

LAB 7: ENTERTAINING CITIES

1. What do the authors conclude about the relationship between ‘going out’ and alcohol consumption?

They find that consuming alcohol and ‘going out’ are tied together, but there are great differences in why people consume as much alcohol as they do and their consequent behaviour. They believe media reports have greatly inflamed the popular binary view of late night activity as either drunken violence or ‘civil’ drinking (theatre go-ers). But, that the issue is much more complex and centres more on ‘comfort’ and inclusivity of city centres more so.

2. In Britain, policymakers often talk about the evening economy as involving conflict between ‘the civilized social drinker’ and the ‘young urban savage’. How do the authors challenge this characterization?

The author presents information from several participants who engage in both forms of ‘casual’ drinks and as one interviewee put it “go out to be stupid”. The author has found that these two types of drinkers are not two separate groups but can frequently be the same group of people depending on their mood/desire. He states that time of day, company and location are some of the variables that leads a drinker to drink to excess or lightly.

3. Research respondents talked about feeling somewhat excluded from the city centre at night. What reasons did they give for this? What do the authors say about how to create more inclusive city centres?

Lack of infrastructure (i.e. public transportation) was cited as a major reason some did not go out at night. Other respondents also cited fear of walking past venues of heavily intoxicated patrons

and the feeling of danger in certain areas (i.e. waiting for the bus/taxi). Still others felt excluded because they did not identify with the crowds or venues available in their neighbourhood. The author suggests policymakers not make fear-based decisions, but instead look at the reasons why people wish to go out for a drink and work to create welcoming environments such as local pubs and festivals that would encourage a diverse group of residents to enjoy their city.

4. How do the themes and findings in the reading compare to your own experience of the 'evening economy' in urban settings? Use specific examples.

Input how you feel about 'going out' in Hamilton