

Call for papers

Policies Favouring Lower-Alcohol Content Beverages: Motives and Consequences
Hotel Admiral Copenhagen,
16–17 March, 2011

The effects of favouring lower-alcohol-content beverages have in different times been a topical issue in Nordic alcohol policy debate. A preference for lower-alcohol beverages is visible in policies such as higher taxes on spirits and greater availability and advertising opportunities for beer and other lower-alcohol content products. These policies convey a hierarchy of perceived effects by beverages according to their alcohol content. As

of yet the reasoning and the outcomes of this preferential treatment has not been properly mapped. There are no satisfying answers to questions such as: Does harm per litre vary between different beverages? What are the short and long term consequences of people being lead, due to various reasons, to drink low-alcohol beverages rather than high?

The meeting strives at gathering a wide range of research, which produces evidence on the underlying motives as well as effects of such policies. Both empirical testing and pieces on historical contexts or policy rhetoric are welcome. Work that investigates the following questions is especially relevant: What decisions that lead to a favouring of lighter beverages have been made, when were they taken and what can be said about immediate and long-term effects? What were the effects of the changes in terms of trouble per litre? What did the discourses/ rhetoric underlying these policies look like?

Papers representing different drinking cultures and policy traditions will strengthen the comparative dimension of the initiative as a whole.

Registration & abstract:	14 January, 2011
Paper submission:	21 February, 2011
Registration at:	www.nordicwelfare.org Link: "Seminars and meetings" http://www.nordiskvalfardscenter.org/?id=86058
Organizer:	Nordic Centre for Welfare and Social Issues (NVC)
Project planning group:	Robin Room, Mats Ramstedt, Christoffer Tigerstedt, Esa Österberg, Norman Giesbrecht, Pia Mäkelä, Thomas Karlsson, William Kerr, Jacek Moskalewicz, Johan Edman, Sidsel Erikson, Matilda Hellman
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Meeting location:	Hotel Admiral, Toldbodgade 24–28 DK-1253 København K – Danmark http://www.admiralhotel.dk/Beliggenhed.aspx

Call for abstracts

Mixed methods in Nordic alcohol and drug research – Special issue of *Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* (NAD)¹

Drug and alcohol research has a long tradition of quantitative and qualitative study. The two methodologically different perspectives have to a large degree also been separated in and/or between research projects. The question has been asked, however, whether it might be useful to employ the qualitative in quantitative studies, and vice versa, in order to transgress some of the limitations of separate methods. While this is not a new argument, the concept of the mixed method has in recent years been developed to elaborate and clarify the variety of ways in mixing methods. For example, the notion has been applied to mixing different qualitative methods, combining quantitative survey data with register data and using a mix of survey data and ethnography.

This special issue of *Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* will address the discussion of mixed methods in Nordic alcohol and drug research. Our specific focus are those research projects which make use of both *quantitative and qualitative* perspectives as integral and central elements of the core research project and findings. Also, both kinds of data should preferably be integrated in the analysis. We hope to reach research projects which make an effort to develop the use of mixed methods and where the use of mixed

methods has a decisive impact on the final outcome of the research project.

The aim of this special issue is to investigate how integrated mixed-method studies can give answers to the research questions raised in alcohol and drug research, including complex issues such as criminalisation, marginalisation, illegal activities, harm, pleasure, and social, physical and psychological consequences. Such issues make it worthwhile questioning what mixed-method studies can offer in comparison to monomethodological approaches. The special issue will thus take up the complexities of designing, practising, analysing and publishing mixed-method studies, as well as discussing the reasons for applying a mixed-method design. We ask for papers that:

Discuss the epistemological problems with mixed methods in alcohol and drug research. These could refer, for example, to the use of concepts, theory and analysis in (at least) two very different research traditions with separate paradigms of validity and reliability.

Address methodological developments in mixed methods in specific areas of alcohol and drug research. Such papers could deal with the consequences of researching hidden populations, sampling problems, public opinion, etc. It is central that the methods are developed and reflected upon in relation to the particularities of the topic examined in the field of alcohol and drug research.

The ambition is not to attract pure theoretical and methodological papers, but rather to seek methodological reflections on concrete empirical topics in alcohol and drug research. For the authors, the special issue is a platform to clarify and develop methodological reflections. We therefore invite papers that use mixed methods as a pragmatic way to overcome difficulties in a specific research topic as well as designs where mixed methods are part of the set-up from the very start.

1) as part of the NordForsk researchers' network MischMasch

Deadline for abstracts: 15 January, 2011.

Please send your abstracts to jd@crf.au.dk

All articles that will be commissioned for the special issue will be peer-reviewed in accordance with the normal procedures of the journal. For information about the journal, see <http://www.nordicwelfare.org/?id=119359>. For instructions to authors (in English), see <http://nat.stakes.fi/EN/instructions/instructions.htm>.

Vibeke Asmussen Frank & Jakob Demant

Guest editors, NAD

