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Author: Liang-Yin Hsu

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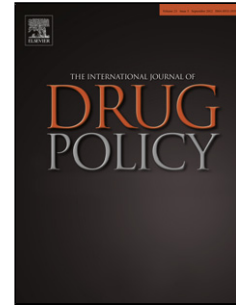
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## Commentary

### **Ketamine use in Taiwan: Moral Panic, Civilizing Processes, and Democratization**

Hsu, Liang-Yin  
Department of Public Health,  
College of Medicine,  
Tzu Chi University,  
Taiwan

#### Correspondence address:

Department of Public Health, College of Medicine, Tzu Chi University, No. 701 Sec.3, Jhongyang Rd., Hualien 97004, Taiwan  
Tel:+886-3-8565301 ext 2286  
Fax+886-3-8564041  
Email: liangyin.hsu@gmail.com

#### **Abstract**

Ketamine use among young people in Taiwan has increased in recent years. Believing ketamine users to be a threat to social order and harsh punishment to be a deterrent, some legislators have called for upgrading ketamine use to a more serious criminal offense. These calls have been repeatedly rebuffed by the advisory council which sets drug policy, suggesting that the perceived problem does not correlate to the actual one. In this commentary, I argue that the calls of legislators constitute a ‘moral panic,’ and follow Rohloff (2011) in connecting the phenomenon to Elias’ (2000) concept of civilizing and decivilizing processes. In addition, I demonstrate that moral panic – in the ketamine case at least – is shaped by the legacy of authoritarianism.

Key words: moral panic, civilizing processes, democratization, Taiwan, ketamine

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