

VAWDASV RESEARCH NETWORK

Monthly Newsletter

Network aims -

An inclusive research community for Wales that provides a safe, open forum to bring together those who are working towards an end to VAWDASV. Specifically, the Network aims to set the future research agenda, foster collaboration, develop grant applications, undertake high quality research, to support the elimination of VAWDASV.

Objectives:

- Determine/understand the research and practice priorities for Wales
- Identify gaps in VAWDASV research
- Share knowledge and expertise (including knowledge exchange)
- 'Test' research ideas and gauge interest in collaboration
- Identify and respond to research council grant and commercial grant calls
- Co-produce research grant applications
- Develop future partnership working across the UK and internationally.

The core working group comprises members of the wider research network and will be representative of the diversity of the network.

This Month's Network Member Spotlight

Dr Emily Underwood-Lee is Professor of Performance Studies at the George Ewart Evans Centre for Storytelling at the University of South Wales. Her research focuses on unheard narratives and first person stories, particularly in relation to gendered experiences and in the context of feminist performance. Emily leads on research projects in the areas of performance and the maternal, Violence Against Women, Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse, and storytelling in health. She is PI on the AHRC funded Performance and the Maternal project and co-created the Kicking Up Our Heels project at Great Ormond Street Hospital commissioned by GOSH Arts. She co-chairs the VAWDASV Research Network Wales, co-convenes the Storytelling for Health conference, and sits on the steering group of WAHWN. Recent publications include *Maternal Performance: Feminist Relations*, co-authored with Lena Šimić, Palgrave (2021), 'On the Maternal' Performance Research (22:4), 'Storytelling for Health' Storytelling, Self, Society (15:1), and the forthcoming book *Mothering: Processes, Practices and Performances* co-edited with Lena Šimić, Routledge (2022).

Network update -

We're really pleased to launch our very first newsletter for the VAWDASV Research Network Wales on this International Women's Day. Since our launch on 25th November 2021, which also marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, we continue to build our network membership of both core group and wider network members across Wales. Our intention with this network is for it to be a supportive space where everyone with an interest in research that works towards the elimination of VAWDASV can find community, collaborators, and resources. We recognise that anyone can experience VAWDASV regardless of race, class, disability, gender, age, sexuality, or other protected characteristics, and hope that by working together we will make Wales a safer place for us all. The network currently has 59 members representing organisations across health, social care, government, local authority, education, the third sector, policing and justice, and academia in Wales. As Jane Hutt MS stated at our launch event "we can all work together towards realising the ambition that everyone can live fear free".

If you are interested in joining, please get in touch.

Sarah and Emily

Dr Sarah Wallace, Dr Emily Underwood-Lee

Co-chairs of the VAWDASV Research Network Wales

News -

#SafeToSay - Power to the Bystander campaign

The Wales Violence Prevention Unit has launched phase two of its bystander campaign, #SafeToSay, with support from Welsh Women's Aid. The campaign is targeted toward men aged 18-35, and demonstrates how they can be prosocial bystanders to prevent sexual violence in nightlife settings. The initial concept was developed with Good Night Out campaign, and this phase of the campaign has been informed by the pilot evaluation and the literature review on What Works to Prevent VAWDASV? The campaign is running across social media platforms and in Cardiff and Swansea city centres until the end of March. If you would like the campaign materials to share, please email **Bryony Parry**: bryony.parry@wales.nhs.uk



News -

GCM Study

The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Research Network Wales is running its first study: 'Setting the Research Priorities for Wales', using Group Concept Mapping, which is an online consensus method. If you are a professional in the sector or in related fields and working in Wales, **please contact sarah.wallace@southwales.ac.uk**

Male refuge services project - University of West London are running a study to investigate the needs of male and LGBT+ survivors of abuse in relation to seeking and accessing safe accommodation. In regards, to male and LGBT+ individuals with lived experience, we would like to engage in 1-2-1 discussions via Microsoft Teams to talk about their personal experiences. More project information can be found in the link below, all registered interests for 1-2-1 discussions should be completed using the contact box form at the bottom of the project page: Male and LGBT+ Survivors and Safe Accommodation – Dr Ben Hine. The project is also calling for any service providers that support these communities to engage in a joint virtual forum with other organizations on 17th March and 5th April. Using the link below, practitioners can register their availability for either date: **Doodle | Deliberative Inquiry- Wokingham Funded project**

The Welsh Government is seeking to appoint a National Adviser(s) for Violence Against Women, Gender-based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. The Adviser(s) will need to demonstrate an understanding of the sector, the challenges and aims to tackle Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Wales. For further details about this post, including the criteria for the role, please visit: **National Adviser for Violence Against Women, Gender Based-Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence - Welsh Government (tal.net)**

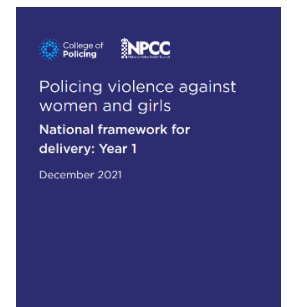
Research -

The Endemic Amid the Pandemic: Seeking Help for Violence Against Women in the Initial Phases of COVID-19

This research examined help-seeking during the first COVID-19 lockdown in a large U.S. city and used an interrupted time series analysis to assess the effects of three government interventions on domestic violence and sexual assault hotline calls and on “911” calls regarding domestic violence, assault, and rape. The research found that although “911” calls regarding assault fell by nearly half, calls to police for domestic violence were unchanged. In sum, there was a decrease in help-seeking for sexual assault and assault in general but not for domestic violence during the initial phases of the COVID-19 outbreak.

National Police Chiefs’ Council: Policing Violence Against Women and Girls National Framework

In December 2020, the National Police Chiefs’ Council published the **Policing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) National Framework**. The framework aims to coordinate and standardise the policing response to VAWG, focusing on prevention, action to pursue perpetrators and help build women’s trust in policing. In conjunction with that national framework the College of Policing published a **VAWG toolkit** to support police responders in taking the right action when they become aware that a VAWG crime may have taken place.



Centre for Evidence and Implementation: Call for expressions of interest from researchers. We are inviting expressions of interest for researchers to participate in a pilot of a new online course for researchers, called the Pathways to Research Impact Course. Funded by the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI), CEI, in partnership with the Africa Centre for Evidence, is developing an online course for researchers who want to increase their impact in the fields of violence against women and violence against children. The course provides a structured process that will develop strategies that enhance research uptake, use, and impact.

Centre for Evidence and Implementation : **Call for expressions of interest from researchers (ceiglobal.org)**

Research -



Myriad Programme - Michelle Whelan, Gwilym Roberts, Gareth Branch (Calan DVS) and Dr Sarah Wallace (USW)

Calan DVS is a domestic violence and abuse (DVA) charity in Wales providing a range of services for adults and children. Since 2017, Calan DVS and USW have worked in partnership, developing The Compass Programme and accompanying Navigator package, and as part of the VAWDASV Research Network Wales. In early 2021, work begun to develop The Myriad Programme.

The Myriad Programme

The project aimed to develop an eight-week recovery and resilience programme for LGBTQ+ survivors. Led by Gwilym Roberts, the project established a working group and action plan, and adopted a co-productive approach. To inform its development, semi-structured interviews with LGBTQ+ survivors and two online workshops with professionals were held. Launched as a pilot in April 2020, Myriad provides a safe space for survivors to explore their childhood and critically assess the effects of living in a cis/hetero-normative world. They learn about the different types of abuse and the effects of this abuse. Its aim is to support survivors to develop emotional intelligence, self-esteem, and assertiveness skills. Aiding self monitoring and evaluation, participants complete the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale5 (WEMWBS, 14-item) at the beginning and end and complete a post-intervention feedback form. Feedback (sought within each session) supports programme improvement. Upon completion, participants can become peer-mentors. To date, Myriad has been delivered to three cohorts with two more commencing in February 2022. With a mix of diverse ages, gender and sexuality identities, as well neuro diverse survivors, it has been well received.

For more information about this programme, please contact **Sarah Wallace** at sarah.wallace@southwales.ac.uk or **Gareth Branch** at gbranch@calandvs.org.uk

Research Funding -

Analyse the probation and criminal justice system linked data sets,
Apply for funding to analyse the new probation and criminal justice system linked dataset.

You will help improve understanding of the criminal justice system.

You must: have demonstrable experience of working with large datasets
be based at a UK research organisation eligible for ESRC funding.

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/analyse-the-probation-and-criminal-justice-system-linked-dataset/>

The Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) programme allows a UK registered business or not-for-profit organisation (which we will refer to collectively as the 'business partner' from now on) to partner with a knowledge base partner' (either a UK higher education (HE) or further education (FE) institution, research and technology organisation (RTO) or Catapult). The KTP partnership brings new skills and the latest academic thinking into the business partner to deliver a specific, strategic innovation project. The knowledge base partner recruits the 'associate' to work on the project. The associate has the opportunity to lead a strategic development within the business developing new skills and gaining valuable experience. <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1114/overview#summary>

Partner with the police to tackle violence against women and girls
Apply for funding to work in partnership with the police to tackle violence against women and girls.

You must: be based at a UK institution eligible for ESRC funding,
collaborate with one or more UK police constabularies.

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/partner-with-the-police-to-tackle-violence-against-women-and-girls/>

UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £25 million for game-changing and commercially viable research and development innovation that can significantly impact the UK economy.

This funding is from Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation.

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/innovate-uk-smart-grants-jan-2022/>

Upcoming Events -

Dewis Choice are proud to announce our next event which is focused on LGBT+ individuals. Including launch of new guidance, films and more. For exclusive early access to these click the link below and sign up to our event on March 30th <https://eventbrite.co.uk/e/265814286687>

ExChange Wales will be running a conference series on domestic abuse and are going to be running a conference series on domestic abuse in May 2022. The conference will cover children and families and work with adults e.g., perpetrators. The conference series will run over 4 weeks with webinars, pre-recorded sessions, podcasts & blogs. Examples of our work can be found on our website and our previous webinars can be found on our YouTube channel. Please contact **Dr Alyson Rees directly** reesa1@cardiff.ac.uk to signpost to new research / suggest speakers, including survivors.



Engagement -

Since starting to engage on social media we have had a positive reaction, with a good reach of engagement. **1,481** impressions (times this Tweet was seen on Twitter) were made with the first post, **288** people viewed the interactive post and it brought **8** new profile visits.