WHY GOVERNMENT SHOULD LEAVE SMOKERS ALONE

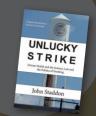


Forest and the University of Buckingham Press invite you to a talk by **John Staddon**, author of Unlucky Strike: Private Health and the Science, Law and Politics of Smoking (with original illustrations by David Hockney).

Wednesday 11th June 2014 from 6.15-8.00pm

Institute of Economic Affairs 2 Lord North Street London SW1P 3LB

The event will feature drinks, a talk, and an opportunity to buy signed copies of the book







Smoking has been controversial ever since tobacco came to Europe in the 16th century. Fifty years ago almost everyone smoked. Fifty years before that smokers were in the doghouse - cigarettes were illegal in several US states early in the 20th century. Smoking has always been a ready source of revenue. It has also been a source of health problems, real and imagined. The mixture of pleasure, money and health risk means that smoking is rarely treated fairly by politicians, health professionals or the public. Now, tough anti-smoking laws are almost universal. Yet smoking has no public cost. It

puts individual smokers at risk. It does not put the public purse at risk.

Prompted by this surprising discovery John Staddon looked further into the facts. The more he looked the weaker the case against smoking as a public health issue became. The case against environmental tobacco smoke, in particular, is exceedingly weak. So if smoking has no public cost and the medical case for third party harm is weak, why are smokers victimised in so many ways? Unlucky Strike tries to find out - and the answer is not pretty.

The Author

John Staddon is James B. Duke Professor of Psychology, and Professor of Biology and Neurobiology, Emeritus, at Duke University. He is a Faculty Affiliate at the John Locke Foundation and Honorary Visiting Professor at the University of York. He has published more than 200 research papers and six books.



