

NAME: Sharon R. Sznitman

POSITION TITLE: Associate Professor, School of Public Health, University of Haifa, Israel

EDUCATION/TRAINING

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
The University of Manchester, UK	B. Soc. Sc.	06/2002	Sociology
Stockholm University, Sweden	M.A.	06/2002	Sociology
Stockholm University, Sweden	Ph.D.	08/2007	Sociology
University of Pennsylvania, USA	Post-doctoral	09/2010	HIV prevention

Personal information

Date of Birth: July 30th, 1978

Citizenship: Norway, Switzerland, Israel

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9398-0727>

Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=fq_0gXcAAAAJ&hl=en

Personal Statement

I have led several funded research projects and published a wide range of studies focusing on medical and recreational cannabis use from public health, behavioral and policy perspectives. Most specifically related to the current proposed research, I have directed a series of funded research that focus on medical cannabis policy development and assessment and integration of medical cannabis in the Israeli health care system (three grants funded by the Israeli National Institute for Health Policy Research). Furthermore, my research program involves using Experienced Sampling Methods and other forms of diary studies to examine momentary and within-person associations of cannabis use health outcomes (e.g. pain, sleep, well-being) in the daily lives of recreational and medical cannabis users. I have collected and analyzed these kinds of data in Israeli chronic pain patients, posttraumatic stress disorder patients as well as recreational users. I also use web-based randomized experiments to test the effects of exposure to cannabis media messages on cannabis use expectancies and attitudes including a three year funded research project (funding from Israeli Insurance Funds).

Selected ongoing and completed funded projects (Active grant proposals highlighted with an asterisk):

- 2021 *Veski Study Melbourne Research Partnerships, Using Artificial Intelligence to determine how much alcohol influencers from Australia and Israel post on social media – Part 1 of 'Enhancing wellbeing and social inclusion of marginalized populations: a two country multi component project, Co-PIs: **Sharon R. Sznitman**, Benjamin Riordan, Emmanuel Kuntsche, Zhen He, Richard Gray. \$82,333
- 2020 *Israeli Insurance Funds, Developing and testing media campaign messages to reduce the risk of cannabis-impaired driving, PI: **Sharon Sznitman**, co-PI: Nehama Lewis. \$99,000.
- 2016 The Israeli National Institute for Health Policy Research, Medical Cannabis Policies: An analysis of the current situation and development of a framework for decision-making, PI: **Sharon R. Sznitman**. \$36,800.
- 2016 The Israeli National Institute for Health Policy Research, Medical Cannabis in oncology, PI: Manfred Green, co-investigator: **Sharon R. Sznitman**. \$59,163.
- 2014 The Israeli National Institute for Health Policy Research, A Cross Sectional study of Factors Influencing Physicians' Intention to Recommend Medical Cannabis (MC) to Patients in Israel, PI: **Sharon R. Sznitman**. \$42,461
- 2012 Marie Curie Integration grant, European Union, Social and cultural factors in adolescent substance Use, PI: **Sharon R. Sznitman**. \$99,654.
- 2012 Norway Research Council, Health and educational achievement. PI: Liza Reisel. Co-investigator: **Sharon R. Sznitman**. \$1,128,484.

Positions and Employment

2006	Visiting Research Assistant, Research Institute for Public Health & Addiction, University of Zurich, Switzerland
2003-2007	Research Assistant, Center for Social Research on Alcohol & Drugs, Stockholm University, Sweden
2007-2010	Post-Doctoral Fellow, The Annenberg Public Policy Centre, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA
2010-2012	Research Associate, School of Public Health, University of Haifa, Israel
2012-2015	Lecturer, School of Public Health, University of Haifa, Israel
2013-2016	Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Georgia, College of Public Health, Athens, USA
2015-2020	Senior lecturer, School of Public Health, University of Haifa, Israel
2017-2021	Head of the specialization program in Mental Health Services at the School of Public Health, University of Haifa, Israel
2020-present	Associate Professor (with tenure), School of Public Health, University of Haifa, Israel

Awards and Honors

2013	Dusty and Ettie Miller Prize for outstanding young scholar from the University of Haifa
------	---

Other appointments

2009	Analytical and statistical consultant on an NIH-supported mass media HIV prevention trial, Virginia Commonwealth University
2014	Invited grant reviewer for the Israeli Institute of Health Policy Research
2017	Guest editor, special issue: interactions of the cultural and the personal in alcohol and other substance use, volume 36, Issue 6.
2017-2021	Deputy Editor of Drug and Alcohol Review
2017	Invited grant reviewer for the Innovational Research Incentive Scheme, Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research
2018	Invited grant reviewer for Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)
2018-present	Senior Editor, International Journal of Drug Policy
2019	External research expert on the Cannabis legislation report by the Center for Knowledge and Research in Education

Selected, invited talks

2018	Media Messages about Medical Cannabis and their Potential Effects on Attitudes toward Recreational Cannabis use and Legalization, invited speaker , Seminar series BC Centre on Substance Use's Addiction Fellowship program, Vancouver, Canada
2018	Does medical cannabis policies influence attitudes and use of related to recreational cannabis? invited speaker , Seminar series at the Department of Criminology, University of Stockholm, Sweden
2018	Licensed and unlicensed medical cannabis use, invited speaker , Seminar series at Department of Psychology and Neuroscience and the Institute of Cognitive Science, the CUChange Lab, Boulder, Colorado, USA
2019	Medical cannabis, media and public opinion, invited speaker , Seminar at the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, Paris, France
2019	Medical cannabis, invited speaker , Seminar at The Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo, Norway
2019	Recreational and/or medical cannabis use? Results from two studies conducted in Israel, invited speaker , Seminar at Addiction Switzerland, Lausanne, Switzerland

Selected publications (past 5 years)

1. **Sharon R. Sznitman** and Lewis, Nehama, (2018), Examining Effects of Medical Cannabis Narratives on Beliefs, Attitudes and Intentions related to Recreational Cannabis: A Web-Based Randomized Experiment, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 31;185:219-225
2. Yuval Zolotov, Dana Zarhin, Simon Vulfsons, and **Sharon R. Sznitman**, (2018) Medical cannabis: an oxymoron? Physicians' perceptions of medical cannabis, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 10;57(4-10)
3. **Sharon R. Sznitman**, Yifat Ben Baruch, Talya Greene, Marc Gelkopf, (2018), The association between physical pain and cannabis use in daily life: An experience sampling method, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, Aug 25; 191:294-299. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2018.07.014.
4. Zarhin, D., Negev, M. Vulfsons, S., **Sharon R. Sznitman** (2018), Rhetorical and regulatory boundary work: The case of medical cannabis policy-making in Israel, *Social Science & Medicine*, 217:1-9
5. Arielle Tandowski, Yuval Zolotov, **Sharon R. Sznitman** (2019), Do users of diverted medical cannabis differ from other cannabis user? *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 80(1):42-45
6. Tom Decorte, Aili Malm, **Sharon R. Sznitman**, Pekka Hakkarainen, Monica Barratt, Bernd Werse, Garrit Kampausen (2019). The challenges of analyzing feedback comments on surveys: Lessons from a cross-national online survey with small scale cannabis growers, *Methodological Innovation*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/2059799119825606>
7. Nehama Lewis and **Sharon R. Sznitman** (2019), Engagement with Medical Cannabis Information from Online and Mass Media Sources: Is it related to Medical Cannabis Attitudes and Support for Legalization? *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 73:219-227
8. **Sharon R. Sznitman**, Victoria Goldberg, Hedva Sheinman-Yuffe, #Yuval Zolotov, Ezequiel Flechter, Gil Bar-Sela, (2019), Long-term medical cannabis use and risk factors for diversion: report on physician's guidance and patients' behavior. *Palliative & Supportive Care*, (1):18-23
9. Yuval Zolotov, Simon Vulfsons, **Sharon R. Sznitman**, (2019) Predicting Physicians' Intentions to Recommend Medical Cannabis. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 58(3), 400-407
10. Dana Zarhin, Maya Negev, Simon Vulfsons, **Sharon R. Sznitman** (2019), "Medical cannabis" as a contested medicine: Fighting over epistemology, ontology and morality, *Science, Technology & Human Values*. 45(3), 488–514
11. **Sharon R. Sznitman**, Simon Vulfsons, David Meiri, Galit Weinstein (2020), Medical Cannabis and Insomnia in Older Adults with Chronic Pain: A Cross-Sectional Study, *BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care*, 20;bmjspcare-2019-001938
12. **Sharon R. Sznitman**, Tamar Shochat, Talya Greene (2020), Is time elapsed between cannabis use and sleep start time associated with sleep continuity? An experience sampling method, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 2020 Mar 1;208:107846. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2020.107846. Epub 2020 Jan 11. PMID: 31954953
13. Galit Weinstein, **Sharon R. Sznitman** (2020), The implications of late-life cannabis use on brain health: A mapping review and implications for future research, *Ageing Research Review*, 59, doi: 10.1016/j.arr.2020.101041

14. **Sharon R. Sznitman**, Lianna Pinsky-Tali, Maisar Salameh, Taleb Moed, Yedidia Bentur (2020), Cannabis and Synthetic Cannabinoid Exposure Reported to the Israel Poison Information Center: Examining Differences in Exposures to Medical and Recreational Compounds, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 77:102711. doi: 10.1016/j.drugpo.2020.102711
15. **Sharon R. Sznitman** (2020), Trends in Medical Cannabis Licensure, Israel, 2013-2018, *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 39(6): 763-767
16. Galit Weinstein, Simon Vulfsons, David Meiri and **Sharon R. Sznitman** (2020), Medical cannabis and cognitive performance in middle to old adults treated for chronic pain, *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 5 pages doi.org/10.1111/dar.13171
17. **Sharon R. Sznitman**, Dennis Rosenberg, & Nehama Lewis (2022) Are COVID-19 Health-Related and Socioeconomic Stressors Associated with Increases in Cannabis Use in Recreational Cannabis Users, *Substance Abuse*, 43:1, 301-308, DOI: 10.1080/08897077.2021.1941513
18. **Sharon R. Sznitman**, Carolyn Ma'bouk, M., Zahi Said, Simon Vulfsons (2021), Opioid and healthcare service use in medical cannabis patients with chronic pain: a prospective study, *BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care* Epub ahead of print: doi:10.1136/bmjspcare-2020-002661
19. Neta HaGani, **Sharon Sznitman**, Michael Dor, Gil Bar-Sela, Dana Oren, Lilia Margolis-Dorfman, Itay Goor-Aryeh & Manfred S Green (2021) Attitudes Toward the Use of Medical Cannabis and the Perceived Efficacy, Side-effects and Risks: A Survey of Patients, Nurses and Physicians, *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*, DOI: 10.1080/02791072.2021.2009598
20. **Sharon R. Sznitman**, Dennis Rosenberg, Simon Vulfsons, David Meiri and Talya Greene (2021), Medical cannabis use and pain: An experience sampling study, *Frontiers in Psychiatry-Psychosomatic Medicine*, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2021.728283>
21. Nehama Lewis and **Sharon R. Sznitman** (2021), Too Much Information? Excessive Media Use, Maladaptive Coping, and Increases in Problematic Cannabis Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic, *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*.
22. **Sharon R. Sznitman**, Tamar Shochat, Lukas van Rijswijk, Talya Greene, Janna Cousijn (2021), Cannabis and alcohol use and their associations with sleep: A daily diary investigation of single-use and co-use in college students, *Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research*, doi: 10.1089/can.2021.0106
23. Talya Greene, **Sharon R. Sznitman**, Ateka A. Krithika Prakash, Eiko Fried and Marc Gelkopf (2022) The memory-experience gap for PTSD symptoms: The correspondence between experience sampling and past-month retrospective reports of traumatic stress symptoms, *Psychiatry Research*, Volume 307, 114315
24. **Sharon R. Sznitman**, Lukas van Rijswijk, Janna Cousijn (2022), Cannabis Use as a Predictor and Outcome of Positive and Negative Affect in College Students: an Experience Sampling Method Study, *Addictive Behaviors*: 128
25. Carolin Kilian, Maria Neufeld, Jakob Manthey, Sophiko Alavidze, Anastacia Bobrova, Orna Baron-Epel, Merita Berisha, Rabia Bilici, Kairat Davletov, Laura Isajeva, Fatma Kantaş Yılmaz, Tatsiana Karatkevich, Alibek Mereke, Sanja Musić Milanović, Kristine Galstyan, Ljiljana Muslić, Michail Okoliyski, Zana Shabani, Mindaugas Štelemėkas, Lela Sturua, **Sharon R Sznitman**, Başak Ünübol, Carina Ferreira-Borges, Jürgen Rehm, (2022) Self-reported changes in alcohol and tobacco use during COVID-19: findings from the eastern part of WHO European Region, *European Journal of Public Health*, ckac011, <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckac011>

26. **Sharon R. Sznitman** (2022), Changes in cannabis use risk behaviors during the first and second COVID-19 lockdown in Israel: a short-term two-wave longitudinal study, *Journal of Addiction Medicine*, doi: 10.1097/ADM.0000000000000977
27. **Sharon R. Sznitman** and Nehama Lewis (2022), Israeli News media coverage of COVID-19 and use of cannabis and tobacco: A case study of inconsistent risk communication, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 103, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2022.103648>
28. Amani Hlehel, Or Gliksberg, Daniel Feingold, Silviu Brill, Ben H Amit, Shaul Lev-Ran, **Sharon R. Sznitman** (2022), Medical Cannabis and Stigma: a Qualitative Study with Patients living with Chronic Pain, *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, doi: 10.1111/jocn.16340
29. **Sharon R. Sznitman**, David Meiri, Ben H. Amit, Dennis Rosenberg, Talya Greene (2022), Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Sleep and Medical Cannabis Treatment: A daily diary study, *Journal of Anxiety Disorder*, doi.org/10.1016/j.janxdis.2022.102632

Discussion articles and Commentary

1. **Sharon R. Sznitman** and Robin Room (2018), Rethinking indicators of problematic cannabis use in the era of medical cannabis legalization, *Addictive Behaviors*, 77:100-101