# RSA's Code of Conduct

#### At the RSA Meeting, you agree to:

- Respect people & their space
- Respect confidentiality & privacy
- Look out for each other. See something? Say something.

#### **These behaviors DO NOT belong at the RSA Meeting:**

- Sexual harassment, of any kind, including unwelcome attention & inappropriate physical contact
- Racism, sexism, heterosexism, any discriminatory behavior
- Being disruptive or threatening anyone



**RSA Anti-harassment Statement** 



https://tinyurl.com/RSAAntiHarass23

Improving our understanding of the etiology of problematic alcohol use via alcohol's reinforcement value in longitudinal and experimental data











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#### Modeling the Value-Based Decision to Consume Alcohol in Response to Emotional Experiences

Jonas Dora<sup>1</sup>, Amber Copeland<sup>2</sup>, Matt Field<sup>2</sup>, and Kevin M. King<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> Department of Psychology, University of Washington <sup>2</sup> Department of Psychology, The University of Sheffield







## "It is well-known that people drink-to-cope."



Baker et al., 2004, Psych Rev; Cox & Klinger, 1988, JAP; Koob & LeMoal, 2008, Ann Rev Psych





## "It is well-known that people drink-to-cope."



Bresin et al., 2018; PAB; Cooper et al., 1995, JPSP; Dora et al., 2023, Psych Bull; Stevenson et al., 2019, JAP; Votaw et al., 2021, CPS





How to better understand potential negative reinforcement of alcohol use?







### Method/Open Science

- 3 (neg vs pos vs neut mood induction, within-subjects) x 2 (heavy vs light-drinking, between-subjects) design
- *N* = 200: 100 heavy-drinking individuals and 100 light-drinking individuals recruited via Prolific.co
- Study was preregistered in detail
- Anonymized data openly and freely available
- Experimental materials openly and freely available
- Data analysis and power simulation code openly and freely available









## Drift diffusion model of decision-making



Drift rate = rate of evidence accumulation Boundary separation = response caution

Ratcliff & McKoon, 2008, Neural Comp; Shinn et al., 2020, eLife; Wagenmakers et al., 2007, Psych Bull & Rev





#### Hypotheses

- H1: Stronger increase in drift rate<sub>alc</sub> following negative (vs neutral) mood induction in heavy (vs light) drinkers
- H2: Stronger decrease in boundary separation<sub>alc</sub> following negative (vs neutral) mood induction in heavy (vs light) drinkers
- H3: Stronger increase in drift rate<sub>food</sub> following negative (vs neutral) mood induction in light (vs heavy) drinkers
- H4: Stronger decrease in boundary separation<sub>food</sub> following negative (vs neutral) mood induction in light (vs heavy) drinkers



#### Manipulation check







#### Preregistered results







#### Exploratory results







#### What have we learned?

- Perhaps people don't value alcohol more when in a negative mood but value the alternative less? However:
- Need to explore this across more substance-free alternatives if results generalize beyond alcohol vs food
- Need to create stronger separation between subsamples OR
- Give up on the idea to recruit subsamples and instead follow-up experimentally on exploratory result (mood x craving)
- Choices between two alcoholic or two non-alcoholic stimuli not exactly what we want to study