Alcohol & other drugs have been identified as common features of IPV, via intoxication at the time of abusive events & as a correlate of abusive relationships. Surprisingly little is known about how this association functions. There remains a dearth of rigorous debate as to the various roles of substances & the implications of substance use in IPV. This has curtailed understanding of causal pathways, and has limited development in theoretical approaches to interventions for IPV. This seminar will provide a review of links across substance misuse & IPV.

Drs. Ireland and Forsyth will present quantitative & qualitative findings from The Scotia Project, comparing experiences of IPV and alcohol use among IPV offenders, those seeking help for relationship conflict, victims/survivors of IPV, and a community sample. Elaine McLaughlin and Dr. Frondigoun will present data from victim survivors with ethnic minority backgrounds exploring important features in these situations and addressing the issue as to whether alcohol is relevant here. Caroline Easton will discuss her work on perpetrator typologies, linking these with clinical case presentations.

These data will be linked with previous research on typologies within IPV, implicit thinking about relationships and about alcohol, and with evaluations of innovative interventions in this area. We aim to explore whether these data can help unravel the complexity of these cases and provide a theoretical scaffold to inform further research and practice around IPV and substance misuse.