

Dan Malleck PhD

Full Professor, Department of Health Sciences, Brock University

Historian of alcohol, drugs, and public policy | Expert analyst and consultant

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EXPERTISE

Dan Malleck is one of Canada's leading historians of alcohol and drug regulation. He has spent more than two decades studying how societies regulate alcohol and drugs, and how they talk about them. As a historian, he brings a different kind of expertise to current debates: not just what the data says, but where the data comes from, what story it's being used to tell, and what that story leaves out. He works with industry associations, legal counsel, policy bodies, and media to answer questions where that kind of perspective matters.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Why alcohol policy looks the way it does, and why so much current public health messaging gets the history wrong
 - How researchers frame alcohol risk, and what those framings leave out
 - A century of Canadian liquor regulation, from prohibition through to today's low-risk drinking guidelines
 - Drinking as a normal part of human social life: the history, the biology, and what policy ignores
 - What cannabis legalization can learn from alcohol's long regulatory history
 - Research, analysis, and expert opinion for lawyers, regulators, and policy makers
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SELECTED CREDENTIALS

Academic

- Full Professor, Department of Health Sciences, Brock University
- PhD, History, Queen's University
- Editor-in-Chief, Social History of Alcohol and Drugs (2005–2018)
- Clio Prize winner (Canadian Historical Association) for Try to Control Yourself (2013)
- Distinguished Service Award, Alcohol and Drugs History Society (2015)
- Visiting Fellow, Centre for the History of Health and Healthcare, University of Glasgow (2015)

Expert Appearances

- Expert witness testimony, Canadian Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology (Bill S-202, November 2025)
- Panellist, AGCO management conference (June 2024)
- Panellist, International Wine Law Association Canadian Section Annual Conference (June 2025)
- Keynote speaker, Drinks Ontario Annual General Meeting (June 2026)

- Invited speaker, Artisan Distillers Canada, Ontario Craft Brewers Association, BC Craft Brewers, and other industry bodies

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Liquor and the Liberal State: Drink and Order in Pre-Prohibition Ontario (UBC Press, 2022)
- Pleasure and Panic: New Essays on the History of Alcohol and Drugs (UBC Press, 2022), co-edited with Cheryl Warsh
- Drugs, Alcohol, and Addiction in the Long Nineteenth Century, Volumes 1–4 (Routledge, 2020), edited collection
- When Good Drugs Go Bad: Opium, Medicine, and the Origins of Canada's Drug Laws (UBC Press, 2015)
- Try to Control Yourself: The Regulation of Public Drinking in Post-Prohibition Ontario (UBC Press, 2012), Clio Prize Winner
- Op-eds in the Globe and Mail, Hamilton Spectator, National Post, and The Conversation
- Peer-reviewed articles in Canadian Historical Review, Journal of Canadian Studies, Canadian Bulletin of Medical History, and others

MEDIA PROFILE

Regularly sought as an expert commentator by leading national and international media, including:

- CBC (The Current, CBC News Network, Here and Now, and multiple regional programs)
- Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, National Post, Toronto Life
- The Guardian (UK), The Telegraph (UK), Daily Mail (UK)
- NPR / The World, Washington Post, New York Post
- TVO The Agenda, CTV, CP24, Global News

Available for speaking engagements, expert consultation, research analysis, and legal expert support.

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