



## Pre-announcement KBS-thematic meeting

Please feel free to go to <http://www.ru.nl/kbsmeeting/english/> for further information on the upcoming thematic meeting in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, of which you already received a pre-announcement. In March there will be a formal conference website with the possibility for registration.

### **Episodic heavy drinking among adolescents**

Research conference, 10, 11 & 12 December 2009

Nijmegen, the Netherlands

Organised by IVO-NL (universities of Nijmegen, Maastricht, Tilburg and IVO-Rotterdam) and Trimbos Institute

Maximum of 100 participants

Deadline abstract: September 10, 2009

Deadline paper: November, 10 2009

Registration & call for abstract: expected to be open after January 1, 2009

---

In the 20th century, young people have been seen maturing earlier, physically, psycho-socially, and intellectually. During the same time, however, there have been indications of a deferment of adulthood. Modern adult life has become more complex and demanding, and seems to require a longer preparatory phase. Perhaps, the earlier maturation of western youth makes them more vulnerable to the shady sides of adult life at a younger age, such as alcohol and drug abuse. Evidence seems unequivocal that adolescents in Western societies drink more now than decades ago. This has raised concerns in several countries, translated in calls for action, such as an increase in the age limits on drinking. One could argue that these, mostly, adult concerns are fueled by this contradictory trend of adolescents maturing earlier, but growing up later.

A concentrated drinking pattern has been a quite stable characteristic among the young in Western cultures. The term 'binge drinking' has been increasingly used to denote such episodic, heavy, concentrated drinking pattern. Increasing trends in drinking and adverse consequences particularly among young people have sensitized the research community, politicians, and the general public.

KBS is happy to announce the intention of four Dutch institutes, collaborating in the IVO-consortium, and Trimbos Institute (Utrecht) to organise a 3-day, so called KBS-thematic meeting on the topic of 'Episodic heavy drinking among adolescents'.

Focus is international, researchers from all societies are welcome.

**Format** of the thematic scientific research conference will be similar to the annual KBS symposium, with pre-circulated papers, presentations, and discussions.

A few **keynote speakers** will be invited.

**Topics** are: (see below)

A call for papers will be issued later on, but we invite members of the KBS to let us know if there is an interest in such a meeting. P. [Lemmens@gvo.unimaas.nl](mailto:Lemmens@gvo.unimaas.nl) or [R.Otten@pwo.ru.nl](mailto:R.Otten@pwo.ru.nl)

Preliminary themes and scheme for sessions are:

**Day1 and 2**

**1. historical perspectives on representations of heavy drinking among adolescents**

**2. heavy drinking in a broader theoretical framework**

- general theories of adolescent development
  - o normal, adaptive behaviour
- theories of problem behaviour
  - o delinquency
- controlling the behaviour of adolescents
- functional aspects
  - o positive role of drinking as a social element – abstinence as deviant behaviour
- cultural aspects
  - o drinking as a ritual, ritualised drinking

**3. methodological issues in adolescent drinking**

- conceptualising binge drinking
  - o choice of parameters
  - o assessment
- description of young (adult) drinking careers

**4. determinants of a juvenile heavy drinking career**

- vulnerability factors
- etiology (causal)
- predisposing, cultural factors
- processes of change

**Day 2**

**5. negative social and developmental effects of youthful heavy drinking**

- psychological health
- social
- school achievement

**Day 3**

**6. prevention of heavy drinking and negative effects**

- peer group oriented
- family/parental control
- school based
- community level
- mass communication influences
- prime target of prevention
  - o context versus individual behaviour

**7. evaluation of control and of policy**

- public order oriented (social cost)
  - o violence
  - o DUI
- health oriented (individual cost)
  - o acute (intoxication, accidents)
  - o chronic

**8. Reflection**

- researchers' social position in the debate over adolescent drinking issues