

Review of: "Which sociocultural determinants of pre-drinking amongst undergraduate university students influence motivation"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I had difficulty to read the whole article since the abstract and especially the methods section alone leads me to the conclusion that this research does not make much and does not contribute to the existing pool of knowledge. It starts with the first sentence of the abstract: "Pre-Drinking (PD) has been highlighted as a **global health concern** - in many countries PD has not been a significant public health issue at all!

However, the more important issue is the **sampling process and the sample itself**. The authors did a study covering ten countries (*how does this correlate as a global health concern?*) with undoubtedly different kinds of students and very different subsamples sizes in each country (with the biggest part coming from the UK, closely followed by Singapore, Austria and Belgium - plus some other countries with very small sample sizes; your total number is 351, not very much/enough for a quantitative survey and very small for a transnational sample; you also ignored the different drinking cultures in the countries involved. While scanning the rest of the paper, I realised that you even did cross-country comparisons - including subsamples sizes with less than ten; the total number is too low for an international study and any results cannot be generalised; the number of males and females is also not balanced.

This study has some methodological weaknesses that should be improved by the authors..