

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Collectors,

September 2024

Attached you will find my latest newsletter. Thanks for taking the time to look over it!

I want to ask your attention to my research project on fentanyl.

Actually, I am doing a Kickstarter campaign to fund it. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Thanks so much for your support and interest in my work...

Stay strong!

Teun

Kickstarter crowd fund campaign for fentanyl book project.....	2
Completely revamped bilingual edition Mexico photo book	3
US edition Crystal Meth book	4
Upcoming presentations and exhibitions in US, Mexico, Europe	5
Working in the port of Antwerp.....	5
Antwerp drug expert.....	6
Adventures in academic and penitentiary institutions	7
Fentanyl research in Tijuana and Vancouver	8

KICKSTARTER CROWD FUND CAMPAIGN FOR FENTANYL BOOK PROJECT

During my crystal meth research, I stumbled on the horrible fentanyl crisis on Kensington Avenue, Philadelphia. In my crystal meth book, I wrote a chapter called “Is Fentanyl the New Crystal Meth?” The scenes I found there were so outrageous and shocking that I instinctively knew what my next book would be about.

In 2023, 112.000 people in the US died from an overdose of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 50 times as strong as heroine. It is aggressively marketed by Mexican cartels, and synthesized with chemical precursors provided by China. The crisis is hitting the West Coast of America the hardest, where areas in cities like Vancouver, San Francisco and Tijuana have become disasters. Recently, fentanyl and nitazenes, a related substance, are also appearing in Europe.

I visited already some cities, collected much material and laid the groundwork for further research. I still need to make 4, 5 trips to finish my book. If you want to learn more about the project, on my website you can take a look at my [extensive research proposal](#).

I cannot finance this project myself, finding grants is hard, my savings have run out, so I decided to start a crowd funding campaign through the platform Kickstarter. The absolute bare minimum I need to finish the project is 9.950 USD. Here you can donate on my [Kickstarter campaign](#).

All sponsors and donors will get something back. Everybody will be mentioned in the introduction of my upcoming book. And depending on the amount, I will send a signed book, a print, or I give a reading or presentation for a small group of friends or even a corporate event. More details are on the [campaign page](#). Feel free to mail me with any questions or if you have problems donating when you do not have a credit card.



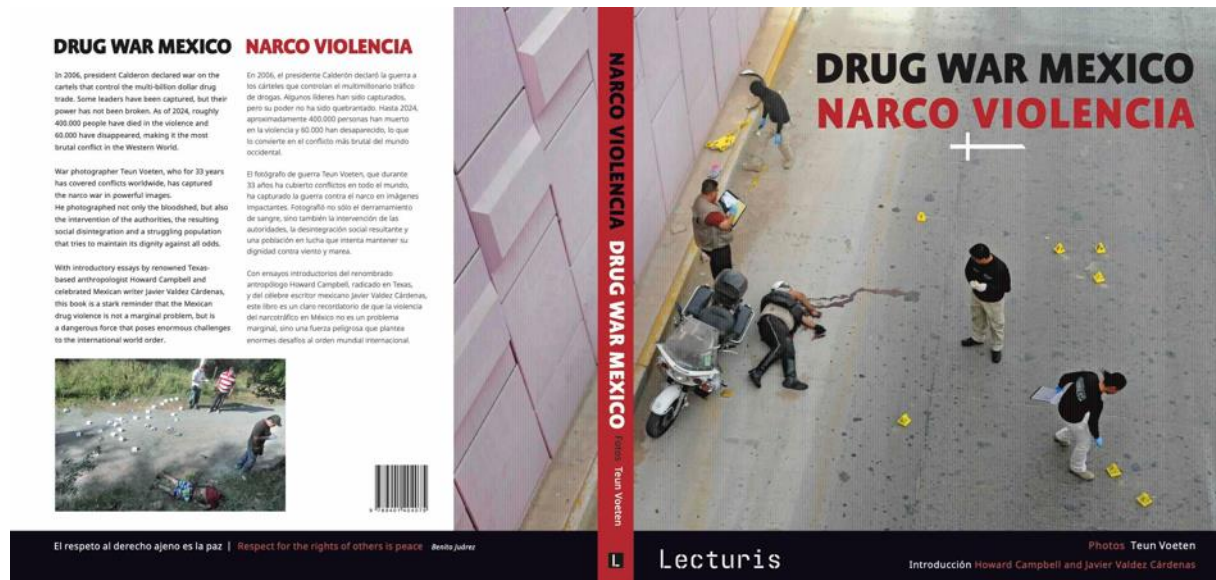
<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/teunvoeten/fentanyl-the-silent-killer-on-the-west-coast>

COMPLETELY REVAMPED BILINGUAL EDITION MEXICO PHOTO BOOK

In 2009 I visited for the first time Ciudad Juárez, at that time the most dangerous city in the world. This started a fascination for the country that lasts until today. My first trips resulted in my photo book “Narco Estado. Drug Violence” in Mexico that came out in 2013. The photobook only provoked my interest. I wrote a PhD thesis for my alma mater Leiden University that came out in 2020 in a popular version with Small Wars Journal as [“Mexican Drug Violence. Hybrid Warfare, Predatory Capitalism and the Logic of Cruelty.”](#)

The photo book is sold out and I made a new version. I completely changed the selection of photos. Design is by Karin van Iterson from [HaKijk](#). To reach out to a Latin American audience, the book is now completely bi-lingual. The title is “Drug War Mexico / Narco Violencia”. The book includes essays by me, by Prof Dr Howard Campbell from University of Texas, El Paso and from author and investigative journalist Javier Valdez. Javier was killed May 2017 in his hometown Culiacán. This book is dedicated to him, as well as to photographer Margarito Martínez. Margarito helped me out during my trips in Tijuana. He was murdered January 2022.

The book launch was September 15th in Leiden, NL. More presentations are set up Mexico City, Guadalajara and Gent (B). September 24th is the US presentation in [New York](#).

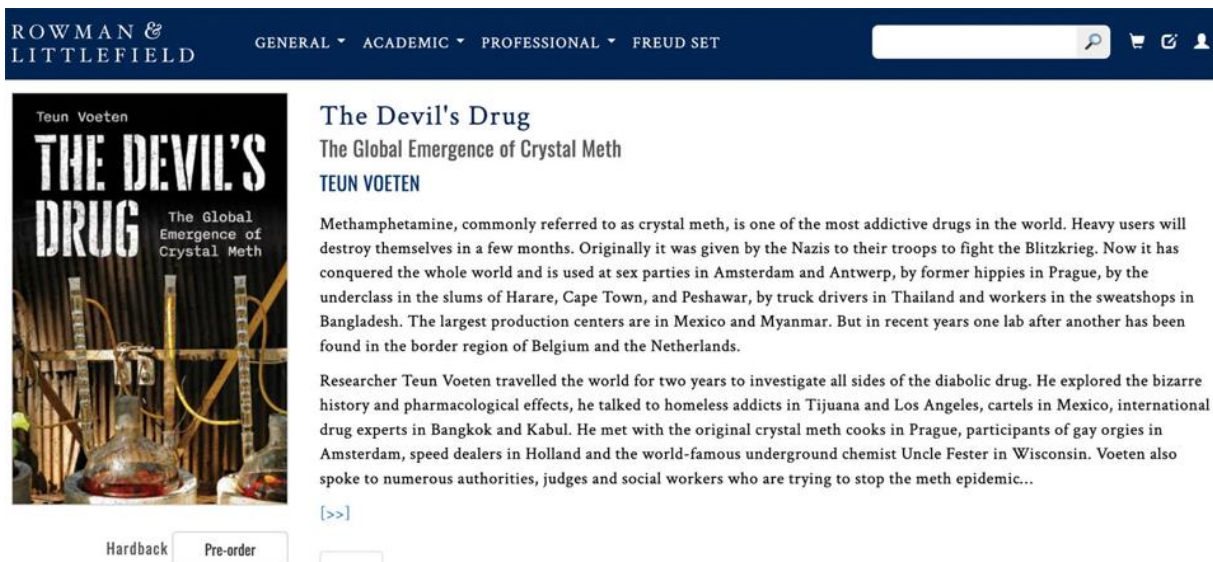


<https://teunvoeten.com/publications-voeten-books-narcoestado.html>

US EDITION CRYSTAL METH BOOK

It took me some time, but I am proud to say I translated the crystal meth book myself in American English. I added an extra chapter on the “Netherlands as a Narco State.” A native speaker, friend and colleague Dr. Mike Volmar from Boston proofread the manuscript and corrected my ‘Dunglish’. Actually, it was not that bad. After the manuscript was ready to send out, I wrote a book proposal and set out to find a US or UK publisher.

This was not easy, but I was very happy to have found [Rowman and Littlefield](#), a prestigious publisher that is specialized in serious non-fiction with an academic orientation. The book will come out January 2025. You can preorder through their site, on Amazon or directly with me in which case you will get a signed copy...



ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD GENERAL ▾ ACADEMIC ▾ PROFESSIONAL ▾ FREUD SET

Teun Voeten
THE DEVIL'S DRUG
The Global Emergence of Crystal Meth

The Devil's Drug
The Global Emergence of Crystal Meth
TEUN VOETEN

Methamphetamine, commonly referred to as crystal meth, is one of the most addictive drugs in the world. Heavy users will destroy themselves in a few months. Originally it was given by the Nazis to their troops to fight the Blitzkrieg. Now it has conquered the whole world and is used at sex parties in Amsterdam and Antwerp, by former hippies in Prague, by the underclass in the slums of Harare, Cape Town, and Peshawar, by truck drivers in Thailand and workers in the sweatshops in Bangladesh. The largest production centers are in Mexico and Myanmar. But in recent years one lab after another has been found in the border region of Belgium and the Netherlands.

Researcher Teun Voeten travelled the world for two years to investigate all sides of the diabolic drug. He explored the bizarre history and pharmacological effects, he talked to homeless addicts in Tijuana and Los Angeles, cartels in Mexico, international drug experts in Bangkok and Kabul. He met with the original crystal meth cooks in Prague, participants of gay orgies in Amsterdam, speed dealers in Holland and the world-famous underground chemist Uncle Fester in Wisconsin. Voeten also spoke to numerous authorities, judges and social workers who are trying to stop the meth epidemic...

[>>]

Hardback Pre-order



<https://teunvoeten.com/publications-voeten-drug-duivel.html>

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS IN US, MEXICO, EUROPE

To introduce my new Mexico photo book, I have presentations and exhibitions in the Europe, US and Mexico. The [book launch](#) was September 15th in Leiden, Netherlands

The 24th of September, I have a book launch in New York at the [Carlton Arms Hotel](#), my favorite NY venue. Actually, it is my FOURTH book party in the Carlton!

October, I have my Mexican book tour, starting with a presentations in Mexico City (October 9th), Morelia and Guadalajara (October 14th and 15th). The exhibition in Culiacán in [Fabrica del Arte Aurora](#) is postponed due the security situation – heavy infighting between the El Mayo and El Chapo factions in the Sinaloa Cartel. We will do it next year.

Some events may change, please check the [events page](#) on my website for updated info.

WORKING IN THE PORT OF ANTWERP



Some people think I live on Easy Street, think my life is Smooth Sailing: jetting around the globe, rubbing shoulders with the rich and famous. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. December 2023, I was struck by bad luck and found myself in financial dire straits. My central heating broke down during a cold wave, my car needed sophisticated reparations and I was challenged by an insane water bill due to a leakage.

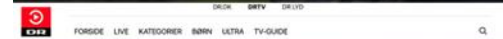
Not being the kinda guy to start crying in a corner and feel sorry for myself - after all, my health is great – I found a job for two months shooting pellets two afternoons in the week in the port of Antwerp. The money was good, the physical work was better than a gym workout and the boss (a former captain at the merchant marine), told me amazing stories how drug traffickers operate on international shipping lines. In short, a win-win-win situation!

ANTWERP DRUG EXPERT

The last few years, Antwerp has become a major entry point for cocaine entering Europe. It has to do with the geographical structure of the port, which makes it difficult to completely secure and seal off the harbor.

Unfortunately, my beloved city is often labelled by sensational media as “Coke Capital” of Europe. What most people do not realize, is that most of this contraband goes straight to the Netherlands, which has become sort of a [narco state light](#). From there, is distributed all over Europe. I am often asked by media to share my knowledge where I do not hesitate to set the record straight.

The last years, I was interviewed by the New York Times, Times of London, Le Monde and Spiegel. Many International TV crews also descended on Antwerp and knocked on my door. I featured on Danish, Swedish, French, German, Spanish and Irish TV items. The nicest venue was a TV show in Paris on [ARTE](#), where I discussed the topic of legalization that some people see as an easy fix for all problems. Spoiler: It is actually a bit more complicated



ADVENTURES IN ACADEMIC AND PENITENTIARY INSTITUTIONS



“Why don’t you become a full-time lecturer at an academic institution?” friends often ask.

Some stability and financial security would sure make my life easier. But then again, I would have to give up my freedom. Having worked more than 40 years as a totally independent free-lancer, I simply cannot imagine myself holding a steady job.

And being a bit diplomatically challenged, academia with all its current sensitivities, would not be a good environment for me to operate in ...

Still, on the sidelines, I give many guest lectures at prestigious universities. Over the years, I talked at Leiden University, the New School of Social Research and Columbia University in New York, Defense and Police academies in Holland, Universität Bielefeld, Art Academies all over the world and the Universidad Autónoma, both in Juárez and Culiacán. What I love the most, is the yearly lecture I give in the prison in Antwerp. The inmates love my presentation on Mexican Drug Violence and the exchange with the audience is always amazing and refreshing.

FENTANYL RESEARCH IN TIJUANA AND VANCOUVER

For my fentanyl West Coast research, March 2024, I visited Tijuana. Late August, actually a few weeks ago, I made an exploratory trip to Vancouver. As usual, these are not easy trips. You have to navigate a hostile environment with shady characters. Especially the drug dealing community is not thrilled to see an anthropologist poking his nose in their business.



But somehow, I always meet great persons. In Tijuana, I befriended Javier and Roberto, two homeless fentanyl users who had set up camp near a ramp of a city highway. In Vancouver, Martin and Cody were so kind to share with me intimate and heartbreaking stories of their lives.



I never make moral judgements, suffice to say that most of the people I met, did not have an easy life. On top, they made some unwise decisions. That's one of the reasons they wound up down and out on the mean streets of urban centers, abusing all kind of toxic substances. I try to give these people, shunned and ignored by most of us, a human face. It's a difficult job, but I think it's valuable and necessary. And I love it.

**If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please let me know.
If you know people who might appreciate this newsletter, please forward...**