

Peer Review

Review of: "Balancing the Bio in a Biopsychosocial Model of Hazardous Drinking and Alcohol Use Disorders"

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This commentary presents a well-argued and timely critique of the disproportionate emphasis on biological and genetic factors in models of hazardous drinking and Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD). The authors effectively highlight the importance of psychosocial, environmental, and commercial determinants of alcohol-related harm and provide strong support from public health literature. The discussion of genetic essentialism, stigma, and policy implications is particularly compelling and adds conceptual depth to the debate.

The manuscript appropriately cautions against overinterpretation of genetic findings, especially where functional and clinical utility remain limited. The critique of framing early-onset drinking primarily as a marker of genetic risk is persuasive and underscores the need for stronger evidentiary standards before advancing biologically deterministic interpretations.

However, the argument could be strengthened by offering clearer proposals for how a “balanced” biopsychosocial framework should be operationalised in research and clinical practice. While the critique of biomedical prioritisation is robust, more constructive guidance on integration would enhance the impact of the commentary.

Overall, this is a thoughtful and important contribution that advances discussion on conceptual models of AUD, public health policy, and the social consequences of genetic framing.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.