

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.

This is an interesting topic and it is clear the researchers know a lot about this field. The paper is generally well-written and the limitations section in particular was refreshingly candid. However, it needs to be reworked before it would be considered publishable. Some thoughts are below.

More substantial:

1. The paper over promises what the study can deliver. For example, the study is not able to investigate the hypothesis about the availability of inexpensive drinks. Also, I don't think you can say that the study explores sociocultural determinants of pre-drinking. I think it would be better to say this is an exploratory study aiming to understand pre-drinking motives
2. I'm a bit unclear about why there is so much focus on the relationship between pre-drinking and drinking games specifically. Why is this important to study?
3. The introduction is quite long and some parts are repetitive and out of scope e.g. availability of cheap alcohol, normalisation theory (unless you have explicitly used this to inform your study). I think if you 'rebrand' the study as an exploration of pre-drinking motives, rework the Introduction accordingly
4. There needs to be a stronger rationale about what the study adds. A paragraph on findings of previous literature in this topic, the limitations of previous studies, and what this study adds is needed in the Introduction

Minor:

1. Some sentences are hard to understand and could be written more plainly e.g. "Post consumptive narratives also contribute to the sense of enjoyment with the reconstruction on experiences..." and "Moreover, social identities and capital are constructed via the normalisation of PD, intoxication, and the ability to out drink peers by participating in DGs based on gender roles, which account for important social variables related to PD participation."
2. The McInnes and Blackwell reference isn't in the reference list (and I think the year should be 2021, not 2001?)