Beyond symbolic boundaries between people who use illicit drugs?

From research to action, change and social movement(s)

Michelle Van Impe
Ghent University
WHO ARE YOU?
“While the boundary defines the group it is the narrative that defines the boundary”

Copes, 2016: 209
“I honestly didn’t see myself as that bad because there was people that were worse than me, that were doing harder drugs that had more impact.”

Interview with Nate, Lancaster, Santana, Madden & Ritter, 2015: 162
“I find it kind of interesting. We’ve got a room full of opiate users here, and you’re, ‘Oh no, ‘ice’ is bad’ [...] Well why?”

(Focus group with injecting drug users, Lancaster, et al., 2015: 228)
Building a Movement for Reason, Compassion and Justice

THE 2005 INTERNATIONAL DRUG POLICY REFORM CONFERENCE

November 10–12, 2005
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CRITICAL PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH
“Movement results from living within the paradox”

Smith & Berg, 1997: 215


