SSA SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ADDICTION

PhD Symposium

11 November 2026

10:00-10:25	**Arrival and refreshments**
10:25-10:45	**Introduction and ice breaker** Melissa Oldham
10:45-11:45	**Session one: Drug use and mental health** Chair: Tsen Vei Lim Speakers: • Lauren Halsall – Prevalence and predictors of co-occurring bipolar and alcohol use: National estimates using the UK Mental Health Services Dataset • Kirsty Cordwell – Ascertaining the association between ADHD and adolescent substance use using data from two population-based UK studies • Hannah Degen – Quantifying the risk of paranoia using standard THC units in the Cannabis&Me London general population sample • Koren-Marie Cowap – Experiences of care in the emergency department for people with alcohol use disorder and co-occurring common mental disorders, and the impact on suicidality: A mixed-methods study
11:45-13:15	**Session two: Translating research to policy workshop** Chair: Elle Wadsworth Speaker*:* • Katherine Severi, Chief Executive of the Institute of Alcohol Studies
13:15-14:15	**Lunch break**
14:15-15:15	**Session three: Drug and gambling markets** Chair: Elle Wadsworth Speakers: • Jiaxin Deng – The bidirectional relationship between antisocial behaviour and substance use from adolescence to early adulthood: A systematic review and meta-analysis • Shuoqi Chen – The overlap between prescribed and illicit opioid use in fatal poisonings

	• Josie Dunn – Developing rapid early warning approaches for emerging novel psychoactive substances through web surveillance, computational modelling, and predictive pharmacology • Leyan Zheng –The effect of pity mechanics design on loot box purchasing behaviour: Examining guarantee thresholds and pity types
15:20-15:50	**Session four: Addiction treatment** Chair: Melissa Oldham Speakers: • Tricia McQuarrie – Implementing contingency management interventions in England: A case study investigation • Georgia Foote – What barriers and facilitators do peer mentors, staff, and patients face when delivering psychosocial interventions for alcohol use?
15:50-16:10	**Break**
16:10-16:55	**Session five: Health, safety, and stigma** Chair: Sophie Orton Speakers: • Matilda Nottage – Health information preferences for cannabis, nicotine, and co-use: A qualitative study of UK young adults with anxiety/depression symptoms • Annie Beauchamp – Disclosure of alcohol use during the antenatal period and the implications of stigma on access to care: Initial findings • Max Weselowski – Addiction stigma in a social identity context
16:55-17:15	**Closing remarks and prize winners** Tsen Vei Lim
18:30	**Evening social event** *To be confirmed*