Can we use ‘syndemics’ - the term given to the co-occurrence of multiple, interrelated disease epidemics at the individual- and population-level, which develop and are sustained due to harmful social contexts - to further understandings of health inequalities among marginalised groups? Understanding how and why negative health outcomes cluster, and what we can do to intervene to prevent this, is a matter of urgency for global public health. The seminar will introduce syndemics theory, its application, and contribution to our understanding of health inequalities. It will draw on examples from research with sexual and gender minorities and explore opportunities to affect change, and improve health and wellbeing, via community participative and asset-based approaches.

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Prof Lisa McDaid is collaborating with Lisa Fitzgerald, Alyson Mutch and Judith Dean on HIV social research projects including the current project “A community based intervention to increase HIV knowledge and prevention practices in gender variant and sexually diverse young people in Queensland”, funded by the Queensland HIV Foundation.