

Alcohol II Lecture

1) **Functionalism** – seeks rational purpose of alcohol consumption:

social integration

self-medication of anxiety

Problems with functionalism:

how to disprove such an interpretation?

How to account for cultural differences around alcohol
– all functional?

How to illuminate & critique *irrational* behavior
around alcohol?

Why does dysfunctional behavior survive?

If behavior is functional, how why does it change?

2) **Brazilian case:**

Does Leacock believe cult dancers are possessed when drink alcohol?

How would he write differently if did?

How does Encantado cure alcoholics? Is it like AA?

3) **Native American case:**

alcoholism = social, not solitary

What keeps them drinking, even though they say it's dysfunctional behavior?

Biological v social explanations for Native American alcoholism (Genes v social anomie due to colonialism)

Do we hold Native Americans responsible, or is this blaming the victim?

In South Africa farmers deliberately addicted workers to alcohol to control them (Scully)

“Balanced reciprocity” – alcohol as medium of exchange and solidarity for poor Native Americans

Carol Stack (“All Our Kin”) argues poor share (money, alcohol).

To accumulate wealth, give up alcohol, have to withdraw from network

McKnight & Australian aboriginee case:

Introduction of alcohol corresponds to radical social collapse:

Suicide

Homicide

Rapes

Petty crime

Indebtedness

McKnight wants to ban alcohol. Feasible?

Like Erdrich's rage over FAS & desire to incarcerate pregnant women who drink

4) Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Why does it work?

Why do American want to think alcoholism is "disease"?

Note alcoholism in Japan:

Very gendered

Women as enablers

alcohol differently integrated to society

To question alcohol patterns is to question society