

## **SPEAKER BIOS**

### **Youth and alcohol: do new trends demand new solutions?**

7 November 2023 | 13:00–14:00 CET

**Leon Booth**, Research Fellow, Health Promotion and Behaviour Change, Food Policy, The George Institute, Australia

Dr. Leon Booth is a research fellow at the George Institute for Global Health. His work is primarily concerned with understanding how environmental factors affect people's health-related behaviours. Leon's focus is on producing translational research findings that can inform public health policies and interventions to improve health outcomes. Leon has expertise in several areas related to public health, including alcohol use, dietary behaviours, physical activity, gambling, and autonomous vehicles. As an early career researcher, he has a growing track record of publications in high-impact journals and has been commissioned to work on multiple government projects. Leon's alcohol research has focused on evaluating mass media public health campaigns and developing interventions to improve alcohol-related outcomes. This includes campaigns that advise drinkers about the link between alcohol use and cancer, and campaigns that discourage parents from providing alcohol to their underage children.

**Mansi Chopra**, Deputy Director, HRIDAY, and Mentee, Less Alcohol Scientific Research and Writing Mentorship Initiative

Dr. Mansi Chopra holds a Ph.D. degree from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Lady Irwin College, boasting a career spanning over 12 years. Currently, she serves as the Deputy Director at HRIDAY, a non-profit organization based in New Delhi, India. Her role primarily revolves around spearheading the development and execution of research and programmes focused on the prevention, management, and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In addition to her responsibilities at HRIDAY, Dr. Chopra holds the position of Chair of Communications at the Global Research Network, SRNT and is a Fellow at the Less Alcohol Unit, WHO. Previously, she held the position of Deputy Lead at the National Centre of Excellence and Advanced Research on Diets (NCEARD) within the Department of Food and Nutrition at Lady Irwin College, with support from UNICEF. During her tenure at NCEARD, Dr. Chopra took the lead in handling the portfolio related to maternal and adolescent nutrition, including the development of antenatal nutrition and high-risk pregnancy guidelines for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the Government of India. Before her role at NCEARD, she dedicated over 8 years to her work with AIIMS and the Department of Food and Nutrition at Lady Irwin College. Throughout her career, she has actively contributed to numerous research projects, government initiatives, and secured funding from both national and international organizations. Dr. Chopra's achievements include numerous accolades, fellowships, presentations at both national and international conferences, the facilitation of courses and training sessions, and serving as a peer reviewer for ten international journals. Her body of work comprises more than 40 research publications, book chapters, government guidelines, and technical reports.



**Emeka Dumbili**, Ad Astra Fellow and Assistant Professor in Sociology, School of Sociology, University College Dublin, College of Social Sciences and Law, Dublin, Ireland

Emeka Dumbili centres his interest on gender, the sociology of alcohol and drug use, addiction, public health and social policy. He explores how media consumption mediates substance use, the gendering of alcohol and other substances, alcohol industry marketing strategies in Africa and the politics of alcohol and drug policies. His ongoing portfolio includes gender, intoxication and changing drinking norms, recreational drug use, drug (de)normalization, alcohol labelling practices.

**Lillian Ghandour**, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Lilian A. Ghandour (PhD, MPH) is a tenured Associate Professor at the American University of Beirut. For over two decades, Dr. Ghandour has been leading the design and analyses of various national surveys on youth mental health and substance use epidemiology. Her research on alcohol in young people has defined the size of the problem in Lebanon, guided and informed the national inter-ministerial substance use strategy, and shaped/improved the quality of the debate around alcohol-related policies in the Lebanese policy environment. Dr. Ghandour has over 80 peer-reviewed publications on the topic of youth substance use and mental health, and has received several competitive international research travel awards to disseminate her research.

**Ishu Kataria**, Chair, NCDs Working Group, WHO Youth Council, Senior Public Health Researcher, RTI International and representative of Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network (YP-CDN)

Dr Ishu Kataria is a Senior Public Health Researcher at the RTI International's Center for Global Noncommunicable Diseases. She works on noncommunicable disease (NCD) prevention and control both in India as well as globally. She chairs the NCD working group of the inaugural WHO Youth Council and is the Global Coordinator for the Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network (YP-CDN) - a global nonprofit that works to mobilize young leaders worldwide to take action against social injustice driven by noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). At YP-CDN, Dr Kataria works with young local community leaders at the grassroots level for doing advocacy campaigns on NCDs and access to medicines.

