

Institute for Social Science Research - PhD Student Project

ISSR Impact Area: Health

Title: *Understanding syndemics among marginalised communities in Australia*

Supervisor/s: [Professor Lisa McDaid](#), [Dr Wojtek Tomaszewski](#), [Dr Francisco Perales](#)

Funding:

Student Scholarship required, top-up funding may be available to suitable candidate

Project description:

There is growing recognition of the need to understand the clustering of health conditions affecting the most marginalised groups in society. “Syndemics” theory has been proposed as a means of doing so, while also accounting for the social contexts in which people live. However, evidence is limited and methodologically underdeveloped, particularly within Australia.

This mixed methods PhD project will first seek to evidence syndemics in marginalised communities and at the population level through multiple data sources, including administrative, general population survey data (e.g., Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC), Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, Australian Census of Population and Housing), and specialised surveys of marginalised groups, which could include those who are socio-economically disadvantaged, refugees, LGBTIQ+ and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (the final focus will be agreed between the successful student and the advisory team). The analyses will be complemented by qualitative research to explore the contexts and pathways through which people experience, negotiate and resist syndemic ill health. The findings will be a starting point for intervention development and the student will gain experience in advanced quantitative data analysis and qualitative research methods, as well as innovative methods for integrating the two.

The candidate:

We are seeking a candidate who has an excellent academic record and a particular interest and commitment in conducting high quality research to improve health. A social science background is desirable, but not essential.

Achievable Outcomes:

- A PhD from The University of Queensland in a relevant field
- Experience working within an interdisciplinary team of researchers
- Experience with oral/written presentations at national/international conferences
- Scientific papers in high impact research journals