

USC INSTITUTE FOR ADDICTION SCIENCE SPEAKER SERIES



“Heavy Drinking and Sexual Risk among College Students Abroad”

ERIC R. PEDERSEN, Ph.D.
Senior Behavioral Scientist, RAND Corporation

Friday, 03.22.19 | 1:30-3:00 pm | SSB 117

Soto Street Building – 2001 N. Soto Street – Health Sciences Campus

Eric R. Pedersen is a senior behavioral scientist at the RAND Corporation. His research interests are primarily in areas of young adult/adolescent alcohol use and comorbid mental health disorders. Pedersen has received funding to develop brief, online interventions to reduce alcohol misuse among young adult populations such as college students and recently discharged veterans. He is interested in finding ways to target comorbid Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and substance use disorders among active duty and young adult veterans, as well as using internet-based methods to help reduce alcohol misuse and promote treatment engagement among non-treatment-seeking young adults. He is also serving as the director of Project ALERT, which is a school-based drug prevention program for middle school youth developed at RAND. Pedersen is currently examining how cannabis use among young adults has changed during the time of recreational legalization. Pedersen trained at the VA San Diego, where he focused on rotations in empirically supported interventions for PTSD and dual diagnoses (i.e., comorbid substance abuse and mental health disorders). Pedersen earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Washington.

The talk will focus on recent work examining how drinking and sexual risk increase for college students who are studying abroad in foreign countries. This formative work is being used to develop a brief online interactive intervention to prevent problematic and dangerous behavior among young people abroad.