

Thinking

When researchers in the US loitered outside a bar in New England and asked customers about their political views, they found that the drunker the punter, the more right-wing their leanings. That wasn't because right-wing people drink more or get pissed more easily. Wherever people stood on the political spectrum when sober, alcohol shifted their views to the right.

Why might that be? The researchers ... pointed out that alcohol strips away complex reasoning to reveal the default state of mind. And that is why they were chatting to drunks: they were using drunkenness to test the hypothesis that low-effort, automatic thought promotes political conservatism.

New Scientist, December 16, 2017