Author’s response to reviews

Title: Gender differences and gender convergence in alcohol use over the past three decades (1984-2008). The HUNT Study, Norway

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Page 4 - line 27

"men have used larger amounts of alcoholic beverages, consumed alcohol more frequently" is a little inexact. Consider revising to "men have consumed more alcohol over more frequent drinking occasions"

Authors’ response: revised as suggested

Page 5 - line 20 and throughout

The term convergence would suggest change over time - could you please check whether you mean difference in levels of consumption throughout? Just to disambiguate from change over time. The point of your paper is to look at historical changes, that is change over time, and you claim that there are few studies out there looking at this issue.

Authors’ response: Given that we have understood this right, we agree that this distinction is important. We hope that a definition of "convergence" early in the article and a little greater clarity about direction of changes in drinking (and how they are relevant to convergence) in background (p 4, 5) and discussion (p.17) will be satisfying.
Page 5 - line 44 and throughout
"e.g., [29, 30]." drop the "e.g." and just stick with the citation

Authors’ response: revised as suggested

Page 6 - line 22

Where you discuss response rate, could you please confirm whether, for each survey, all eligible respondents were again invited into the survey. And confirm that this response rate is to Q1, Q2 or both Q1 and Q2. Also, if available, could you report the number of eligible respondents in the population for each survey.

Authors’ response: We have given the requested information about invitations and re-invitations of eligible respondents (page 6) Since the number of responders of both Q1 and Q2 are reported in Table 1, we have chosen to leave that out in the method section.

Page 10 - line 8

"Since a number of the individuals in this study participated in two or three of the surveys" can you include the numbers for these?

Authors’ response: revised as suggested

Page 14 - line 47

"Although prices have not decreased" is this in real terms?

Authors’ response: revised as suggested