

John Dossetor  
Health Ethics  
Centre



**JOHN DOSSETOR  
HEALTH ETHICS CENTRE**

**2021-  
2022  
SERIES**

## **HEALTH ETHICS SEMINAR**

### **PSYCHEDELIC ASSISTED THERAPY: A Brief History and Examination of Current Research**

**Brendan Leier, PhD**

Clinical Ethicist, Alberta Health Services;  
Adjunct Professor, John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre, University of Alberta

**Michelle Gagnon, RN, MN**

Graduate Student, Faculty of Nursing, University of British Columbia

**Thursday, 16 December 2021**

12:00 - 13:00 MST

#### **WEBINAR Presentation via Zoom application**

To Join Zoom Meeting: <https://ualberta-ca.zoom.us/j/94609842283>; Meeting ID: 946 0984 2283

One tap mobile: +17789072071,,94609842283# Canada; +12042727920,,94609842283# Canada

Find your local number: <https://ualberta-ca.zoom.us/u/ad2FgfKE9O>

In 2020, Health Canada granted landmark legal exemptions for psilocybin (*magic mushrooms*) for individuals with end-of-life distress. To date, clinical trials with psilocybin are on the rise for treatment of anxiety and treatment-resistant depression, and psilocybin-assisted psychotherapy is now being investigated for frontline practitioners experiencing COVID-related distress. As therapeutic psychedelics approach mainstream healthcare use, we are faced with important ethical considerations. Psychedelic plants have been used among various cultural groups for millennia. Despite a long history of use, research into psychedelics has had a tumultuous past with a peak in the 1950s–60s that then saw decades-long dormancy in the West beginning in the 1970s. In this seminar, we will present a brief Canadian history of classic psychedelics (LSD, psilocybin, DMT) and describe the landscape of contemporary psychedelic research with consideration for healthcare providers.

**More information:** please call 780-492-6676, e-mail [dossetor.centre@ualberta.ca](mailto:dossetor.centre@ualberta.ca) or visit [Dossetor Centre website](#)

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