

Stanford Psychedelic Science Group

presents:



Psychedelic Friction: 8 Controversies in Psychedelic Medicine

Alex Belser, PhD

Thursday, October 14
4:30pm PDT



[Zoom Registration Link](#)



Abstract:

In this presentation, eight of the major controversies in psychedelic medicine are articulated with a focus on translational research as psychedelic treatments are widely adopted and disseminated in communities. The controversies are as follows: (1) How do these drugs work? (2) Should psychedelic treatment be considered a combination therapy? (3) What theoretical approach should we use? (4) Do these drugs really work, or is it super placebo? (5) What credentials and scope of training should be required to facilitate a psychedelic medication session? (6) What specific training should be required to become a psychedelic-assisted psychotherapist? (7) Should psychedelic therapists in training undergo an experiential component? (8) What works for whom?

Bio: Dr. Alex Belser is a licensed psychologist and has been a leader in the psychedelic research community for the last twenty years. His clinical research at NYU and Yale University has focused on investigating psilocybin and MDMA to treat depression, anxiety, substance use, OCD, PTSD, and end-of-life distress. He is the Chief Clinical Officer of Cybin, where he directs their clinical programs in psychedelic therapeutics. He previously served as Chief Clinical Officer at Adelia Therapeutics. He is the co-author of EMBARK, a psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy model that was designed to be adapted to address a range of clinical indications and populations. He is a member of Chacruna Institute's Women, Gender Diversity, and Sexual Minorities Working Group, where he works on issues affecting LGBTQI+ people. His research has been featured on the front page of the New York Times, in the Atlantic, the New Yorker, The Guardian, and in Michael Pollan's book, *How to Change Your Mind*. Dr. Belser studied at Georgetown University, the University of Cambridge, Columbia University, NYU, and Yale University. His writing is available at <http://alexbelser.com>. His private practice site is <http://centerforbreakthroughs.com>.