

Gender, Alcohol and Culture: An International Study



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WELCOME !

As the GENACIS project expands to include new countries and colleagues, one challenge is to keep participants informed about recent and upcoming project activities. At its semi-annual meeting in February 2003 in Berlin, the GENACIS Steering Committee suggested developing a short newsletter that contains important current information about the project's progress. Louise Diers at the University of North Dakota and Friederike Fröhner at the Free University Berlin have agreed to serve as co-editors of the newsletter. Welcome to this first issue. We hope you find the newsletter helpful.



Gerhard Gmel, data supervisor for the GENACIS project, describes progress in centralizing GENACIS data sets at the November 2002 meeting of the GENACIS Steering Committee, work area leaders, and study leaders in Berlin.

HISTORY OF GENACIS

Beginning in the late 1980's, a University of North Dakota (UND) research group studying U.S. women's drinking exchanged information and survey questionnaires with researchers in several European countries, including Fredrik Spak of Sweden, Marja Holmila of Finland, and Ludek Kubicka of the Czech Republic. At the 1993 Kettil Bruun Symposium in Krakow, Poland, this small group of researchers hosted a meeting for other KBS members interested in research on gender and alcohol. At that meeting, 13 alcohol researchers from nine countries organized the International Research Group on Gender and Alcohol (IRGGA). IRGGA workshops, coordinated by Sharon Wilsnack and other UND staff, have been held annually since 1993, and IRGGA membership now includes more than 125 researchers from 40 countries. During its early years, IRGGA members conducted and published cross-national comparative analyses of women's and men's drinking, using existing survey data sets. More recently IRGGA members have designed a major international study that uses a common questionnaire to gather new data on women's and men's drinking in numerous countries. This study – named GENACIS (Gender, Alcohol,

(History Continued)

and Culture: An International Study) – now includes surveys in more than 30 countries. In 2000 Kim Bloomfield of the University of Southern Denmark, assisted by colleagues at the Free University of Berlin, obtained a major grant from the European Union to support GENACIS surveys in EU member states. Additional funding has been provided by the World Health Organization, for surveys in developing countries (coordinated by Maristela Monteiro and Isidore Obot), and by the U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism/National Institutes of Health, for costs of coordinating the international study and some survey costs for countries not eligible for EU or WHO support (coordinated by Sharon Wilsnack). It is anticipated that the GENACIS project will continue for a number of years, producing unique analyses of interactions between gender and culture as these influence drinking behavior and drinking-related problems. It is anticipated that findings will suggest more culture- and gender-sensitive approaches to measurement of alcohol use and alcohol problems, as well as to treatment, prevention, and international alcohol policy. IRGGA plans to develop a permanent archive of GENACIS data sets that can be used for future analyses of global time trends in women's and men's drinking behavior and drinking-related problems.

GENACIS Steering Committee

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LATEST NEWS

News from the EU Project

The annual reports and cost statements were submitted to the EU by the deadline of February 28, 2003.

Canadian Group To Conduct Large GENACIS Survey

A group of Canadian IRGGA members, led by Kate Graham and Andrée Demers, have received funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to conduct a GENACIS-related Canadian national survey. This large (N=14,000) national telephone survey will be a valuable addition to the GENACIS project. Congratulations, Canadian colleagues!

WHO Funds Three New GENACIS Surveys

At the February 2003 GENACIS Steering Committee meeting in Berlin, Isidore Obot of WHO announced the funding of GENACIS surveys in three new countries: Costa Rica, India, and Uganda.

Interviewer training for the survey to be conducted in the state of Karnataka in southern India was held in late March; training for interviewers for the Costa Rica and Uganda surveys will be held in April. WHO-funded GENACIS surveys have already been completed in Argentina, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka.



Co-coordinators Kim Bloomfield and Sharon Wilsnack at March 2002 GENACIS Steering Committee meeting in Berlin.

FUTURE IRGGA/GENACIS MEETINGS

1. 11th Annual IRGGA Workshop/3rd Semi-Annual GENACIS Working Meeting, May 30 – June 1, 2003, Krakow, Poland.
2. 29th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol, June 2 – 6, 2003, Krakow, Poland. Hosted by the Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology. For more information: <http://www.arg.org/kbs/krakow.html>
3. GENACIS Steering Committee, Work Area Leaders, and Study Leaders meeting, November 8-12, 2003, Berlin.

WEB SITES

We are pleased to announce the launch of the new web site for the IRGGA/GENACIS project:

(<http://www.medicine.nodak.edu/irgga>).

This site is a “work in progress,” with new items being added as the need arises. In addition to the new IRGGA/GENACIS site, other project-related websites are the following:

EU-project website:

<http://www.medizin.fu-berlin.de/statistik/Gender&Alcohol/>

GENACIS site at SIPA:

<http://www.sfa-ispa.ch/genacis/intro.htm>

KBS website:

<http://www.arg.org/kbs>

GENACIS Work Areas and Co-Facilitators:

Drinking Patterns and Contexts (EU work package 2)	Pia Mäkela and Tom Greenfield Salme Ahlström
Alcohol-Related Problems (EU work package 3)	Ronald Knibbe and Isidore Obot
Alcohol-Related Violence and Sexual Violence (EU work package 4)	Karin Helmersson Bergmark and Kate Graham
Social Inequality and Social Roles (EU work package 5)	Kim Bloomfield, Gerhard Gmel, and Andrée Demers
Societal-Level Predictors (EU work package 6)	Giora Rahav and Richard Wilsnack
Health and Lifestyle	Moira Plant and Nancy Vogeltanz-Holm
Sexuality and Intimacy	Louise Nadeau and Marja Holmila

For further information about the above EU work packages, please visit the project website:
<http://www.medizin.fu-berlin.de/statistik/Gender&Alcohol/>

Request for interesting articles and news:

Dear GENACIS members,

We would like to ask you to send your comments and suggestions for the newsletter to either Louise Diers at UND (ldiers@medicine.nodak.edu) or Friederike Fröhner at FU Berlin (friederike.froehner@medizin.fu-berlin.de). They will be highly welcome!

Also, please contact us if you wish to announce newly published papers or if you want to contribute an article or interesting news. These items will be included in future newsletters. Thank you.