. The studies and clinical trials focus on cannabis, the psychedelics (including psilocybin, LSD, ayahuasca, DMT and 5-MeO-DMT), and MDMA. Our research and clinical trials aim to increase our understanding of consciousness, and to use this knowledge to treat mental and physical illness, expand awareness, and enhance well-being and creativity.



A number of exciting studies are planned, ongoing or entering their final phases, prior to paper submission for hopeful publication in academic journals. While psychiatry is largely ill-equipped to remedy this situation, psychedelic-assisted therapies are showing great promise to be the next breakthrough in the treatment of mental health issues. They have already been shown to be safe and highly effective in numerous clinical studies, with both immediate and long-lasting effects.

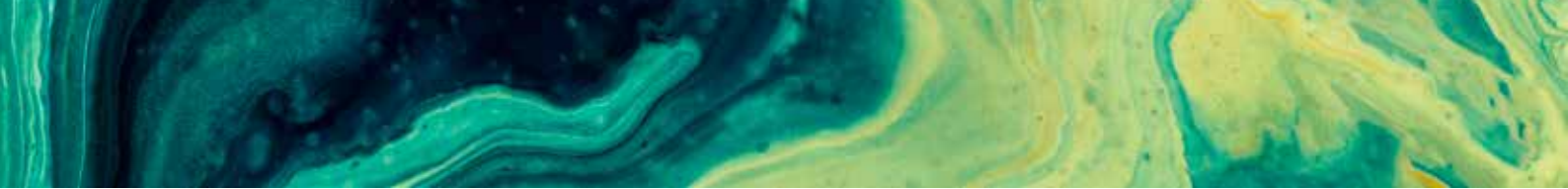
### BECKLEY/BRAZIL RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Through our Beckley/Brazil Research Programme, in collaboration with the D'Or Institute for Research and Education (IDOR), we have started to explore a variety of applications, including neuro-protection, cognitive boosting and restoration, and longevity, and we are planning to explore many more avenues to improve both living and dying.

We are undertaking a series of ground-breaking experiments designed to characterise the effects of LSD at the molecular and cellular levels, with a particular focus on its action on key mechanisms such as neuroplasticity, inflammation and neurogenesis.

Our collaborators at the D'Or Institute have already undertaken the first research showing that psychedelics interfere with molecular signalling related to learning and memory in human brain tissue, using laboratory-made cerebral organoids, also known as 'mini-brains'. This new approach has been considered a real breakthrough in neuroscientific studies, and our current study holds great promise for considerably improving our understanding of LSD's mechanisms of action at the cellular and molecular levels.

In parallel to this work, our collaborator Sidarta Ribeiro, from the University Federal of Rio do Norte (UFRN), is carrying out a series of experiments to investigate the potential of LSD to protect against cognitive decline.



One of our most striking results came from a translational study using mini-brains, animals and humans. Young animals normally show a preference for new toys, whereas when they become older, they show less interest in novelty, sticking with their old favourites. But when given LSD, they show a renewed interest in the exploration of new toys. The older rats are more firmly stuck to their old, well-trodden tracks; however, if given LSD for three days and, importantly, subsequently exposed to an enriched environment, they too begin to play more with the new toys, like the young rats do, demonstrating the positive effect LSD can have, combined with cognitive stimulation, on exploratory behaviour. We are now about to translate this research to humans.

Results from this translational research programme are already available on the preprint server Biorxiv: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/866814v1.full>.

Meanwhile, we are extending the programme to further our understanding of the mechanisms of action of LSD, so that its therapeutic benefits may be better harvested.

### BECKLEY/MAASTRICHT RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The Beckley/Maastricht Research Programme was initiated in 2018 to explore the effects of LSD microdosing on mood, cognition and, for the first time since the 1970s, pain management. The first study, a lab-based dose-finding study, aimed, among other things, to identify the optimal dose of LSD to maximize benefits on mood and cognition. Participants received placebo and three different microdoses (5, 10 and 20 mcg). After each dose, acute effects on cognitive performance and well-being were assessed. We also measured how well participants were able to cope with pain. Additionally, blood samples were collected to assess markers of neuronal function (e.g., plasticity) and investigate the link between plasma levels and subjective effects. Vital signs were also closely monitored to establish the safety profile of the drug.



Amanda presented the preliminary results from this study at Breaking Convention. The full results from this study are expected soon.

Following on from this study, a repeated-dose study that Amanda had designed over the past few years, was approved by the Ethics Committee, and has started to recruit participants. This placebo-controlled study will examine the effects of LSD microdosing over a 4-week period, during which 8 microdoses will be administered. Cognitive tests and questionnaires will characterize how psychedelic microdoses enhance mood, cognitive function, and wellbeing. We will also investigate how regular LSD microdosing affects brain function by using EEG, with a particular focus on neuroplasticity.

We have also completed a separate study looking into the effect of psilocybin on cognitive flexibility and creativity. At low doses, psilocybin has been shown to eliminate conditioned fear responses in rodents. This project aimed to examine whether psilocybin can facilitate an individual's ability to devalue previously learned associations by enhancing creative thinking. The mechanisms underlying this phenomenon was studied using behavioural and biological measures. This research will expand our currently limited understanding of how psychedelics can increase creative capacity, and in doing so, will reveal potential therapeutic targets for altering the maladaptive learning mechanisms characteristic of mental illness.

A publication with the findings has been submitted and is under review.



## BECKLEY/IMPERIAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The Beckley/Imperial Research Programme has continued its fruitful collaboration with a suite of studies exploring a range of compounds.

We have continued our research into the little-researched dimethyltryptamine (DMT), investigating the neural mechanisms underlying the DMT experience. Very little is known about how DMT, a classical psychedelic with unique phenomenology, modulates human brain activity. In this study, we used simultaneous EEG and functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) to examine how changes in brain activity on DMT relate to changes in subjective conscious experience.

A new 'microphenomenology' approach was used to deconstruct the DMT experience and its neural underpinnings into several subtypes (e.g. visual hallucinations, emotional response, physical sensations, etc.) in order to highlight the potential therapeutic properties of this powerful psychedelic compound, and how its effects differ from those of other psychedelics.

Our latest psilocybin study looked at the acute and long-term psychological and physiological effects of psilocybin in healthy volunteers. We know from previous work that psilocybin, as well as other psychedelics, can induce long-lasting changes in behaviour and personality traits. However, the neural underpinnings of such changes have never been investigated.

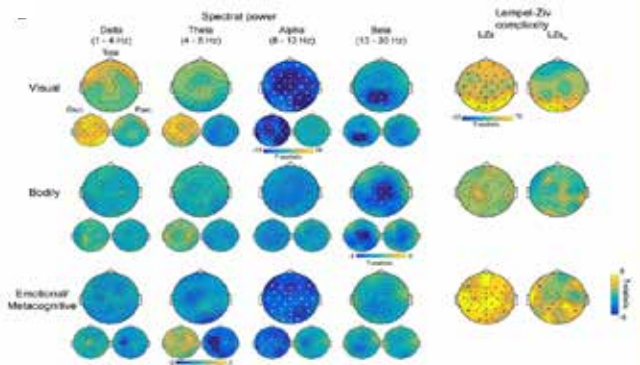
Here we looked at the acute and longer-term effects of psilocybin on brain function, anatomy and psychology using a single-blind, fixed-order, within-subjects design in 20-25 healthy volunteers.

Our PI, Taylor Lyons, has completed the data collection for this study and is now analysing the large and complicated set of neuroimaging data. This data will relate long-lasting changes, detected using functional and structural MRI (e.g. Diffusion tensor imaging - DTI - which allows the investigation of changes in white matter structure), to the subjective effects, as well as the acute effects of psilocybin on brain function.

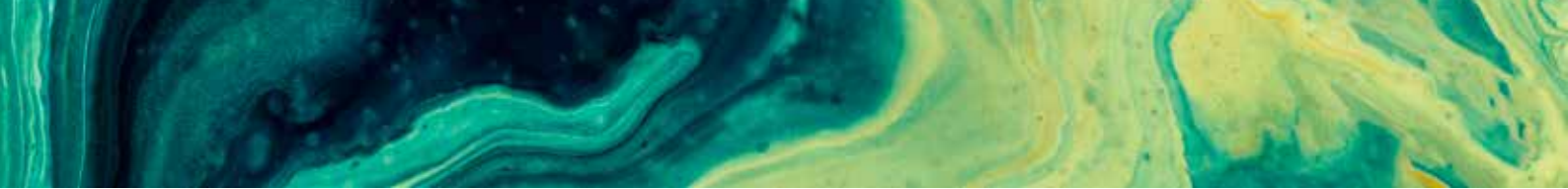
We are also conducting two cutting-edge studies, one looking at the effect of psychedelics on cerebral blood-flow, and the other constituting the world's first placebo-controlled, self-blinded study of microdosing.

The first study was based on a hypothesis developed by Amanda and Bart Hughes decades ago, which posited the key role of cerebral blood flow regulation underlying the control of consciousness, but until relatively recently, no tool was available to distinguish between effects at the neuronal level from those at the vascular level.

Although we are starting to gain a better understanding of the way psychedelics affect consciousness by acting on specific neuroreceptor subtypes, and thereby modulating the way neuronal networks communicate with each other, the intriguing possibility that part of their psychoactive effect is exerted via changes in cerebral blood flow has, until now, remained largely unexplored.



Grand-average spectral power for DMT and placebo corresponding to spectral, oscillatory and fractal components of the signal



This research is using cutting-edge tools, such as optogenetics, to simultaneously measure neuronal and blood-flow related signals, in order to shed light on the respective contribution of these processes to the mind altering effects of psychedelics.

Finally, the naturalistic self-blinded microdosing study, is a survey-based study that uses a novel self-blinding procedure, allowing participants to set up their own placebo-control and contribute to psychedelic research from the comfort of their homes. This study uses questionnaires to evaluate the effects of microdosing on wellbeing and cognitive functioning.

The results are being analysed and will be available shortly.

#### BECKLEY/CHICAGO COLLABORATION

Amanda started a collaboration with Prof Harriet de Wit at the University of Chicago, who has already conducted some of the earliest laboratory-based studies on LSD microdosing, in order to explore more specifically the therapeutic potential of LSD microdosing for the treatment of depression.

This high-standard pre-clinical and exploratory work is extremely valuable as it is laying the foundations on which the clinical development of LSD microdosing for the treatment of a number of indications will take place.

#### BECKLEY/ICEERS RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The Temple of the Way of Light (TOTWOL), based just outside Iquitos, Peru, is the largest ayahuasca retreat centre, receiving over 500 people per year from all over the world.

For the past four years, the Beckley Foundation has been collaborating with ICEERS on a longitudinal study conducted there, looking into the long-term effects of ayahuasca on personal development, spirituality and health.



Image courtesy of the Temple of the Way of Light/  
ICEERS

The main objective of this project was to conduct the evaluation and monitoring of the personal development, spiritual growth and mental health of all participants in the TOTWOL throughout the course of a year before and after having taken ayahuasca.

The initial set of results from this project, demonstrating the benefits of ayahuasca on grief, have recently been published, and more results will follow in 2020.

#### UPCOMING RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS

Alongside an impressive list of collaborators, Amanda Feilding has developed a full suite of new protocols for the year ahead. These will uncover first of their kind insights into mood and depression, cognitive function, neuroplasticity and creativity as well as a first ever investigation into a range of under-explored compounds.





## Scientific Publications

Our **Scientific Programme** has published over 75 peer-reviewed papers since 2006. The period between 2019-2020 has been particularly prolific and our collaborations have led to the publication of the following ground-breaking scientific papers, published in *Nature*, the *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, *Frontiers in Psychology*, and *NeuroImage*, among others:

### Scientific Papers published during the period March 2019 to April 2020:

**The Serotonin 2A receptor agonist 25CN-NBOH increases murine heart rate and neck-arterial blood flow in a temperature-dependent manner (2020)**, Buchborn T, Lyons T, Song C, Feilding A, Knoepfel T - *Journal of Psychopharmacology*

**Therapeutic potential of ayahwasca in grief: a prospective, observational study (2020)**, Débora González, Jordi Cantillo, Irene Pérez, Magí Farré, Amanda Feilding, Jordi Obiols & José Carlos Bouso, *Psychopharmacology*

**Acute effects of MDMA on trust, cooperative behaviour and empathy: A double-blind, placebo-controlled experiment (2020)**, Borissova, A., Ferguson, B., Wall, M. B., Morgan, C. J., Carhart-Harris, R. L., Bolstridge, M., ... Lawn, W. *Journal of Psychopharmacology*.

**Neural correlates of the DMT experience assessed with multivariate EEG (2019)**, Christopher Timmermann, Leor Roseman, [...], David J. Nutt & Robin L. Carhart-Harris, *Scientific Reports* volume 9, Article number: 16324

**Dissociable effects of cannabis with and without cannabidiol on the human brain's resting-state functional connectivity (2019)**, Wall MB, ..., Feilding A, Nutt D, Curran HV, *Journal of Psychopharmacology*

**Dynamical exploration of the repertoire of brain networks at rest is modulated by psilocybin (2019)**, Lord LD, Expert P, Atasoy S, Roseman L, Rapuano K, Lambiotte R, Nutt DJ, Deco G, Carhart-Harris RL, Kringelbach ML, Cabral J, *NeuroImage*

**DMT models near-death experience in healthy volunteers (2019)**, Christopher Timmermann, Leor Roseman, [...], and Robin Carhart-Harris, *Frontiers in Psychology*

### UNDER REVIEW

**d-LSD enhances novelty preference by increasing synaptic connectivity: an integrative view on how psychedelics may enhance cognition (under review)**, Encarni Marcos,... , Amanda Feilding, Stevens Rehen, Sidarta Ribeiro

**A low dose of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) decreases pain perception in healthy volunteers**, J. Ramaekers, N. Hutten,..., A. Feilding, K. Kuypers

**A low dose of LSD has minimal to no effects on verbal creative processes and empathy but increases self-related content in written stories**, K.Kuypers, N. Hutten,..., A. Feilding, J. Ramaekers

**Me, Myself, Bye: Regional alterations in glutamate and the experience of ego dissolution with psilocybin**, Mason, N.L, Kuypers, K.P.C,..., Feilding A, Ramaekers J.G.

## Beckley Foundation Drug Policy Programme

There is a new climate of change across the global stage, with cannabis medicalisation and legalisation gaining increasing momentum as well as localised psilocybin and psychedelic decriminalisation movements becoming more apparent. Increasingly, governments and international regulatory organisations are questioning the current punitive approach to drug control, and a new public health approach is being considered.

The period under review saw a noticeable increase in momentum for drug policy reform. To help accelerate this, the Beckley Foundation provided an in-depth commentary on the World Health Organisation's Expert Committee on Drug Dependence's announcement that 'cannabis and cannabis-related substances' should be removed from Schedule IV. This was a positive step forward for drug policy.



Further written evidence was provided to the UK Parliament's Health and Social Care Committee, following a drugs policy and medical cannabis inquiry. We also submitted evidence to the Royal College of Psychiatrists' review of medical cannabis and cannabis for recreational use.

In 2019, both Denver and Oakland decriminalised psilocybin, with the latter extending the legislation to all naturally-occurring psychedelics.

In November, Amanda and the Beckley Foundation were invited to partner with Decriminalize California in a campaign to decriminalise psilocybin across the state of California and introduce legislation which allows research and medical access to psilocybin.

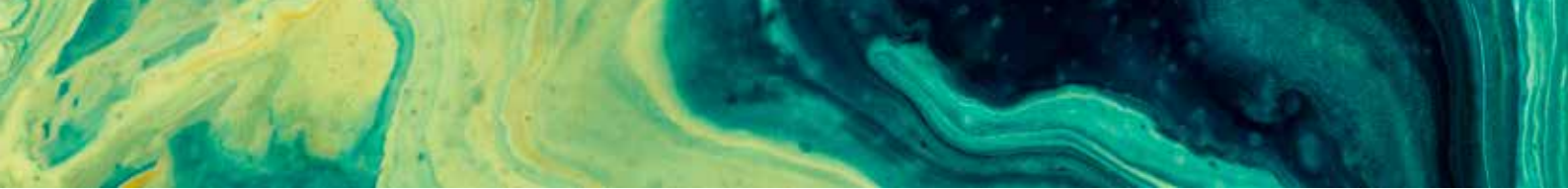
Pertinent articles written by Amanda Feilding during the year included *A Response to the Government Review of the Blindly Misinformed Psychoactive Substances Act*, and *Change Is On The Way* discussing Amanda's work on drug policy reform, and the major limitations of the current approach adopted by the vast majority of the world's governments.

The launch of our long-awaited drug policy report, *Roadmaps to Regulation: MDMA*, the second in the series *Roadmaps to Regulation*, took place on 5th December 2019. In order to maximise the outreach of the launch a press release was sent to a large database of journalists, which brought about extensive coverage and media attention.

Also, as part of our dissemination strategy, hard copies of the report were designed, professionally laid out and printed on premium quality materials. We curated a carefully selected recipient list from high profile individuals in the government, members of the UK Advisory Council of the Misuse of Drugs, members of the Global Drug Policy Commission, members of the All Party Parliamentary group on Drug Policy, scientists, public figures, and other key drug policy professionals in the UK, Europe and the US. We also enlisted the help of the main drug policy NGOs across the globe, with whom we have collaborated and forged a close relationship during the years, which enormously contributed to the outreach of the report.

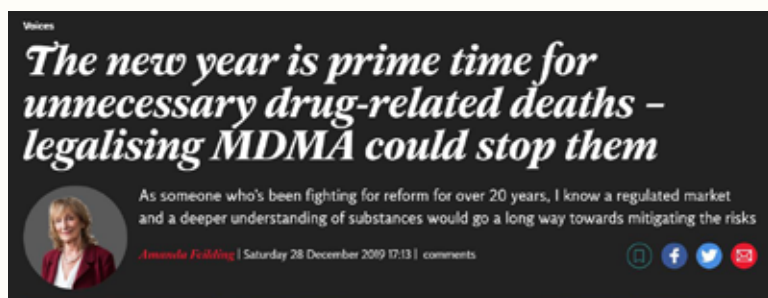






A dedicated page for **Roadmaps to Regulation: MDMA** was created on our website and an impactful video reached approximately 20,000 views throughout our social media platforms. We engaged the services of PHA Group - one of the UK's leading independent PR agencies. They specialise in delivering integrated campaigns, working across all media platforms and outlets. Starting in November 2019, they put together a dedicated team to efficiently enhance the profile of the Beckley Foundation and the central role that Amanda Feilding has played not only in drug policy but also in the renaissance of

psychedelic research. Several articles were published in platforms such as Health Europa, Open Access Government and ABC Australia. Amanda herself penned a poignant opinion piece entitled 'The New Year is Prime Time for Unnecessary Drug-Related Deaths - Legalising MDMA Could Stop Them', published on New Year's Eve in the Independent.



*Under the current policy, people can only purchase MDMA from an illegal market which is not subject to any production standards. This exposes people to the risk of taking substances of far greater strength and purity than the body can handle. Many of those who do suffer an MDMA- related emergency are also less likely to seek medical help for fear of being prosecuted.*

**Amanda Feilding - The Independent**

Two other reports in the series *Roadmaps to Reform* will be published early in 2021: *Cannabis*, and *Psychedelics*, which have had to be updated due to the considerable amount of new research and developments for both cannabis and the psychedelics all around the world. Dr Gary Potter is currently working on the *Cannabis* report and Dr Steve Gay in *Roadmaps to Reports: Psychedelics*.



The *Coca-Cocaine and Derivatives* report is also entering its final stages, with the final chapter edits having been reviewed by the authors, and the whole book currently being proofread and copyedited by a professional editor. Amanda Feilding engaged David Restrepo from the University of Los Andes, Colombia, who has now finished an excellent final chapter in the form of a Regulatory Model Proposal. We were hoping for a launch in the Autumn, but unfortunately due to delays caused by Covid-19 we are aiming for a launch in early 2021. The aim of the report, commissioned by Amanda Feilding under the Global Initiative for Drug Policy Reform, is to open up and advance the discourse on alternatives to prohibition of coca/cocaine, in the same way the BF Global Cannabis Commission's 2008 report *Cannabis Policy: Moving Beyond Stalemate* did for cannabis.

Also due to the extraordinary circumstances we have had to face during the pandemic, we have had to postpone a few other activities that we had planned for 2020. Among those, the Psilocybin Public Letter, and our campaign with Decriminalize California, which is also temporarily suspended. However, we are pleased to say that the above-mentioned reports, once published, will be incredibly influential and a much needed source of accurate information.

## Conferences and Events

The Beckley Foundation was a Gold Sponsor at Breaking Convention 2019, the biggest psychedelic conference in Europe, at which Amanda presented her talk 'Microdosing: Big Steps in Small Doses' to a crowded auditorium in what turned out to be one of the most popular talks of the three-day conference.



In the summer, Amanda was invited to participate in a panel on Psychedelic Medicines and Drug Policy Reform at Port Eliot Festival in Cornwall. Amanda's co-panellists were Rory Spowers, Dr David Luke, and David Restrepo.

In November, Amanda took part in an open discussion with Dr David Luke at Beyond the Brain 2019, where they discussed the relationship between the latest Psychedelic Research and the Mystical Experience.

## Media Engagement and Outreach

Our digital presence has grown significantly in the last year, and online donations have responded with steady growth. Each month, our website receives over 150,000 visits, and we are excited to capitalize on this growth in our upcoming projects.

The Beckley Foundation social media pages are now followed by over 85,000 people including politicians, international journalists, healthcare professionals, academic researchers and leading research institutions. In 2019, posts from our social media pages attracted over 15 million views, doubling the reach and engagement from the previous year.

Social media posts from the Beckley Foundation are regularly seen between 10,000 and 30,000 times per day, or by around half a million people per month - an audience that includes scientists, politicians, journalists, writers, and research organisations in the UK and abroad. In one month, Beckley Foundation social media content attracted over 3.4 million views.

The vast majority of this reach is entirely organic, that is, we don't rely on paid advertisements to increase engagement.

This growing digital presence is allowing us to raise ever-more awareness for psychedelic research and drug policy reform on a grand scale and disseminate important messages rapidly.

In addition to social media, our work regularly features in digital and print publications, helping to drive traffic to our websites and social media pages.

It has been a fantastic press year for Amanda Feilding and the Beckley Foundation, with our research and policy work regularly covered by the press, including: CNN, BBC, Sky News, WIRED, VICE, The Guardian, New Statesman, The Independent, The Times, ABC News, Talk Radio, France Culture, Pharmaceutical Technology, and many more across the globe.



The Guardian's lead feature writer, Tim Adams, penned a poignant piece describing Amanda Feilding's "indefatigable campaign to relax the prohibition on research into psychedelic compounds... What long seemed a hopeless quest, a one-woman battle against the massed artillery of the "war on drugs", has recently begun to turn in her favour."

The Independent published a profile piece about Amanda and on the clinical potential of psychedelic research to bring attention to the need to reschedule psychedelics.

Sky News covered the Beckley Foundation's collaboration with Maastricht University in a segment on psychedelic microdosing, featuring an interview with Amanda in which she voiced concerns of the growing mental health epidemic, and the need to research effective treatments.

ABC News featured a lengthy piece on the Beckley Foundation accounting for the major milestones so far, and the ongoing and future research projects in need of funding.

Here is a selection of recent articles published in this period:

*How a British Countess became the Godmother of psychedelics* - Folha de Sao Paulo - November 13th 2019

*The Psychedelic Renaissance and the importance of drug policy reform* - Open Access Government - December 12th 2019

*Why MDMA must be classified as a Schedule 2 drug* - Health Europa - December 16th 2019

*The New Year is Prime time for unnecessary drug related deaths* - legalizing MDMA could stop them - The Independent - December 28th 2019

*Should you Ditch Modern medicine for a microdose of magic mushrooms?* - Vogue Australia - January 2nd 2020



*"Research has given the stepping stones to a hostile society, to enable them to think, 'maybe we should look at these compounds again,' and so the environment has changed."* Amanda Feilding - **Filter Magazine**

The December (2019) launch of our policy report, Roadmaps to Regulation: MDMA, reached over 300,000 people on Facebook and Twitter through our own posts and tweets, with many more being reached by shares and retweets from our collaborators within the drug policy space. This led to our MDMA pages being visited over 15,000 times, with over 860 people downloading the full MDMA report. We also released an MDMA policy video which garnered over 80,000 views and was shared by high profile accounts in the psychedelic research and drug policy space.



## Risk Management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises a regular review of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces, the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified, and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is a regular review of available liquid funds to settle debts as they fall due to ensure sufficient working capital is maintained.

## Going Concern

The trustees have no material uncertainties as to the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern.

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

### Science

Alongside an impressive list of collaborators, Amanda Feilding has developed a full suite of new protocols for the year ahead. These will uncover first of their kind insights into mood and depression, cognitive function, neuroplasticity and creativity as well as a first ever investigation into a range of under-explored compounds.

Our future studies will include:

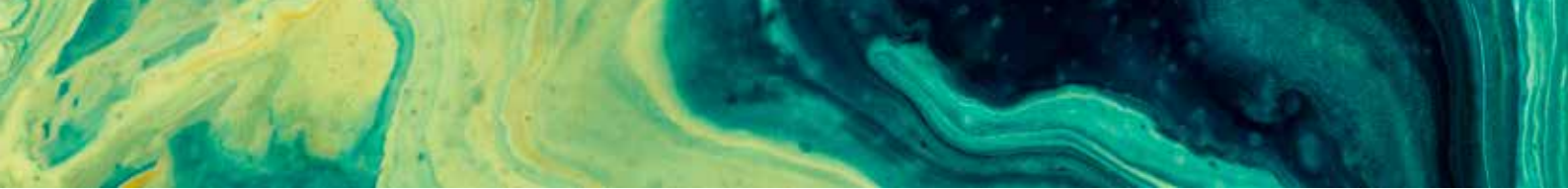
- A range of clinical studies to evaluate the therapeutic potential of LSD microdosing as it relates to pain, mood and cognition.
- An exciting programme of research into a significantly under-researched compound that we expect to be as ground-breaking in terms of its findings as the Beckley/Imperial psilocybin for depression study.
- A series of exploratory research studies comparing various compounds in order to further our understanding of their mechanisms of action, as well as their similarities and unique signatures.

We will continue to broaden our range of studies and develop new research projects as the year progresses. We look forward to sharing further developments and updates on these and other exciting activities as they arise.

### Policy

*Roadmaps to Reform – Coca Cocaine and Derivatives*. This long-awaited report is planning to be completed this financial year and published in 2021. Bold new reforms for coca and its derivatives are to be proposed in Colombia, laying out a bold new potential way forward towards regulation. This Report is therefore timely, and is being reviewed by one of the most cutting-edge researchers and policy experts in this field. We are in conversation with potential publishers who have expressed interest in publishing this edition of Roadmaps to Reform, as well as republishing the whole series of Roadmaps to Regulation.





*Psilocybin Open Letter.* Amanda Feilding has planned a campaign for the rescheduling of psilocybin from Schedule 1 to Schedule 2. This aims to gather signatures from prominent politicians, academics and influencers and already has the backing of Drug Science (formerly the Independent Scientific Committee on Drugs) as well as a number of MPs and senior scientists from major universities. The letter will be addressed to the Prime Minister and published in major newspapers. It will be accompanied by a petition campaign with the aim of gathering the 100,000 signatures required to secure a debate in the House of Commons.

*Oregon Measure 109.* Amanda Feilding was approached to support this potentially breakthrough initiative which aims to legalise psilocybin, and create a programme for its safe administration. We hope this will be an important milestone towards more common sense regulation of natural plants and fungi.

## Outreach

The end of this financial year saw the coronavirus epidemic turn into a global pandemic, triggering severe global restrictions on movement. Amanda and the Beckley Foundation will adapt to this new reality by strengthening our outreach all over the world through remote/digital appearances at scientific conventions and policy conferences, as well as on a relevant podcasts and television programmes.



The Beckley Foundation will look to work with a new PR consultancy firm in order to help the Foundation adapt to this new reality, and to continue to raise awareness of Amanda Feilding's vital contributions as one of the leading figures behind the Psychedelic Renaissance, and one of the foremost global thought leaders in psychedelic research and drug policy.

We will strive to increase visibility of our ground-breaking science and policy work and enhance our presence in a broad range of mainstream media publications. Our social media presence continues to grow across a number of platforms, confirming the Beckley Foundation's position as a trusted resource for the latest developments in drug policy reform and psychedelic science. We will cultivate this online audience by sharing up-to-date news, alongside original analysis, graphics and audiovisual content, created by our dedicated communications team.

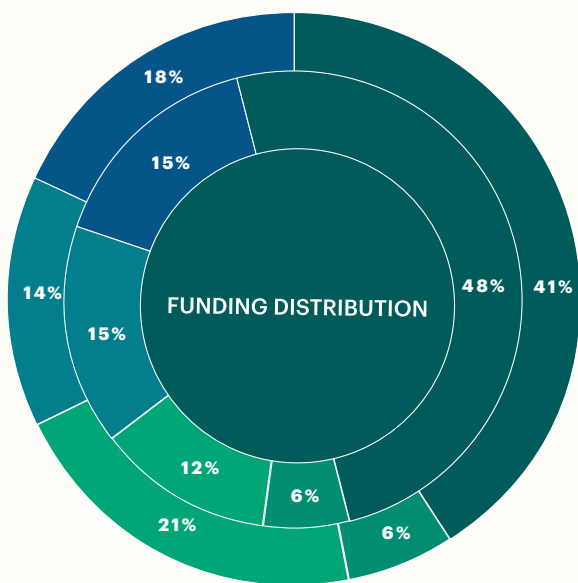
## Other Media Opportunities

We regularly publish new research in respected scientific journals, providing opportunities for further media coverage. In 2020, we hope to publish the latest findings from our Microdosing Research Programme at Maastricht University in a number of separate publications, as well as research from the Beckley/Imperial Research Programme, including the largest placebo-controlled psychedelic study in the world to date. In addition, our work in South America with ICEERS and the D'Or Institute in Brazil continues to bear fruit, though COVID-19 will disrupt some ongoing research projects.

# Fundraising Strategy

In the coming year, the Foundation will develop a targeted fundraising strategy in order to tailor specific funding opportunities to potential philanthropists and existing donors. We will also aim to gain access to institutional grants in order to fund core research operations as well as public awareness campaigns.

We will, furthermore, explore innovative partnerships with for-profit entities in order to take advantage of the wave of for-profit investment into the psychedelic sector. We hope to be able to direct some of the more ethical investors towards supporting the Beckley Foundation's Research Programme, by setting up a for-profit sister company to the Beckley Foundation, which will be able to raise for-profit investment in order to complement our philanthropic donations. An 'executive associate' will be hired to support the director in executing this strategy going forward.

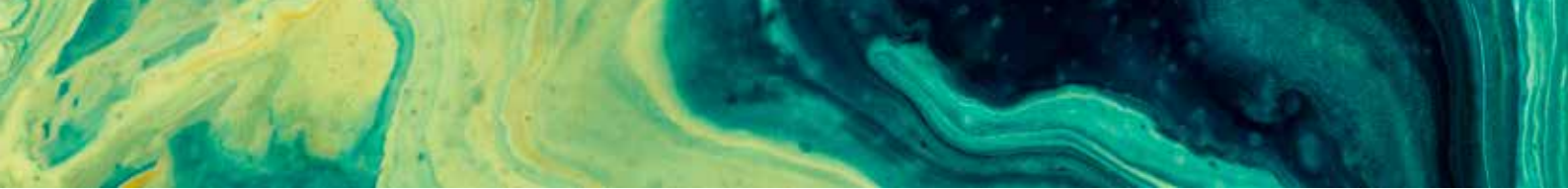


Scientific Research
Policy Costs
Education and Comms
Running Costs
Fundraising

We will continue to make use of our online presence in order to increase small individual donations through Facebook's Charitable Giving and DonorBox. The Foundation's communications team will create original promotional materials and identify potential opportunities for media appearances and speaking opportunities, so that we can continue to increase visibility and awareness of our work.







## Thank You to Our Funders

Cosmo Feilding Mellen

Flora Family Foundation

Betsy Gordon Foundation

Thank you to our monthly donors for your continued support, with special thanks to:

Christina Saenger

Mark Kozak

Manoj Nathwani







## BECKLEY FOUNDATION

✉ : Beckley Park, Oxford, OX3 9SY, United Kingdom

📧 : [office@beckleyfoundation.org](mailto:office@beckleyfoundation.org)

☎ : +44 (0) 1865 351209 | 💻 : [www.beckleyfoundation.org](http://www.beckleyfoundation.org)

📘 : [/TheBeckleyFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/TheBeckleyFoundation) | 🐦 : [@BeckleyResearch](https://twitter.com/BeckleyResearch)

The Beckley Foundation is registered as a charity in the UK N° SC033546