

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Thematic meeting of the Kettil Bruun Society: Youth Drinking in Decline (26th-28th May, Stockholm)

Background

Researchers in a number of countries have identified major changes in adolescent alcohol consumption since the early 2000s, with the prevalence of teenage drinking more than halving in some countries.

These declines clearly have major implications for public health – later onset of drinking by young people (or ongoing abstinence) should lead to reductions in an array of negative outcomes both during teenage years and as these cohorts age into adulthood. However, the trends raise issues for alcohol policy researchers – how do we understand the major shift in drinking behaviour by teenagers across countries with diverse policy settings and drinking cultures?

A range of quantitative and qualitative work is underway in many countries trying to understand these shifts and the topic is ripe for collaborative international research. An international research conference titled ‘Youth Drinking in Decline’ will be held to explore this topic in Stockholm, Sweden on the 26th-28th of May 2021. The conference will provide an overview of work in this space, with the aim of sparking new ideas and collaborations between attendees.

Themes

The program will be organised around the following themes:

1. Exploring the consistency of declining youth drinking trends within and between countries
2. Explaining the decline in youth drinking
3. Understanding how declines in adolescent drinking have affected later adult consumption patterns
4. Associations between youth drinking trends and trends in wider youth behaviour and culture
5. Implications for public health, public policy and practice of declining youth drinking trends

Structure and participation

We welcome a maximum of 60 participants interested in subjects relevant to the themes of the conference. Selection of abstracts for presentation will be based on scientific quality and thematic relevance. Each paper will be assigned a discussant and time will be allocated for comments, questions and discussion from the audience.

Costs of participation

Accommodation and meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, coffee/tea) are included in the conference fee. There will be a €50 registration fee for the conference and participants will be expected to finance their own travel.

Submissions

We welcome quantitative, qualitative, methodological and conceptual abstracts on the above themes. Contributions are invited from all academic disciplines and all parts of the world. Considering the international scope of the trend in youth drinking a broad representation of countries will be given priority and studies with cross-national comparisons will be given high priority. Research can be quantitative, qualitative or theoretical and can include studies exploring these trends in more detail (e.g. by extending beyond simple prevalence trends) as well as studies that examine the mechanisms of these changes or the position and role of alcohol for young people. Abstracts should relate to unpublished research in progress. Those interested in presenting at the conference are invited to register and submit an abstract via the conference website. Abstracts should be a maximum of 250 words and should be accompanied by up to five key words and a conflict of interest statement. Abstracts should be submitted no later than 15th December 2020. Notification of acceptance of abstracts will be sent out by 10th February 2021.

Studies focusing on broader general trends among youth that can be of importance for understanding trends in alcohol consumption are also welcomed (media/internet use, health behaviours etc.). These should ideally include some measure of drinking behaviour or explicitly be framed around the importance of the specific topic for understanding drinking behaviours among youth to be considered.

Full final papers should be submitted by 30th March 2021. Papers should be no longer than 16 pages (font size 12, single-spaced) including tables and references. Conference registration will open on 10th February.

Contact

If you have questions about the conference, please contact the organising team: info@KBSThematic2021.se. For questions about the scientific programme please contact Jonas Raninen (jonas.raninen@can.se).

Covid-19

The conference is presently planned to be held as a regular event with participants attending the conference in Stockholm. With the situation surrounding Covid-19 rapidly changing the conference might be postponed, cancelled or changed to an on-line event with short notice. We will do our best to keep participants informed with as much notice as possible.

Website

Please see our website for information <https://kbsthematic2021.se/>