

Gender, Alcohol and Culture: An International Study



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Gerhard Gmel



Sandra Kuntsche
(**& a future alcohol researcher**)

Thank you, SIPA!

We would like to congratulate Gerhard Gmel , Sandra Kuntsche , Hervé Kuendig, Ulrike Grittner, and Jürgen Eckloff for the outstanding job they did preparing the initial GENACIS work decks, overview tables, codebook, and many additional information resources for using the GENACIS data. In April the SIPA group completed CDs containing data from 28 surveys in 22 countries. In addition, SIPA staff will conduct analyses requested by GENACIS partners of data from surveys in Finland, France, and Switzerland, which have legal restrictions on distribution of their data sets.

The CDs were sent to each work area leader, who then distributed them to the first authors of papers in progress. To GENACIS members the CDs are worth much more than their weight in gold. It is exciting to see the wealth of data that is now available for our collaborative analyses and publications. Thank you, SIPA staff, for a job well done! We look forward to receiving the next version of the GENACIS work decks that will include eight additional surveys and variables from the final two work areas (sexuality/intimacy and health & lifestyle).

**PASSWORD NO LONGER NEEDED
FOR SIPA WEBSITE**
<http://www.genacis.org>

Several members have experienced difficulty accessing the SIPA website in Lausanne due to problems with the password. Provisions of the EU-GENACIS contract had seemed to require that the website be password-protected, but approval was recently received to remove the password. Members now have free access to the Lausanne website -- the password is no longer needed. The main page of the website now contains an acknowledgements statement that indicates the coordinating institutions and funding sources for the GENACIS project. Researchers are asked to include the acknowledgements statement in all publications that use GENACIS data.

IF YOU CAN'T BE IN HELSINKI

The current newsletter is devoted primarily to information about the upcoming GENACIS meetings and KBS symposium in Helsinki. If you are unable to attend the Helsinki meetings, please send the proposals or drafts of articles for which you are first author to your work area leaders, and send your comments on pre-circulated proposals or drafts to those papers' first authors. This will ensure that we can include your input and suggestions in our discussions in Helsinki. After Helsinki, we will disseminate minutes of the GENACIS workshop and an updated paper list via IRGGANET and in the next newsletter. We hope that as many members as possible can attend the November 14-17 meeting of study directors and steering committee members in Berlin, and the 2005 KBS symposium and pre-KBS GENACIS meeting in Riverside, California.

With best wishes,

Sharon Wilsnack and Kim Bloomfield
GENACIS Coordinators

GENACIS-Related Papers To Be Presented at KBS

A number of GENACIS-related papers will be presented at KBS 2004. The following list includes the authors, paper titles, and presentation times for all papers that could be identified as GENACIS-based. Our apologies if we inadvertently omitted any papers that should be on this list. Congratulations to all the GENACIS members who worked hard to produce these papers!

Monday, May 31:

11:00 am – 12:30 pm (Session 2.1)

Ulrike Grittner, Kim Bloomfield, Stephanie Kramer, Jürgen Eckloff, Andrea Stroux, Isabella Hager, Sandra Kuntsche, Gerhard Gmel, Martha Romero & Maria Elena Medina-Mora: Assessing differences in alcohol consumption patterns using a social status index (from the GENACIS project: “Gender, Alcohol, and Culture: An International Study”).

Sandra Kuntsche, Gerhard Gmel, Hervé Kuendig, Kim Bloomfield, Stephanie Kramer & Ulrike Grittner: How do social roles and social stratification influence women’s and men’s alcohol consumption? A cross-cultural analysis.

Florence Kerr-Corrêa, Alessandra F. Sanches & Luzia A. Trinca: Gender, Alcohol, and Culture: An International Study (GENACIS) – Preliminary data on patterns of problematic alcohol use and abstinence between genders in Brazil.

11:00 am – 12:30 pm (Session 2.4)

Hervé Kuendig, Gerhard Gmel & Sandra Kuntsche: Comparing the graduated frequency with extended quantity frequency approaches of measuring alcohol consumption: Should graduated frequency really become the “state of the art”?

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm (Session 3.1)

Luděk Kubička & Ladislav Csemy: The sociodemographic context of patterns of alcohol use in the Czech adult population from the perspective of their health relevance.

Tuesday, June 1:

11:00 am – 12:30 pm (Session 6.3)

Kirsimarja Raitasalo & Marja Holmila: Country variations in overall pressuring to drink less: Preliminary results from the GENACIS study.

Tuesday, June 1:

2:00 – 3:30 pm (Session 7.1)

Siri Hettige: Culture, abstinence and drinking in Sri Lanka.

Akanidomo K. J. Ibanga, Zubairu Dagona, Haruna Karick & Ochiynna Ojiji: Situational context of drinking in Nigeria.

Rogers Kasirye & Nazarius Mbona Tumwesigye: Gender, alcohol and culture in Uganda: Alcohol consumption and perceived quality of partnership.

Nazarius Mbona Tumwesigye & Rogers Kasirye: Gender, alcohol and culture in Uganda: Alcohol and its association with sexual abstinence, condom use and risky behaviour among young people aged 18-24 in Uganda.

Wednesday, June 2:

9:00 – 10:30 am (Session 8)

Kim Bloomfield, Gerhard Gmel, Ulrike Grittner, Stephanie Kramer & Jürgen Eckloff: Social inequalities in alcohol consumption and alcohol-related problems in the study countries of the EU concerted action “Gender, culture and alcohol problems: A multi-national study.”

Ronald Knibbe, M. Derickx, Sandra Kuntsche, Ulrike Grittner & Kim Bloomfield: Psychometric properties and prevalences of the AUDIT: A cross national comparison in 7 European countries.

Pia Mäkelä, Gerhard Gmel, Ulrike Grittner, Hervé Kuendig, Sandra Kuntsche, Kim Bloomfield & Robin Room: Drinking and gender differences in drinking in Europe: A comparison of drinking patterns in European countries.

Salme Ahlström: Drinking contexts in European countries.

Thursday, June 3:

11:00 am – 12:30 pm (Session 11.2)

Gerhard Gmel, Robin Room, Sandra Kuntsche & Hervé Kuendig: The hazardous drinking score – empirical validation of the pattern values score of the Global Burden of Disease Study.

Preliminary Agenda
Pre-KBS GENACIS Meeting
May 27 – May 30 and June 1, 2004
University of Helsinki, Main Building, Fabianinkatu 33

Thursday, May 27, 2004		
10:00 – 16:00	WHO meeting	
17:00 – 21:00	Steering Committee meeting	
Friday, May 28, 2004		
09:00 – 10:30	GENACIS plenary <i>Room #6 (3rd floor)</i>	Welcome, introductions, discussion of agenda (Sharon, Kim, Isidore) Updates: EU, WHO, GENACIS, R01, data centralization
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	In the hallway
11:00 – 12:00	Presentation of 2 EU papers Room #6	Drinking contexts (Salme Ahlström) Societal level predictors (Giora Rahav)
12:00 – 12:30	Structure of the next 2 days	Kim and Sharon
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break	(university cafeteria is open)
14:00 – 15:30	Paper groups	See paper groups agenda
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	In the hallway
16:00 – 17:30	Paper groups	See paper groups agenda
Saturday, May 29, 2004		
09:00 – 10:30	Paper groups	See paper groups agenda
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	In the hallway
11:00 – 12:30	Paper groups	See paper groups agenda
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break	(university cafeteria is closed)
14:00 – 16:00	Paper groups	See paper groups agenda
16:00 – 17:30	Steering Committee and Work Area Leaders Meeting <i>Room #7 (3rd floor)</i>	
Sunday, May 30, 2004		
09:00 – 11:00	Reporting back of work area leaders Room #6	7 work areas plus country profiles (15 minutes per group)
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	In the hallway
11:30 – 13:00	Wrap-up and future steps Room #6	Sharon and Kim
Tuesday, June 1, 2004		
16:00 – 17:30	IRGGA meeting	Sharon

Helsinki Travel Tips

There are several options for getting to and from the airport. You can hail your own taxi, or squeeze in with another passenger in a share taxi (about 18-20 Euros to downtown). Bus 615 is slow and takes a lot of time, Finnair bus (although a little more expensive) is much better and faster. Finnair runs shuttle buses from the airport to their office next to the train station.

On the **KBS-Helsinki-website** you will find a wonderful pdf-file about **night life** possibilities for alcohol researchers:

[http://www.stakes.fi/kbs2004/Helsinki rock city.pdf](http://www.stakes.fi/kbs2004/Helsinki%20rock%20city.pdf)

There's also a good and useful list of **things to do and see** in Helsinki at the KBS website. Go to:

<http://www.stakes.fi/kbs2004/socialprogram.html> and choose "Shopping in Helsinki."

Also, we found a **travel guide** about Helsinki ("Helsinki your way") on the following website – you can download it in 9 different languages:

[http://www.hel.fi/tourism/EN/esitteet Helsinki.asp](http://www.hel.fi/tourism/EN/esitteet_Helsinki.asp)

The **City Tourist Office** at Pohjoisesplanadi 19 (May-Sept, Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat & Sun 9am-3pm; Oct-April, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-3pm; tel 09/1693757; www.hel.fi/tourism) has free street and transport maps, useful free tourist magazines, including *Helsinki This Week*, *City*, and *Helsinki Happens*. If you're staying a while, consider purchasing a **Helsinki Card**, giving unlimited travel on public transport and free entry to more than forty museums. The three-day card (EUR 35) is the best value, although there are also two-day (EUR 28) and one-day (EUR 22) versions. For information on the rest of the country, use the **Finnish Tourist Board** across the road at Eteläesplanadi 4 (May-Sept, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat & Sun 10am-2pm; rest of year Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; tel 09/4176 9300; www.mek.fi).

Transport:

Most of the things you might want to see are within walking distance of one another. However, quick hops across the centre are easily done on an efficient and integrated tram, bus and small metro system. A one-way journey costs EUR 1.70 from the driver, EUR 1.35 in advance, with unlimited transfers allowed within one hour. Trams also issue a one-way transferless ticket for EUR 1.35 which can be picked up in advance for EUR 1.

A **multi-trip** ticket gives ten rides for EUR 12.70. A **tourist ticket** lasts one (EUR 4.20), three (EUR 8.50) or five days (EUR 12.70), and permits unlimited use of the metro and buses and trams. One-way tickets are bought on board whilst all others are bought from the bus station, tourist office or kiosks around the centre. **Metro** tickets can be bought from machines in the stations. Of **tram** routes, #3T, which follows a figure-of-eight route around the centre, is the most useful. **Taxis** have a basic charge of EUR 3.40 in the day, EUR 5 at night, with a charge per kilometre, plus a surcharge after 6 pm and on weekends, and even more after 10 pm. **Bicycles** can be rented at the Olympic Stadium, P. Stadionintie 3b (tel 09/496071), and Greenbike, opposite Parliament House at Mannerheimintie 13 (tel 09/85022850).

Helsinki's **public transportation website** provides all the necessary and up to date information and prices about getting around in the city:

<http://www.hkl.fi/english.html>

The **tourist office's website** is:

<http://www.hel.fi/tourism/EN/matko.asp>

Before you leave for Helsinki:

This is a website with wonderful **photographs of Helsinki** which are updated almost every day, so you can have a real actual impression of this wonderful city:

http://taivasalla.net/index_eng.html

WEB SITES

IRGGA/GENACIS project:

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

EU-project website:

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

GENACIS site at SIPA:

<http://www.genacis.org>

KBS website:

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

Upcoming Meetings

1. GENACIS/WHO meeting, May 27, 2004, Helsinki, Finland.
2. GENACIS pre-KBS meeting, May 28-30, 2004, Helsinki.
3. Kettil Bruun Symposium, May 31 - June 4, 2004, Helsinki.

Please send suggestions for future issues to newsletter editors Louise Diers (ldiers@medicine.nodak.edu) and Friederike Fröhner (friederike.froehner@charite.de).

Best wishes to everyone for a very pleasant summer!