Gender and alcohol: an international study (GENACIS)

“GENACIS”, a major international study, uses a common questionnaire to gather new information on women’s and men’s drinking. GENACIS now includes surveys in more than 37 countries across the world, now including Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Europe, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, North America, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Uganda and the UK.

The GENACIS study draws comparisons both within and between countries. It collects data on women’s and men’s drinking patterns, contexts and problems, to enable analysis of gender differences, specifically:

- The prevalence of men’s and women’s alcohol problems and gender differences in problem prevalence.
- The experience of violence in close relationships in connection to the drinking behaviour of men and women.
- Gender differences in social inequalities in alcohol use and abuse, and in the influence of social roles on heavy alcohol use.
- How societal-level factors (e.g. gender equality and drinking culture norms) predict women’s and men’s alcohol use and alcohol-related problems.

The study has collected data using a standardised instrument specifically designed by the study team with careful translation and back translation to ensure comparability. Information on gender differences in drinking contexts and alcohol-related problems, provides a more robust source of data on alcohol abuse and alcohol dependence for reference use across the world.

Information on the combining of family and work roles in the development of alcohol problems has enabled identification of the combinations of social roles related to higher risk for hazardous alcohol use and abuse.

The diversity of countries included in the analysis enables broad consideration of societal characteristics as predictors and modifiers of men’s and women’s alcohol consumption and problems. This information has been useful in developing regionally and culturally gender-sensitive social and health policies across the world.

In collaboration with the WHO, the GENACIS project has trained project teams and interviewers in many countries including those that do not have a history of epidemiological research.

The GENACIS project will continue for at least twenty years, producing unique analyses of interactions between gender and culture. Findings from this study are providing more culture and gender sensitive approaches to measurement of alcohol use and alcohol problems, as well as to treatment, prevention, and international alcohol policy.

Contact details
Project lead
Prof Moira Plant
Faculty
Health and Life Sciences
Project Team
Alcohol and Health Research Unit, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences
Contact
Moira.Plant@uwe.ac.uk
Funder and programme
U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
Timescale
Ongoing