



Centre for Medical Humanities  
Anthropology of Health Research Group  
Centre for Social Justice and Community Action

### Joint Public Lecture

Prof Anita Hardon, University of Amsterdam

## Chemical Youth: understanding the chemical lives of young people through participatory action research methods

Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup> 2016, 5.00-6.30pm  
Room 141, Elvet Riverside 1, New Elvet, Durham, DH1 3JT

**\* The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception \*  
Everyone welcome, there is no need to book**

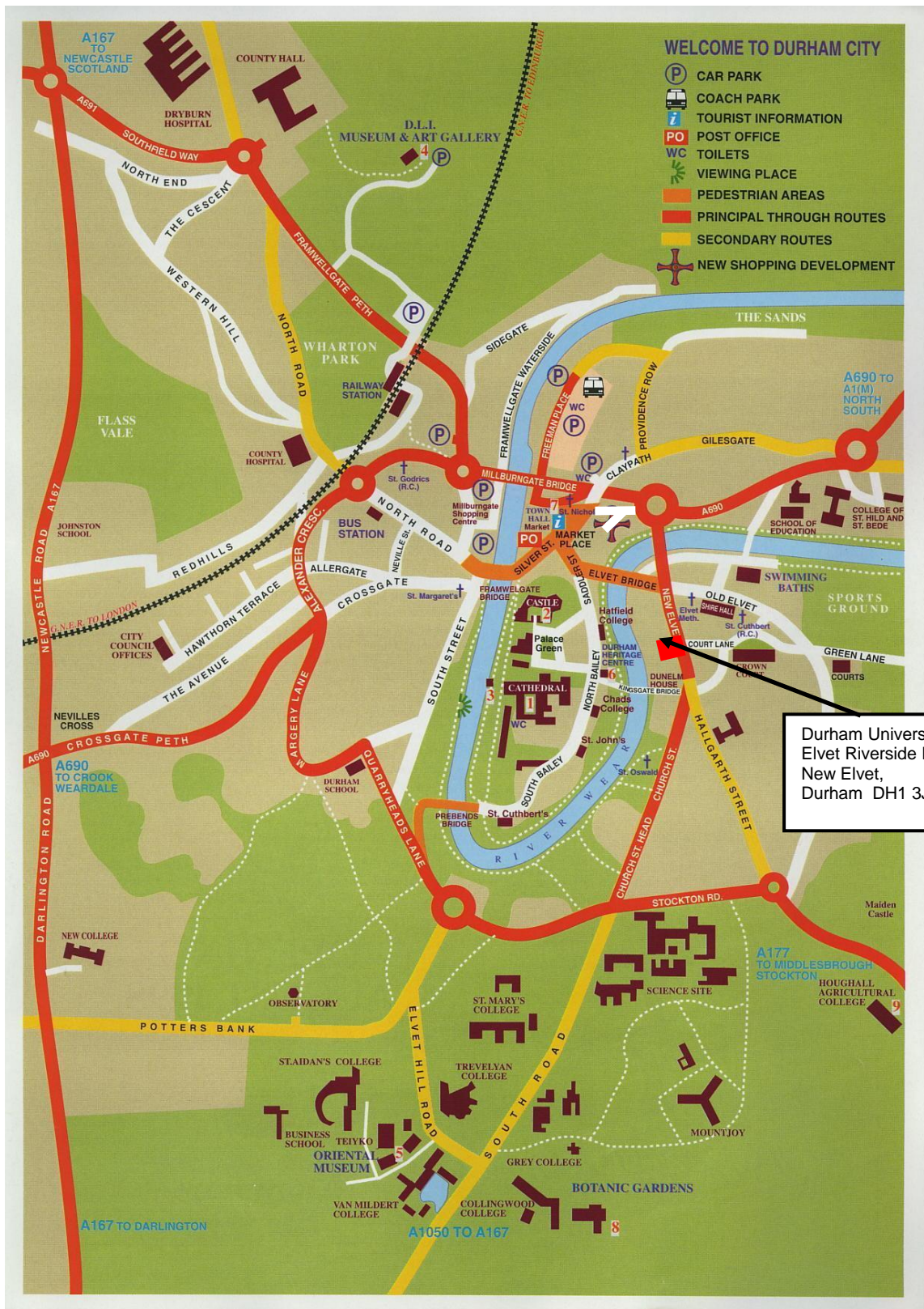
**Abstract:** Chemical Youth is a multi-site project, funded by a European Research Council advanced grant, which aims to understand the chemical lives of young people in France, the Netherlands, Indonesia and the Philippines. This comparative ethnography aims to understand what chemical and pharmaceutical substances, legal and illicit, 'do' for youth. The underlying premise of Chemical Youth is that drug use makes sense for young people in all sorts of ways as they go about their everyday lives. Rather than a conventional, top-down, prohibitionist stance, which has been seldom shown to work, the project aims at developing and strengthening harm reduction strategies from below. In her talk, Professor Hardon will demonstrate how, through using methodologies adapted to the skills and interests of the young people involved in the project themselves, a much more elaborate understanding of chemical lives can be achieved compared to research conducted in a less participatory way.

**About the speaker:** Anita Hardon one of the world's leading medical anthropologists. She has spearheaded the anthropological study of pharmaceuticals, medicines and technologies including the use of vaccinations, new sexual and reproductive technologies and HIV/AIDS medicines in both resource-rich and resource-poor settings. Her work has had a major impact on the field of global health through the development of innovative research frameworks and methodologies. Amongst her key books are *Applied Health Research: Anthropology of Health and Health Care* (Aksant, 2001), and *The Social Lives of Medicines* (with Whyte and van der Geest – CUP, 2002). As well as a technical advisor for the World Health Organization, she was director of the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research from 2001-14, recognized by Times Higher Education as the leading social sciences research centre in continental Europe in both 2011 and 2013.

**Sponsors:** This public lecture is jointly sponsored by Durham University's Centre for Medical Humanities (<https://www.dur.ac.uk/cmh/>), the Anthropology of Health Research Group (<https://www.dur.ac.uk/anthropology/research/health/>) and the Centre for Social Justice and Community Action (<https://www.dur.ac.uk/beacon/socialjustice/>).

Professor Hardon is a guest of the CMH's 'Life of Breath' project (<http://lifeofbreath.org/>). Further information about 'Chemical Youth' can be found on the project website, <http://aissr.uva.nl/research/externally-funded-projects/content6/recent/chemical-youth.html>.

**Directions:** Elvet Riverside 1 is no. 25 on the Durham University map, opposite the Police Station on New Elvet. [www.dur.ac.uk/resources/map/DurhammapandkeyOctober2014.pdf](http://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/map/DurhammapandkeyOctober2014.pdf)  
There is street parking on meters in New Elvet, Old Elvet, Church Street and Hallgarth Street. Or try the multi-storey Prince Bishops Car Park.



Durham University,  
Elvet Riverside II,  
New Elvet,  
Durham DH1 3JT

Please see map above for location of Elvet Riverside 2, which is opposite the Police Station on New Elvet. Walking downhill, the building is just below the Students' Union. Walking uphill, go past Elvet Riverside 1, to reach the entrance to ER2. You enter the building by going down a few steps and in through the glass doors. There is street parking on meters in New Elvet, Old Elvet, Church Street and Hallgarth Street. Or try the multi-storey Prince Bishops Car Park.