
Cohort Studies and Substance Use: Implications for Analysis, Theory and Intervention

One Day Symposium at Nuffield College, University of Oxford
4th June 2009, 9h00-17h00

Convenors: Alex Sutherland and Lindsey Richardson

This symposium will bring together social science researchers from around the UK who study substance use through the analysis of data derived from cohort studies. Cohort studies offer researchers a number of unique advantages, such as studying the antecedents of drug use and different stages of the addiction life cycle. Cohort data enables the observation of change over time, analysis of temporal dependencies and consideration of the impact of events or changes on a given population. Whilst these advantages allow researchers to address a range of issues, the use of longitudinal data, particularly of substance use/misuse also presents specific methodological challenges, such as sample attrition, data reliability and validity, and missing data.

The day is primarily intended for social scientists who work with cohort studies and who have a particular interest in substance use, or researchers with experience of using longitudinal and panel data derived from hard-to-reach populations. The day will serve as a platform for interdisciplinary cooperation, collaboration and the exchange of ideas about substance use.

Note: This event is free of charge, having been kindly sponsored by Nuffield College and the Department of Sociology, Oxford. Registration is required.

Speakers (affiliation – study):

- **Prof. Catharine Comisky** (Trinity College Dublin - Research Outcome Study in Ireland [ROSIE]) *“Measuring and Modelling Treatment Outcomes for Heroin and Cocaine Use in Ireland”*
- **Mr. Luca Mariotti** (University of Muenster – *Kriminalität in der modernen Stadt* [Crime in the modern city – CriMoC]) *Latent Transition Analysis: Testing the gateway theory of drug involvement*
- **Dr. Patrick McCrystal** (Queen’s University Belfast – Belfast Youth Development Study [BYDS]) *“The Belfast Youth Development Study: A Longitudinal Study of the onset and Development of Adolescent Drug Use”*
- **Miss Emma Murphy** (Queen’s University Belfast – Belfast Youth Development Study [BYDS]) *“Modelling Methadone Treatment in Ireland”*
- **Dr. Andrew Percy** (Queen’s University Belfast – Belfast Youth Development Study [BYDS]) *“Longitudinal inconsistencies in teenage self-reports of alcohol and drug use”*
- **Miss Lindsey Richardson** (Nuffield College & Department of Sociology – Vancouver Injection Drug User Study [VIDUS]) *Title Exploring impacts of missing data: The case of transitions to employment among injection drug users*
- **Prof. Tom Snijders** (Nuffield College) *“Influence from the social network: interdependent peer influence and peer selection”*
- **Mr. Alex Sutherland** (Nuffield College & Department of Sociology – Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study [PADS+] www.pads.ac.uk) *“Explaining Adolescent Substance Use: Why Moral Beliefs Matter”*

For further information, please contact

Alex Sutherland (alex.sutherland@nuffield.ox.ac.uk) or

Lindsey Richardson (lindsey.richardson@nuffield.ox.ac.uk)