Method

Participants

The present study is derived from a parent study that will include 56 male participants, who will be recruited via ads in community and city newspapers, and on relevant online sites. Ads will request individuals to call the Alcohol and Smoking Research Laboratory (ASRL) if they and a friend are social drinkers who are interested in earning money for participation in an experiment. Individuals who contact the ASRL will be screened for eligibility via telephone.

To qualify, participants must be male social drinkers between the ages of 21–28. They must report drinking at least one day per week and affirm that they can comfortably drink at least three drinks in 30 minutes (a cutoff used in prior studies; see Sayette et al., 2012), as well as indicate willingness to do so per study protocol. They must report consuming approximately five or more drinks on a single occasion in the past 6 months. Participants will be required to be within 15% of the ideal weight for their height (Harrison, 1985). Participants will need to have a nonromantic same-sex friend with whom they regularly drink and whom they would be willing to have call the laboratory to also pursue study participation.

Participants will be excluded if they have any medical or psychiatric conditions that ethically contradict alcohol consumption (e.g. diabetes, bipolar disorder), are currently taking medication for which the use of alcohol is contraindicated, weigh greater than 200lb, or have ever intentionally abstained from alcohol due to either a formal diagnosis or concern about having a substance use disorder. Participants will also be excluded if they have uncorrected visual impairment.

Participants will then be asked to identify a nonromantic same-sex friend with whom they regularly drink and to have that friend contact the ASRL to undergo the eligibility screening.

Once both individuals within a dyad have been screened and deemed eligible, they will be scheduled for two study sessions. The present study is based on a task that will be completed during the second study session.

Procedure

Dyads who meet eligibility criteria based on the phone screen will be invited to participate in a two-session laboratory experiment, They will be informed that if they choose to participate each member of the dyad will: (a) need to abstain from alcohol for 24 hours, as well as food and caffeine for four hours, prior to each session; (b) be required to provide a breath alcohol concentration (BAC) sample to confirm sobriety by a zero reading on each session day, and that failure to do so will result in withdrawal from the experiment and no further monetary compensation; and (c) be required to consume alcohol during one of the sessions.[1] Dyads who agree to the above terms and indicate interest will be scheduled for two sessions, which will occur within one week of one another. Because the present study focuses on a task completed during session two, the following procedures outline session two. [See pre-registration, "An Analysis of the Effects of Alcohol on Perceptions of Physical Attractiveness", for session one procedures.]

Session two. Upon arrival to the laboratory participants will be weighed to inform pre-drink food amount and alcohol dosage. They will then be asked to rinse their mouths with water and to provide a BAC sample. Any participant who provides a breath reading of > .003 will be withdrawn from further participation (i.e., they and their friend will be thanked for their interest in participating and permitted to leave). Participants with confirmed sobriety will be seated in

[1] Participants will be told that they will need to arrange transportation to and from the experimental sessions, particularly noting that they will not be permitted to drive themselves to or from the session on the day in which they will consume alcohol.

separate rooms to complete multiple questionnaires (irrelevant to the present study), while they consume a bagel (amount determined by weight). Participants will use an intercom to inform the experimenter when they have completed the questionnaires, at which time the experimenter will escort participants into an experimental room wherein they will be seated together at a circular table. The experimenter will inform participants that the next phase of the session will be the drink consumption period.

Drink administration. Drink conditions (alcohol vs. no-alcohol control) will be randomized by dyad and counter-balanced across sessions, such that on session two dyads will receive the drink type that they did not receive on session one. The drink procedure will follow a protocol used in prior studies conducted at the ASRL (e.g., Sayette et al., 2012). For the alcohol condition, a 0.82g/kg dose of alcohol will be provided (e.g., a 150-lb male will receive about five ounces of vodka) and participants will be informed that their drinks contain alcohol. The drink will be one part 100 proof vodka and 3.5 parts cranberry-juice cocktail. For the control condition, participants will receive cranberry-juice cocktail and will be told that their drinks do not contain alcohol. Total beverage will be isovolumetric in the alcohol and control conditions.

Participants will receive one half of their beverage at minutes 0 and 18, respectively, such that they will consume entire beverage across 36 minutes. They will be asked to drink each half evenly over the 18 minute intervals. Immediately after the second half is finished (minute 36), participants will rinse their mouths with water, provide another BAC breath sample, and will report their subjective intoxication. In both conditions, participants will be informed that they are permitted to talk during the drinking period but will be asked to refrain from commenting on their perceived intoxication. At minute 18, participants will be given the second portion of their drink to consume as they complete a computer-based task (irrelevant to the present study) on a desktop

computer in the experimental room.

Post-drink communication task. Participants will be separated, respond to other measures irrelevant to the present study, then will begin the communication task. For the communication task, participants will be presented with two vignettes on a computer screen (see *Variables/Manipulated Variables/OSF Manipulated Variables_Alcohol and Apologies.pdf*). Both vignettes – which have been previously tested using a sample of sober participants (Chaudhry & Loewenstein, 2019) – will ask the participant to imagine himself in a workplace scenario wherein he has helped his colleague with a report. The vignette describes that the supervisor later criticizes the colleague on the report. For one vignette participants will be primed with "warmth-favoring" cues and for the other vignette participants will be primed with "competence-favoring" cues (Chaudhry & Loewenstein, 2019). Participants will then be prompted to say how they would respond to this scenario, by speaking into a voice recorder. Voice recordings will later be coded for presence of apologies.

Participants will then complete subsequent tasks and questionnaires irrelevant to the present study. Participants in the control condition will be debriefed and given an opportunity to ask questions, then will be paid the remainder of their compensation ($65 of $90) and permitted to leave. Participants in the alcohol condition will provide another BAC sample and report their subjective intoxication. They will then be seated together, given a light meal, and will remain in the lab until their BACs drop below 0.04%, per NIAAA guidelines (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), n.d.). Once their BACs approach .04% (i.e., <.05%) - as measured by BAC readings every 30 minutes - participants will be separated to complete the final questionnaires. At the time their BACs have dropped below .04%, they will be debriefed, paid, and permitted to leave after they confirm that they will not be driving themselves.