



THEMES

Decolonisation in the context of alcohol and drug use prevention, treatment, research and policy focuses on the critical need to challenge and dismantle colonial frameworks that have historically shaped drug policies, health practices, and treatment approaches. This conference invites First Nations community leaders, healthcare providers, researchers and policymakers to critically explore how colonial legacies have influenced the understanding of substance use, health disparities, and treatment systems. It also aims to highlight decolonial strategies that center Indigenous knowledge, cultural practices, and community-based approaches in the prevention and treatment of alcohol and drug use.

Disruption in the context of alcohol and other drug use prevention, treatment, practice, research and policy focuses on challenging the status quo and long-held, entrenched beliefs of accepted wisdom. This year's conference invites critical reflection and respectful debate that speak to decades of underlying tensions within the sector, with a view to forging a new path and shared understanding.

Deconstruction in the context of alcohol and other drug prevention, treatment, research and policy focuses on the critical analysis of how things have always been done, or evolved to our present day. It acknowledges that approaches in the past have worked, progressed our field, been appropriate at point in time, or may have caused harm. It can seek to reject, build on, adapt and strengthen approaches. It directly connects to the other themes of decolonising and disrupting, and provides guidance on where we should be heading in the future.

We welcome abstracts that address, but are not limited to, the following areas:

Decolonising alcohol and drug prevention, treatment, research and policy	
Decolonising Substance use, dependence and Mental Health Frameworks	Exploring how colonial narratives have shaped medical and psychological models of substance use dependence, and how these frameworks can be decolonised to reflect more culturally appropriate and community-driven understandings
First Nations Approaches to Substance Use Prevention and Treatment	Highlighting First Nations healing practices, traditions, and community-based interventions in the prevention, treatment, and recovery of alcohol and drug use. How can these approaches inform contemporary healthcare strategies?
Historical and Contemporary Impacts of Colonialism on Substance Use	Examining how colonial histories, such as forced displacement of our First Nations peoples, and systemic disenfranchisement, have contributed to higher rates of alcohol and drug misuse in marginalised communities.
Anti-Colonial Drug Policy and Harm Reduction	Investigating how colonial policies have shaped current drug laws and practices, and proposing decolonial alternatives, such as harm reduction approaches that prioritise public health and human rights over criminalisation.
Culturally Relevant Health Interventions	How can public health initiatives be decolonised to better serve First Nations and other historically marginalised communities? What strategies can be employed to ensure cultural relevance, respect for traditional practices, and community empowerment in alcohol and drug use prevention and treatment?
Decolonising Healthcare Systems	Analysing the role of healthcare systems in perpetuating colonial structures, and exploring how decolonisation can make health services more accessible, equitable, and effective for people who are affected by alcohol and drug use, particularly in First Nations and marginalised communities.

Power, Stigma, and Substance Use	Investigating the intersection of colonial power dynamics, stigma, and substance use, and how decolonisation can help reduce stigma, promote equity, and empower individuals in the context of substance use recovery and support.
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Disrupting alcohol and drug prevention, treatment, research and policy	
Debating perspectives and tensions between approaches	Policy, research and practice Medical and community Harm reduction and abstinence Living and lived experience Alcohol and other drugs as healing and harmful Prevention and treatment
Treatment	Innovative models of care, programs or interventions that challenge entrenched systems or perspectives or past approaches, to enhance outcomes for people with AOD use
Translation and/or implementation	Real world examples of programs that have been translated and/or implemented and how these have challenged the status quo to improve outcomes for people with AOD use

Deconstructing alcohol and drug prevention, treatment, research and policy	
Challenging the status quo	Innovative interventions, research methodologies and policy approaches
Integrating living/lived experiences	How human experience can shape our research, policy and practice
Breaking barriers	Deconstructing systemic inequities
Multicultural perspectives	Examining cross-cultural approaches
Ethical dilemmas	Deconstructing differing perspectives in media, politics and policy
Lessons learnt	Building on approaches from the past to improve community outcomes
Future directions	Reimagining a collaborative approach to research, policy and practice