

Project Backhouse

Reviewing the social science of drugs in sport : Five years on

Whilst the concept of doping in sport first penetrated the broader public consciousness on a global scale more than two decades ago, the social sciences have been slow to enter the debate. However, a vision for prevention is emerging. In recent years there has been a growing investment in social science research by the World Anti-Doping Agency as the need to move beyond detection-deterrence approaches has been recognised. As such, social scientists now play a more participatory role in the field and this has led to a developing research landscape. Insofar as doping in sport can be seen as having a many faceted human element, this update to our 2007 review explores the contribution of the social sciences to our understanding of doping in sport and considers recent empirical research alongside prevention programming.