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TITLE OF THESIS: The Modified Drinking Motives Questionnaire-Revised: Its Psychometric Properties and the Impact of Motives on the Emotional Antecedents of Alcohol-Related Cognitions and Alcohol Consumption

TIME/DATE: 10:00 a.m., Friday July 10, 2009

PLACE: Room 430, The Goldberg Computer Science Building, 6050 University Avenue

EXAMINING COMMITTEE:

Dr. Matthew Martens, Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology and Research, University of Memphis (External Examiner)

Dr. Sean Barrett, Department of Psychology, Dalhousie University (Reader)

Dr. Jennifer Stamp, Department of Psychology, Dalhousie University (Reader)

Dr. Sherry Stewart, Departments of Psychiatry, Psychology and Community Health and Epidemiology, Dalhousie University (Supervisor)

Dr. Simon Sherry, Department of Psychology, Dalhousie University (Departmental Representative)

CHAIR: Dr. Jan Kwak, PhD Defence Panel, Faculty of Graduate Studies

ABSTRACT

Drinking motives, or reasons for alcohol use, are important determinants of drinking behaviour. Emotion-regulation motives include enhancement (i.e., drinking with the aim of increasing positive feelings) and coping (i.e., drinking in order to manage negative emotions). Typically, coping motives have been defined generically, with no discrimination between anxiety- and depression-management subtypes. The Modified Drinking Motives Questionnaire-Revised (Modified DMQ-R), which advances prior research by distinguishing between drinking to cope with anxiety (coping-anxiety) and drinking to cope with depression (coping-depression), is the focus of the four studies comprising this thesis. In Study 1, the hypothesized correlated five-factor structure of the Modified DMQ-R (including separate coping-anxiety and coping-depression factors) provided an adequate to excellent fit to the data in two separate undergraduate samples ($N = 726$ and $N = 603$). Furthermore, a model with separate coping-anxiety and coping-depression factors fit the data better than a model with a single coping factor. Importantly, coping-anxiety and coping-depression motives were associated with different patterns of alcohol use and related problems in three samples (including the two aforementioned samples and a third sample of $N = 169$). In Study 2, as hypothesized, coping-anxiety drinkers ($n = 23$) who underwent an experimental anxious (but not a positive) mood induction and enhancement drinkers ($n = 25$) who experienced an experimental positive (but not an anxious) mood induction showed an attentional bias for alcohol-related stimuli (i.e., implicit drinking cognition). In Study 3 (using the same sample as Study 2), coping-anxiety drinkers in the anxious (but not the positive) mood condition showed increases in emotional relief alcohol outcome expectancy strength (i.e., explicit alcohol-related cognitions), as anticipated. Unexpectedly, enhancement drinkers also showed increased relief alcohol outcome expectancy strength in response to the anxious mood induction. Also, enhancement drinkers did not show the anticipated positive mood-induced increases in emotional reward alcohol outcome expectancy strength. In Study 4, a daily diary study ($N = 146$), coping-anxiety motives positively moderated daily anxious (but not depressed) affect-drinking slopes and coping-depression motives positively moderated daily depressed (but not anxious) affect-drinking relations, as expected. Overall, the findings of this thesis support the distinctiveness of coping-anxiety and coping-depression motives.