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Over the course of this past summer, I conducted research that was aimed to investigate the relationship between attitudes towards alcohol and memory among young adults in the United States and Austria. The study's aim was to determine how cultural attitudes towards alcohol might influence memory recall, particularly regarding alcohol related events, and the case of this study, regarding a car crash.

There were two main goals of this research when it came to the data. The first goal was to understand how young adults' attitudes towards alcohol impact their memory recall of alcohol related events. The second was to compare the cultural influence of cultural attitudes towards alcohol on memory between participants from the United States and Austria.

Currently, the data collection process is ongoing, and the data from both Austrian and American participants is being analyzed. Despite the data collection still being in progress, I have accomplished several other goals with this research project.

Firstly, I learned a lot about the data collection process as it was quite a significant difference between the two countries. In Austria, I had to try out about three different methods before I found the one that worked as I found that Austrian university students (specifically the ones at the Vienna University of Economics and Business) were initially unresponsive and uninterested when it came to my survey. On the other hand, it was quite easy to collect participants in the United States when it came to participants showing interest and completing the survey.

The variation in response times between the two categories of participants I had was quite an unexpected step in my research. It taught me the importance of flexibility and adaptability when it comes to conducting research.

This research experience has significantly influenced my academic and career aspirations. It has deepened my appreciation for the complexity of cross-cultural research and the importance of considering cultural context in psychological studies. For my next few steps, I aim to further this research through a directed study with Dr. Wieth in the fall. Additionally, I plan to gather more data to enhance my presentation for the Elkin Isaac Research Symposium in the spring.

I want to thank the FURSCA department, Renee Kreger, Elizabeth Palmer, and the donors who funded my project and gave me this wonderful opportunity. I would also specifically like to thank my advisor, Dr. Wieth, who helped me tremendously throughout my research journey and helped me find my passion in psychology.