

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It consists of a blue parallelogram and a light green parallelogram, both tilted at an angle. The blue shape is in the foreground, and the green shape is partially behind it. They are set against a dark blue background with faint, lighter blue diagonal stripes.

Morphology of Drinking Games



Why Drinking Games?

Drinking games involve a specific set of rules that define when and how much alcohol a person (player) will consume.

The first documented drinking game dates back to 3000 b.c. The ancient Sumerians played a game known as the Royal Game of Ur (Encyclopedia of Recreation and Leisure in America).

Drinking games have become a ubiquitous part of the college social scene since the 1940s (Encyclopedia of Recreation and Leisure in America).

“Drinking games (DGs) are a fixture of the college social scene with 50 to 62% of students reported having played DGs in the past month” (Borsari, 2004).

Early drinking games were games of endurance and speed, lacked complexity.

Participants were 3421 college students who completed online surveys. Based on participant responses, over 100 distinct drinking games were identified and defined. Varying morphology and rules (LaBrie et al.).



Drinking games as Folklore?

In class we defined Folklore under the guidelines of:

- Irrelevance of Authorship
- Shared by a folk
- Unofficial form of Culture
- Oral tradition
- Multiple existence and variation
- Transmitted by mouth

Dartmouth Pong: Our folklore

- Who taught you Dartmouth pong?
- Who exactly created Dartmouth pong?
- Does it affect our culture?
- Who plays Dartmouth Pong?



Variation in Pong rules across campus

- No team saves (XH)
- Elbow serve is a half (GDX)
- Ceiling slams (differs house to house)
- Different definitions of Low
- No pong allowed past 9pm (Sig Nu)





Data Collection

- All sources are primary, the games have no official authorship
- Data gathering consists of interviewing our friends from Dartmouth campus, other colleges, and other countries (Slovakia, Czech Republic, The Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Serbia, Japan, Russia)
- Current sample is 30 games
- In compliance with Dartmouth College Student Affairs Alcohol and Drug Policy, the informants must only verbally describe the game as opposed to playing the game
- After the video recording, we write down the rules of the game according to the standard folklore collection method used previously in the course



Interview Process

- The informants were asked the following set of questions in the interview:
 - Can you describe the rules to the drinking game?
 - Where have you played this game?
 - When have you played this game?
 - How old were you when you first played game?
 - How old were you when you last played the game?
 - Who do you usually play it with?
 - Why do you enjoy this game?
 - How long would you play the game?
 - Have you ever heard of this game being played elsewhere?
 - Where did you learn this game? Who did you learn it from (if applicable)



Drinking Games Classification Methodology

- Following the idea of Aarne-Thomson classification system, we have characterized the collection of drinking games into the following categories.

Table 1

DG definitions and reported DG.

	Apples to apples	Balls to the wall	Baskin robins 31	Beer hockey	BS	Catch phrase
	Celebrity	Chandeliers	Counting game	Darts	Drink driver	Eights
	Flip pong	Fuck you	Hearts	Jenga	Jeopardy	Kentucky draw 1
	Landmines	Montana	Moose	Numbers	Web	Quarters
	Questions	Spoons	3, 6, 9	Thumper	Presidents and assholes	Truth or dare
	UNO	Zip-zap-zop	Touretts	What the fuck	Videogame drinking game	
Communal games	This game type has no official winner or losers. Everyone participates simultaneously following an agreed upon set of rules that dictate how much and when they will drink. All players drink in response to an agreed upon action, phrase, event, etc.					
	Movie drinking game	Never have I ever...	Spin the bottle	Song game	Drinking game to debate	TV drinking game
Chance games	This game type involves no (or very little) skill or strategy and each person drinks in turn. Often these games involve the rolling of dice, guessing of playing card values, or randomly drawing playing cards to see what action you or others must complete.					
	Beer slut	Candy land	Circle of death	Connections	Dice	Drinko
	Electricity	Fuck the dealer	3-Man	Horse races	Indian poker	Kings cup
	Let's get fucked up	High/low, black/red	1, 2, 3, drink beer	Shots and ladders	The good, the bad, the ugly	Queens cup
	Ride the bus	7, 11, or doubles	Poker	Suits	Mushroom	Pyramid
	Titanic	Tower	Up the river			
Extreme Consumption games	This type of game involves extreme isolated chugging episodes. Typically one or more standard drinks. Rules (if there are any) are simple and rarely progress beyond drinking a lot, drinking fast, or finishing your drink.					
	Beer bong	Bucket	Edward 40 hands	Chugging	Century club power hour	Cowboy face
	Dizzy bat	Drink the beer	Drunk ball	Case race	Frisbee challenge	Keg stand
	Shotgun(ning)	Shots	Waterfall	Wine slapping	Wisest wizard	
Even Competition games	This game type is defined by one versus one or team versus team competition where the losing side must drink as punishment. The winner(s) do not have to drink.					
	Baseball	Beer die	Beer pong	Black out	Boat races	Chess checkers
	Civil war	Cranium	Flip cup	Foosball	Up chicken down chicken	Rock, paper, scissor
	Taboo	Tic-tac-toe	Hit 'em up			



Casual vs Competitive Games

What is the importance of casual versus competitive games?

- Ice breaker games (getting to know someone)
- Drink as much as possible quickly
- Show whos the best
- Relaxing, without just sitting down and drinking

Casual importance

- Don't drink as much, Get to know who you are around better
- MOST competitive games can be turned into a casual game

Competitive importance

- Drink as much as possible quickly, Can be dangerous, Competition builds relationships
- Human beings have a competitive nature, Beat the odds, beat the opponent...



Multiple Variation Across the Nation

Most games can be found throughout America...but with different variations

- Examples:
 - Beirut vs Beer Pong
 - How people set up the cups
 - Slap Cup vs Rage Cage
- Games Within Games
 - Chesties and Flipcup
 - Kings cup and never have I ever



Worthy of Further Investigation

- Don't drink and drive
- Beer Mile
- Looping Louie

<https://youtu.be/LizhD1fN1xk>

Normal activities that people have adapted in a simple manner to allow for drinking to be involved.



Citations

LaBrie, Joseph W et al. "Are they all the same? An exploratory, categorical analysis of drinking game types." *Addictive behaviors* vol. 38,5 (2013): 2133-9. doi:10.1016/j.addbeh.2012.12.002