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## **Groups at collegiate drinking events: Four ways to examine their structure, dynamics and construction**

James Lange, Loraine Devos-Comby

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## Background

- Little is known about the small group environment in which college drinking occurs
- Most of the research focuses on individual level factors such as:
  - Motivations, expectations & personality
- Most college drinking events include small groups even when within larger parties

Source: Clapp et al 2008; Lange et al, 2006

## Natural Drinking Groups (NDG)

- Drinking groups have typically been studied using observational techniques or in artificially created groups
- Typically conducted in bars, excluding students that are underage
- Thus, little is known about natural drinking groups:
  - How they form
  - Their structure
  - Their dynamics
  - How they deconstruct

Source: Clark 1981; Single 1993; Clapp et al 2006

## NDG Defined

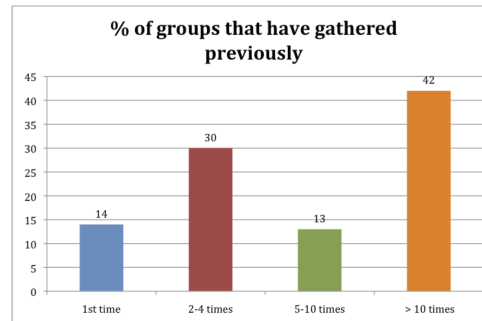
- A collection of two or more people organized to share a social activity centered on drinking who are bonded by friendship or other interpersonal relationships
- NDG are distinct from parties, which are typically larger than a NDG
  - Parties can be attended by multiple NDGs and a single NDG could attend multiple parties
- NDGs can be described using these elements
  - Roles, relationships & norms

Source: Lange et al 2006

## Four NDG Study Methods

- Web Survey
- Interviews
- Online Diaries
- Sidewalk Surveys with Follow Up

## Last Event- Group Construction

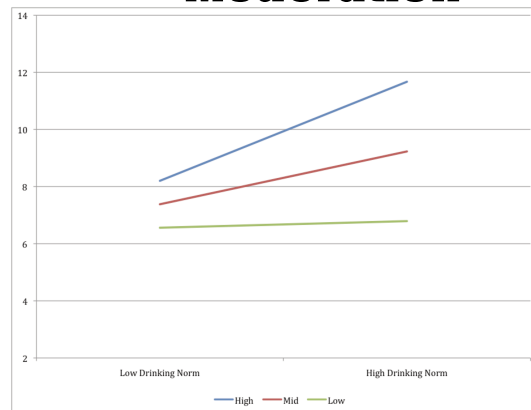


## Last Event – Group Influence

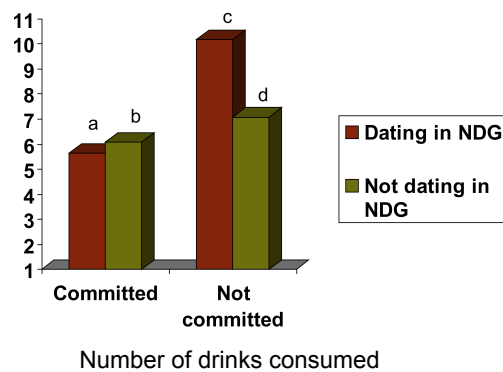
Table 1. Centered multivariate regression: Group influences on event drinking

n=414	B	Std Err	sig.
Age	-0.59	0.090	.516
Gender (0=m, 1=f)	-2.556	0.556	.000
Greek (1=no, 2=yes)	-2.630	0.724	.000
Descriptive Norm	0.039	0.014	.005
Social Identity	0.019	0.181	.916

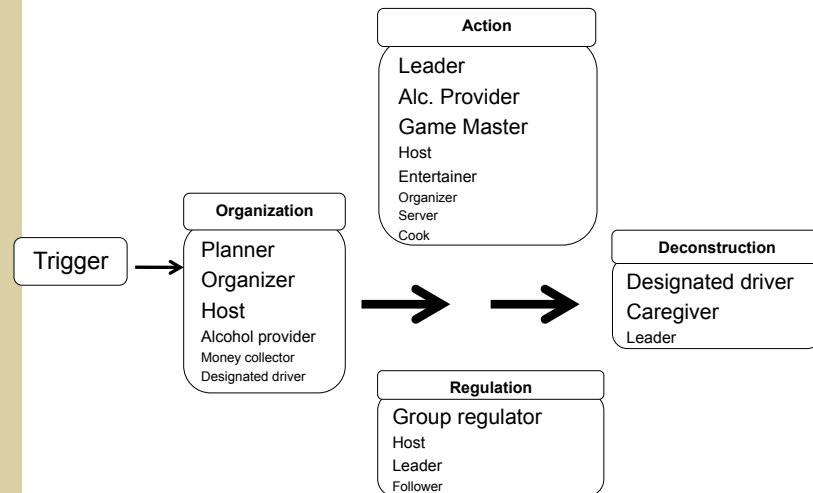
## Last Event – Group Identity Moderation



## Last event Web Survey: Effect of Dating Relationships



## Results of Interviews: Stages of group processes



## Diary Study Purpose

- The diary study expands on our previous research
  - Increased No. subjects
  - Increased No. of groups
  - Repeated assessments
- This permits an analysis of the stability of the group structure over time and situations

## Procedure

- Required to attend 1 training session (\$15)
- Complete Diary (PLOG) entry once a week for 4 weeks
- Each week completed earned \$15, plus a \$15 bonus for completing all 4 (\$90 total)

## Survey (PLOG)

### Ex. Quantitative

- No. in group
- Group member demographics
  - Gender, student status
- Member drinking
  - Intoxication level
  - Drinking or not
- Participants drinking history

### Ex. Qualitative

- Member names
- Participant event drinking
- Closeness to members
- What happened
- Event location
- Hook-ups
- Resources
- Roles

## PLOGs

- Event-specific analyses: each NDG = unit of analysis (n=218), with up to 4 events nested within 68 participants.
- Examined stability of roles across NDGs within participants.
- Coded five roles: *Hosts*, *Leaders*, *Followers*, *Caregivers*, and *Alcohol Providers* as 0=absent, 1=present, each week.
- General Estimating Equation (GEE) models examining predictors of roles as a function of group factors, accounting for the clustered nature of the data (up to 4 drinking events nested within 68 participants)

## Frequency of Roles in NDG

Role Present	Percent (N)
Host	24.3 (53)
Leader	50 (109)
Follower	51.4 (112)
Caregiver	11.5 (25)
Alcohol provider	28.9 (63)



## Predicting Roles

- As average age of group increased, likelihood of HOST present increased
- As group size increased, odds of HOST present decreased
- Odds of FOLLOWER present lower when group is all students from same school relative to a mixed group
- Greater percentage of drinkers associated with increased odds of PROVIDER present

## Group Recruited Survey

- Methods – 122 Late-night whole group recruitment with Monday & Friday follow up surveys (n=350)
- 105 groups with full (34) or partial (71) follow-up survey (n=188)
- Breath tests at contact

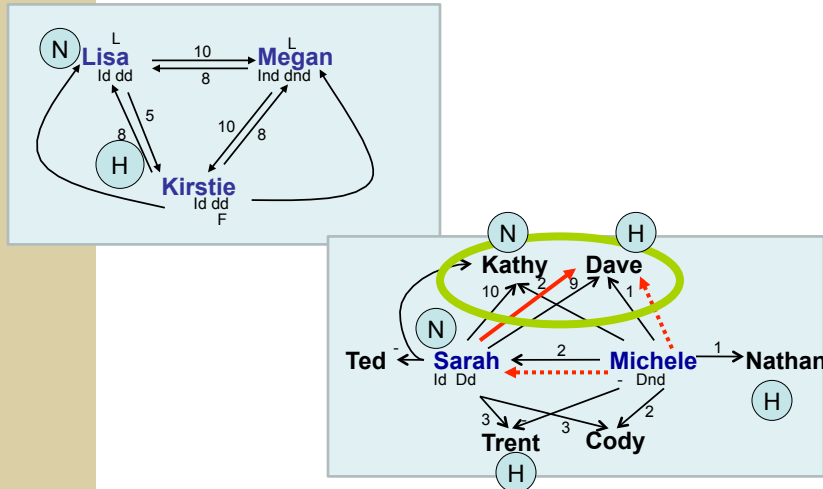
## Group Characteristics

- 21.3% were mixed 21+ and <21.
- 68.0% were <21 only.
- Average size = 2.85 members.
- Mixed gender groups tended to be larger ( $p < .01$ ).
- Mixed race groups tended to be larger ( $p < .05$ )
- Organized through in-person (42.3%) or texting (28.9%) means

## BACs at Contact

- 52.9% were at BAC=0.0
- Of positive BACs, mean BAC was .07 (no gender differences).

## Mapping Groups



## Three Dimensions of NDGs and Correlations with Social Identity & BAC

Dimensions	Variance	Items	Loadings	Social Identity	BAC
Resourceful	32%	Knowledge of events	.81	$r = .08$ ns	$r = .19$ $p = .02$
		Connections	.72		
		Access to alcohol	.69		
		Access to drugs	.67		
Social appeal	15%	Humor	.80	$r = .31$ $p = .000$	$r = .006$ ns
		Social skills	.79		
		Attractiveness	.63		
		Dancing ability	.59		
Nurturing	12%	Sensitive to others' needs	.83	$r = .36$ $p = .000$	$r = -.11$ ns
		Caring of other people	.74		