GENDER, ALCOHOL, AND CULTURE: REFLECTIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL GENACIS PROJECT

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Alcohol Abuse: A Gender and Cultural Perspective
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Gender, Alcohol and Culture: An International Study (GENACIS) is a collaborative international project affiliated with the Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol and coordinated by GENACIS partners from:

- University of North Dakota (USA)
- Aarhus University (Denmark)
- Alcohol Research Group/Public Health Institute (USA)
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (Canada)
- AER Centre for Alcohol Policy Research/ Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre (Australia)
- Addiction Info Switzerland Research Institute (Switzerland)
GENACIS FUNDING SOURCES

- U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism/National Institutes of Health (Grants R21 AA012941 and R01 AA015775)
- World Health Organization
- European Commission Quality of Life and Management of Living Resources Programme
- German Federal Ministry of Health
- Pan American Health Organization
- Swiss national funds
- Government agencies and other national sources (for individual country surveys)
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GROUP ON GENDER AND ALCOHOL (IRGGA)
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- Organized in 1993 in Krakow, Poland
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GROUP ON GENDER AND ALCOHOL (IRGGA)

- Organized in 1993 in Krakow, Poland
- Now has more than 150 members from more than 40 countries
GENACIS

Gender, Alcohol, and Culture: An International Study

With funding from: the European Union, the U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the World Health Organization, and the Pan American Health Organization.
BUILDING ON EARLIER EXPERIENCE, GENACIS USED . . .

• New Surveys

• Similar Methods

• Comparable Questions
GENACIS QUESTIONNAIRE ASKS ABOUT . . .

• Drinking Behavior

• Drinking Contexts

• Drinking Consequences
OTHER GENACIS QUESTIONNAIRE DOMAINS

• Social Networks/Social Support
• Employment Experiences
• Social Roles
• Intimate Relationships
• Violence/Victimization
• Health/Lifestyle
SOCIETAL-LEVEL VARIABLES INCLUDE…

- Gender Equality
- Economic Development
- Country-Level Drinking Variables
GENACIS SURVEYS CONDUCTED IN 39 COUNTRIES

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Isle of Man, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Russia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, USA, Uruguay
Current GENACIS Countries: 2011
Alcohol, Gender and Drinking Problems

Perspectives from Low and Middle Income Countries

World Health Organization
SOME GENACIS FINDINGS

- Age x gender drinking patterns
Gender and alcohol consumption: patterns from the multinational GENACIS project

Richard W. Wilsnack¹, Sharon C. Wilsnack¹, Arlinda F. Kristjanson¹, Nancy D. Vogeltanz-Holm¹, & Gerhard Gmel²

University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Grand Forks ND, USA¹ and Swiss Institute for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Problems, Lausanne, Switzerland²

Addiction, 2009, 104, 1487-1500
SOME GENACIS FINDINGS

- Age x gender drinking patterns
  - Less decline with age outside Europe and North America (Wilsnack et al., 2009)
SOME GENACIS FINDINGS

- **Age x gender drinking patterns**

- **High-risk subgroups**
  - Cohabiting women (Li et al., 2010)
  - More highly educated women in lower-income countries (Grittner et al., 2012)
  - Women with fewer social roles (paid employment, partnership, parental) (Kuntsche et al., 2009)
  - Sexual-minority women, only in North America (Bloomfield et al., 2011)
SOME GENACIS FINDINGS

- Alcohol and intimate partner violence
  - IPV more likely where either partner drinks heavily (Graham et al., 2008)
Physical Partner Aggression Events by Past-12-Month Heavy Episodic Drinking: U.S. Women

Source: Wilsnack et al., 2008. See also Caetano et al., 2005; Drapkin et al., 2005.
Male Physical Aggression by Past-12-Month Heavy Episodic Drinking

SOME GENACIS FINDINGS

- Alcohol and intimate partner violence
  - IPV more likely where either partner drinks heavily
  - IPV more severe when alcohol involved (Graham et al., 2010)
Source: Graham, Bernards, Wilsnack, & Gmel, 2010.
SOME GENACIS FINDINGS

- Alcohol and intimate partner violence
  - IPV more likely where either partner drinks heavily
  - IPV more severe when alcohol involved
  - Multi-country qualitative study of alcohol and partner violence (Holmila et al., 2011)
SOME GENACIS FINDINGS

- Alcohol and intimate partner violence
- Social change and women’s drinking
  - High abstention rates in most lower-resourced countries
SOME GENACIS FINDINGS

- Alcohol and intimate partner violence
- Social change and women’s drinking
  - High abstention rates in most lower-resourced countries
  - Rapid increases in women’s drinking with economic development
Alcohol Use among Adult Women: Korea, 1989-2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>men</th>
<th>women</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>33</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>82.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Korea Ministry for Health, Welfare and Family Affairs; So Hee Lee, 2010.
SOME IMPLICATIONS FOR WOMEN-FOCUSED PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

- Services for middle-aged and older women in lower-resourced countries
SOME IMPLICATIONS FOR WOMEN-FOCUSED PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

- Services for middle-age and older women in lower-resourced countries
- Target groups for primary and secondary prevention: cohabiting women, more highly educated women in lower-income countries, women lacking meaningful social roles
SOME IMPLICATIONS FOR WOMEN-FOCUSED PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

- Associations between alcohol and IPV an important treatment issue
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- Associations between alcohol and IPV an important treatment issue
- Prevention of substance abuse → reduction in IPV?
SOME IMPLICATIONS FOR WOMEN-FOCUSED PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

- Economic and gender-role change a “natural experiment” in preventing women’s substance abuse?
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- Policies to prevent alcohol advertising that targets women
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- Economic and gender-role change a “natural experiment” in preventing women’s substance abuse?
- Policies to prevent alcohol advertising targeting women
- Social marketing of abstention and low-risk drinking as female empowerment and gender equality/superiority
GENACIS: FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Current GENACIS Grant: Gender, Alcohol, and Culture: Secondary Data Analysis (Grant R01 AA015775)

- Funded by U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)/National Institutes of Health ($2.4 million USD)
CURRENT GENACIS R01 GRANT

- Principal Investigator: Sharon Wilsnack (USA)
- Co-Investigators: Kim Bloomfield (Denmark), Gerhard Gmel (Switzerland), Kathryn Graham (Canada), Thomas Greenfield (USA), Robin Room (Australia), Richard Wilsnack (USA)
- Grant period: May 1, 2007 – April 30, 2013
Title: Harm to Others: New Cross-national Perspectives on Gender, Alcohol, and Culture

Principal Investigators: Thomas Greenfield & Sharon Wilsnack (USA)

Co-Investigators: Kim Bloomfield (Denmark), Gerhard Gmel (Switzerland), Kathryn Graham (Canada), Sandra Kuntsche (Switzerland), Robin Room (Australia), Richard Wilsnack (USA)
Aim 1: Study individual and societal characteristics of (a) persons who experience harms from others’ drinking, and (b) persons whose drinking causes harms to others.

Aim 2: Study how social and economic change is associated with changes in drinking patterns and harms to others (10-year follow-up surveys in Belize, India, Nigeria, Uganda, Denmark, USA)
GENACIS RENEWAL APPLICATION

- **Aim 3:** Identify personal and social characteristics of women at risk for alcohol-exposed pregnancies

- **Aim 4:** Study harms experienced by children from other people’s drinking

- **Aim 5:** Identify individual and societal characteristics associated with harms to intimate partners from a partner’s drinking
GENACIS PARTNERSHIPS

- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism/National Institutes of Health
- World Health Organization
- Pan American Health Organization
- Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol
THANK YOU

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