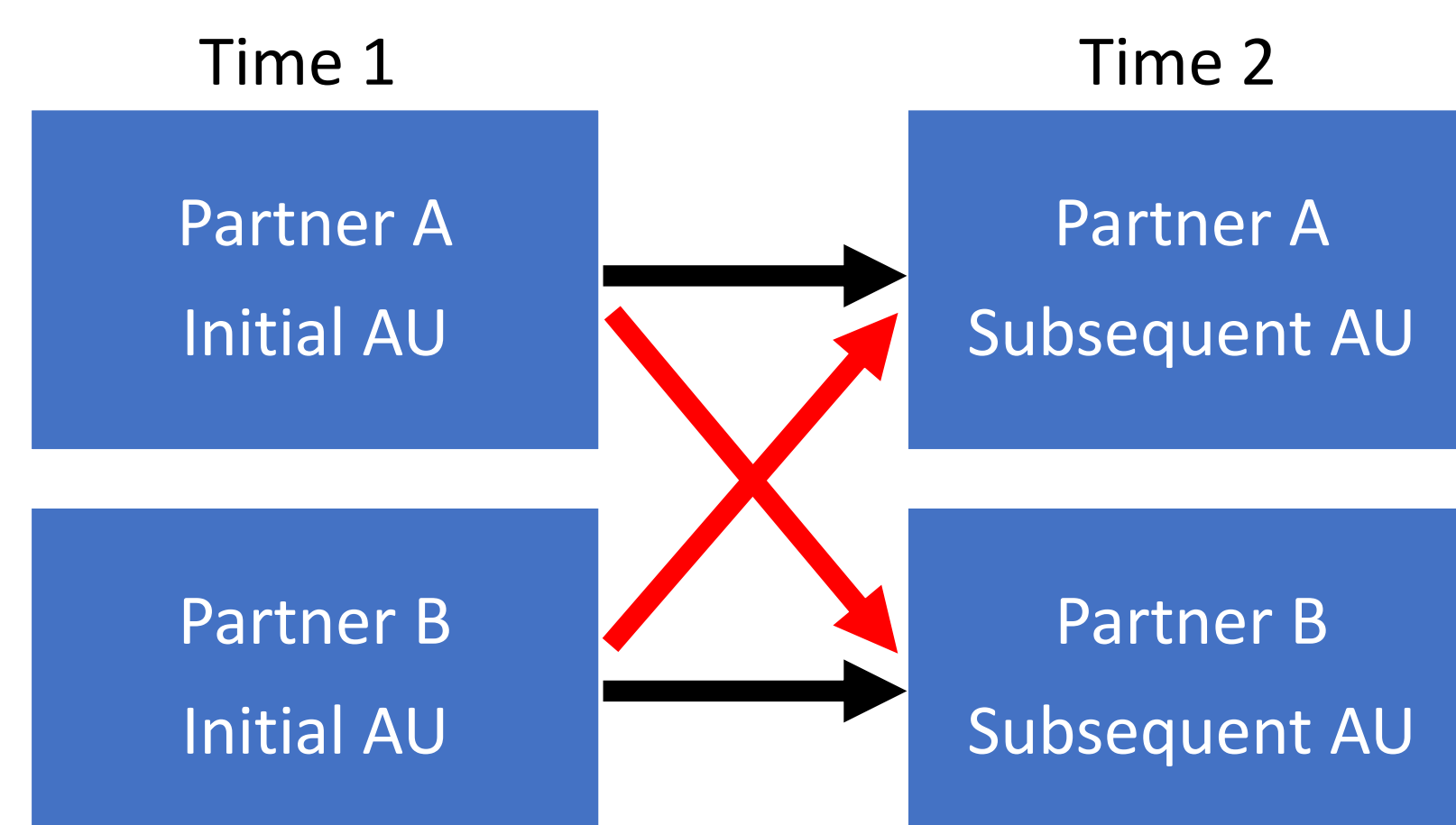


Acronyms

MA = Meta-analysis, AU = alcohol use, PRISMA = Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

Introduction

- A drinking-supportive social network can have a strong influence on heavy AU and alcohol-related problems over time¹
- Romantic partners are potential sources of social influences on AU
- The **Partner Influence Hypothesis** postulates that one partner's AU influences the other's AU over time (red arrows) even after controlling for within-person stability in AU (black arrows)



Limitations in the Literature

- Many studies use AU data collected on a single occasion to predict relationship outcomes like divorce and partner violence²
- However, AU is a dynamic phenomenon where intake levels can fluctuate markedly over time³
- Studies that do measure AU across time most often only assesses a single individual's AU, thereby ignoring partner effects on AU
- Results are inconsistent across studies with regards to the presence and magnitude of partner effects and with regards to sex-specific partner influences
- Studies on sex-specific influences variously indicate:
 - Husbands influence their wives' AU⁴
 - Wives influence their husbands' AU⁵
 - Partner influences on AU are equal across the sexes^{3,6}

Purposes and Hypotheses

We propose a meta-analysis (MA) to:

- Clarify the existence of partner influences
 - Provide a definite answer about the magnitude of such partner effects
 - Explore potential moderators of such partner effects (e.g., age of couple, relationship length, time between AU measurements)
 - Examine sex differences in the extent of partner influence.
- H₁ Significant partner effects will be detected and the magnitude of the effect will be clinically significant
- H₂ Hypotheses around sex moderation effects will be exploratory given the inconsistencies in the literature

Methods

- A comprehensive search has been conducted across the following databases: Academic Search Premier, the Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature, Proquest Dissertations & Theses Global, PsycINFO, PubMed, and Social Work Abstracts
- Data will be analyzed using Actor-Partner Interdependence Modelling (APIM) and pooled effect sizes

Study Inclusion Criteria

- Studies with quantitative AU data collected on any type of romantic dyad
- Each partner's AU data must be collected at a minimum of two different time-points

Study Exclusion Criteria

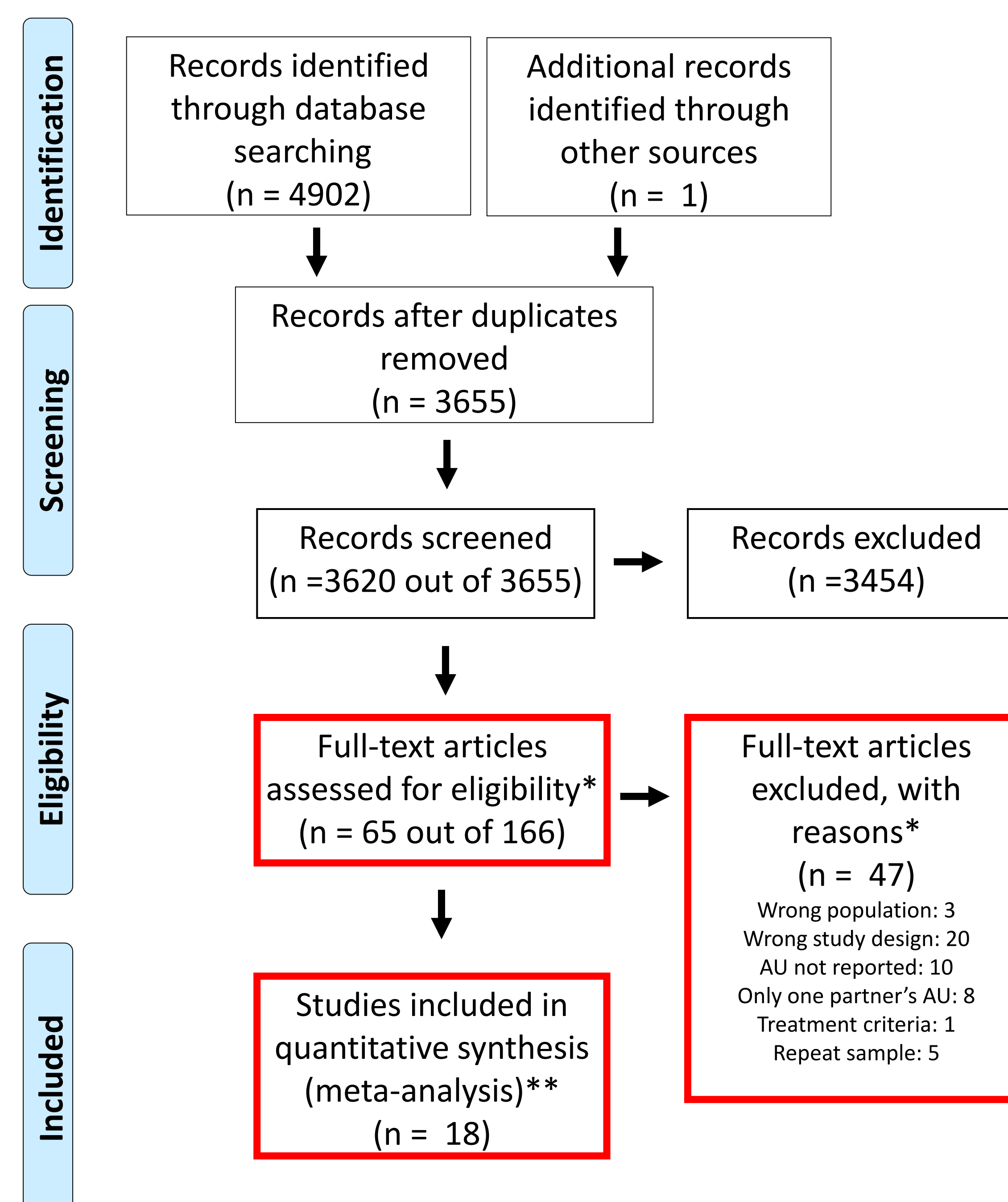
- Qualitative and retrospective studies
- AU data collected in the context of an intervention or therapy

Sample of Studies Included Thus Far

	Couple N	Sample type	Female Mean age	Male Mean Age	Time lag (months)	Attrition (%)	Caucasian (%)	AU Measure
Aalsma et al. (2012)	80	Secondary/high school students	15.9	16.6	12	78.6	89.0	Binge drinking frequency
Bartel et al. (2017)	179	General population	30	32	36	39.7	NR	Binge drinking frequency
Buck Louis et al. (2016)	344	Pregnancy seeking community	29.8	31.6	NR	NR	82.8	Frequency
Buu et al. (2011)	273	High risk families	30.98	33.01	144	14.2	100	Drinking and Drug History Questionnaire ⁷
Cornelius et al. (2016)	157	Postpartum couples	18.7	21.4	6	47.0	19.1**	Frequency
Homish et al. (2006)	634	Married population	26.8	28.7	12	7	59**	Binge Drinking Frequency Quantity
Kim et al. (2013)	110	Elementary school follow up	20.8	21.3	30*	NR	90.0	Frequency Quantity
Lambe et al. (2015)	100	Post-secondary	22.3	22.3	7-13 (days)	18.5	83.5	RAPI
Mushquash et al. (2013)	208	Post-secondary	20.9	21.1	28 (days)	NR	88.9	Binge Drinking Frequency
Otten et al. (2008)	404	Married population	43.8	46.2	24	6.0	NR	Frequency

Note. Unless indicated otherwise, the statistics are for the original sample at baseline. NR = not reported, *median time lag, ** percentage of Caucasian men, RAPI = Rutgers Alcohol Problem Index⁸

PRISMA Progress Flowchart



*Current stage of the study

This study has been registered on PROSPERO, an international prospective register of systematic reviews

Anticipated Conclusion and Significance

- This MA will provide a much-needed contribution to the literature on social influences as it will provide a clear answer to the question of whether romantic partners influence each other's AU, and will clarify the strength and meaningfulness of such influences
- The proposed MA could demonstrate how interpersonal relationships affect risky behaviour
- By identifying sex as a potential moderating variable to these influences, interventions can be tailored to the characteristics of presenting couples for therapy to enhance clinical outcomes
- Couples at most risk of escalating one another's drinking could be identified and targeted for support