

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.

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

Abstract:

- May be helpful to define “pre-drinking” here for American audiences (it may be akin to what we call “pre-gaming” or drinking before an event?)
- No need to capitalize the “D” in drinking in the first sentence.
- What is the justification for the sampling from UK, Europe, and Singapore?
- What exactly is meant by the sentence: “supporting.... Positives and pleasures.” These terms aren’t defined.
- Also, if the study is on both PD and DG then that may be helpful to outline in the purpose of the study and/or title.

Intro:

- Great definitions of PD here, thanks!
- What is an example of an off-trade purchase? A quick “(e.g.,...)” would be helpful.
- The introduction is very thorough in its review of relevant literature but it is a little difficult to follow in terms of understanding where the paper is headed. The sociocultural determinants section could be made a little more concise. The intro reads more as a review paper than the introduction to a research paper.

Methods:

- Again, as per 2 of the 4 the Aims, if the paper is also largely about DGs in addition to PD, then that might be clearer to include in the title and abstract.
- The abstract does not mention the US as part of the study population, but it is referenced in the “Participants” section of the Methods.
- The authors bring up a great point that COVID and the prevalence of online instruction in August 2021 may impact drinking cultures for university students if they are not on campuses and with fellow students in person. Is there any way to control for this since there is variation of experience with hybrid vs. in person. vs. online only across the countries?
- Were any of the survey questions validated? Was reliability assessed?

- What's the justification for the cell size <10 exclusion? Could aggregate for countries with smaller samples.

Results:

- I'm not sure I see the value in reported the descriptive results reported in Tables 2-4 by countries of origin. Could aggregate.
- Same as above comment for inter-group differences in Table 5 as well as Table 6. What are we learning from seeing the differences in PD motivation between two specific countries? Between-gender differences is interesting. Maybe aggregating to between-continent differences could be interesting.

Discussion:

- I would suggest adding COVID and potential for UG students not being on campuses as a limitation of note in the discussion.
- Additionally, this is a descriptive study and it may be helpful to note that as a limitation to what can be inferred from results here as well.