



## **PORTA SOPHIA** PSYCHEDELIC PRIOR ART LIBRARY

### **CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:** ARCHIVAL RESEARCHER NETWORK (ARN)

**Kickoff Event:** June 1st-3rd, 2022, with opportunities for ongoing engagement

**Info Sessions:** throughout February 2022

**Initial RSVP:** February 28th, 2022

**Follow Up and Abstracts for Spotlight Talks due:** April 4, 2022

Porta Sophia means doorway to wisdom. We are a non-profit, curated on-line library that brings together a wealth of scientific, historical, and cultural information related to psychedelics that protects technologies in the public domain. We help innovators and patent reviewers find that information, called prior art, with one simple search tool. Our mission is to protect the public domain, stimulate innovation and support good patents to assure psychedelic therapies can one day be available at scale to the people who need them.

## Leveraging Historical Knowledge

In the face of pressing questions about how patents will impact the future of psychedelics and mental health, Porta Sophia is currently seeking participants in a new Archival Researcher Network (ARN) that will help us expand our prior art library. By leveraging historical expertise about psychedelics, our network will help curate and increase access to disparate knowledge of psychedelic science, practice, and tradition. Ideal participants in the network will have experience with historical research on psychedelics; expertise with archival research is especially welcome.

## What Porta Sophia Does

Since our founding in Spring 2021, the Porta Sophia data team has been working on several fronts to build a robust psychedelic prior art library. The data team workflow begins by cataloging relevant issued patents and pending applications--both international and domestic--related to sixteen initial psychedelic compounds. We then analyze patents' claims to innovation and sort them by perceived threat to the psychedelic space. From there, we generate prioritized lists of "targets" (e.g., psilocybin for bipolar I disorder) for prior art searches that, if found, would provide evidence of inaccurate claims to innovation within psychedelic patent applications.

In our first round of research, we search online databases for evidence of targets in prior art. This evidence can take the form of any reference or document that discloses

the target, including published manuscripts, previous patents, conference abstracts, digitized archival documents, cultural artifacts, or even a post on a blog. We then curate relevant prior art to be easily searched and add it to our library. For especially high-risk patent applications, we also submit curated prior art directly to patent examiners.

The ARN will collaborate with the data team to ensure that our library is relevant, up to date, and inclusive of key archival sources in the history of psychedelics.

## The Kickoff Event

We will kick off the ARN initiative with an event that will run on June 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 2022. This will be free, virtual, and open to the public, and will include a variety of programming to engage participants and the public, professionalize graduate students, and explore options for further collaboration.

This programming will include a half day virtual workshop on June 1st facilitated by [Stephanie Schmitz](#), the Betsy Gordon Archivist for Psychoactive Substances Research at Purdue University. Space in the workshop is limited and priority will be given to graduate students who are interested in learning more about the Psychoactive Substances Research Collection. Registration will be announced via email and on our website. In addition to the workshop, we are planning an exciting suite of speakers for keynote lectures and roundtables.

In advance of the kickoff event, we will distribute a list of “targets” to ARN participants (e.g., psilocybin use for treating bipolar I), so that participants can search for archival evidence related to the targets. For the ARN, the kickoff event will be a chance for us to share and generate ideas, collectively share archival research findings relevant to psychedelic patent claims, workshop developing scholarship, and co-create directions for the network. To this end, ARN participants will also have the opportunity to submit an abstract to present spotlight talks related to archival prior art at the kickoff event. Accepted spotlight speakers will receive an honorarium. We will also have research grants available to support those in need, with preference given to graduate students and BIPOC (more details at [portasophia.org/archival-researcher-network](https://portasophia.org/archival-researcher-network)).

## Your Participation in the Archival Researcher Network

This initiative and the kickoff event will bring together researchers who have a shared interest in psychedelic history and scholarship, as well as in answering pressing contemporary questions about what the psychedelic space will look like in the future. The ARN participants will help combat false claims to innovation at the prior art search stage via a large crowdsourcing effort aimed at compiling archival psychedelic sources. We are hoping the kickoff event will provide an initial push to expand our library’s range of archival prior art for relevant patents up to the present day.

From there, we will work with individual researchers as well as the wider group to continue supporting Porta Sophia on an ongoing basis. For example, **potential opportunities for participants moving forward include:**

- Sharing short essays related to prior art on the Porta Sophia website
- Publishing longer open access essays in a special issue of the History of Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals
- Compensation for open access fees on Porta Sophia related research published in journals behind paywalls
- Collaborating to develop sources of graduate student funding to support Porta Sophia projects
- Connecting with other ARN participants to develop mutually agreed upon projects
- Participants will also be included in a monthly email with a list of targets for prior art searches on emergent patent applications

## What's Next? Important Dates

We are asking for those interested in participating in the ARN to [RSVP by February 28th, 2022 via this form](#). At a minimum, this is a commitment to review the list of prior art targets in advance of the event, and attend the kickoff event. Shortly thereafter, we will send out targets and a follow up form for participants to indicate what, if any, targets they are working on. There will also be an option to submit an abstract for a spotlight talk. **Follow-up forms and abstracts will be due April 4th, 2022.**

## Information Sessions

Learn more about the network and kickoff event during our virtual information sessions, scheduled throughout the month of February 2022. At each interactive session, we will offer a brief presentation geared at potential ARN participants, followed by a question and answer period. We'll also provide a list of brief primer readings to provide helpful context and ground discussions. Sessions will be recorded for on-demand viewing after the events. Register via links below!

- Wed. February 9, 12-12:30 CST  
**Patent Law and Prior Art with David Casimir and Thomas Isenbarger**  
[Register for Session >](#)

- Tue. February 15, 12-12:30 CST  
**Introduction to Porta Sophia with the Data Team - Sisi Li, Shahin Shams, and Amanda Pratt**  
[Register for Session >](#)
- Wed. February 16, 12-12:30 CST  
**Psychedelic Science with Charles Raison**  
[Register for Session >](#)
- Wed. February 23, 12-12:30 CST  
**Psychedelic Archival Research with Lucas Richert**  
[Register for Session >](#)

## Timeline at a Glance

- February 2022 - **Information sessions**
- February 28th, 2022 - **RSVP to ARN and kickoff event form due**
- March 2nd, 2022 - **Porta Sophia communicates logistics to ARN (i.e. re: kickoff event prior art targets, process for sharing crowdsourced prior art, follow up form link)**
- April 4th, 2022 - **Follow up and spotlight talk abstracts form due**
- April 18th, 2022 - **Spotlight talk communicated to applicants decisions**
- June 1st, 2022 - **Workshop with Stephanie Schmitz**
- June 2nd-3rd, 2022 - **Kickoff event**
- July 2022 and beyond - **Ongoing opportunities to support Porta Sophia**

You can learn more about us at our website ([portasophia.org](https://portasophia.org)) or for an extended video overview, you can visit this link: <https://vimeo.com/653020399>.

Links to Relevant Porta Sophia Press:

[“From the Archives Back to the Clinic: How Historians of Psychedelics are Protecting the Public Domain”](#) by Chris Elcock  
[“Should Psychedelics be Patented?”](#) by B. David Zarley

Please share this CFP widely, and reach out to Amanda Rose Pratt ([apratt4@wisc.edu](mailto:apratt4@wisc.edu), [amanda.pratt@usonainstitute.org](mailto:amanda.pratt@usonainstitute.org)) with any questions or concerns.

**We are excited to have you on board!**