

An International Perspective on Drug Courts and ATI

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1. Opening Thoughts

- Emergence of global advocacy issue.
 - US → OAS → UNODC
- Decades of Research
- Results clear?
 - Some Scholars - Efficacious
 - Others - Expensive
- Important questions re. Methodology and data:
 - In 2011 study of 260 studies, 'GAO found that less than 20% used sound social science principles'. (Csete, 2016).
 - E.g. Lack of comparison group; unstated selection process.
 - Cherrypicking; net widening etc. etc.

Questions for Importing Jurisdictions

- States: Central & South America.
- Prefabricated models from Global North.
- Because DCP are very expensive.
 - Transfer of resources to prosecutors & Judges.
 - No PH training -- ideological view of use.
- ‘wrap around services’ available?
 - “Importing trains to countries with no train tracks”.
- Absolute net-widening.
 - creating criminal justice responses in states w/o.
 - Vs. intervention designed to lessen CJ role.

- If interventions complex, problematic and costly, **why the evangelism?**
- lobbying by interested groups.
 - DCP advocacy movement.
 - Linking w/ US foreign policy machinery.
- Appearance of ‘moderate’ drug policy reform.

Next Steps?

- Slow roll out internationally..
- Continue to focus on social determinants and service provision
- Closely examine pre-booking diversion.
- Ultimate goal, build mechanisms to remove from CJ system altogether.

Thank you!

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