

GAMBLING RESEARCH



LEISURE, LIFESTYLE, & LIFECYCLE PROJECT (LLLP): Final and Summary Reports Released

Findings from the Leisure, Lifestyle, & Lifecycle Project (LLLP) have been made available from the Institute web site. The LLLP is a five-year prospective longitudinal study designed to collect data on the factors influencing change in gambling and problem gambling behavior over time. A sample of 1,808 participants from four locations representing the diversity of the province of Alberta (Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge area, and Grande Prairie area) was recruited primarily through random digit dialing.

LEISURE · LIFESTYLE & LIFECYCLE PROJECT



The LLLP and Quinte Longitudinal Study (QLS) provide the most comprehensive longitudinal analyses of gambling and problem gambling currently available. The LLLP final report provides analyses focusing on the stability of gambling and problem gambling and variables etiologically related to change in gambling and problem gambling. The opportunity to conduct parallel analyses across two large data sets is invaluable and the consistency of the findings across studies conducted in two provinces as well as the consistency with previous cross-sectional and longitudinal research is remarkable.

In summary, the results identified a number of robust predictors of gambling and problem gambling including both fixed and modifiable factors. Fixed factors include gender, ethnicity, intelligence and arguably income and impulsivity. Modifiable factors include mental and substance use disorders, gambling involvement, and proximity. Although some factors predicted

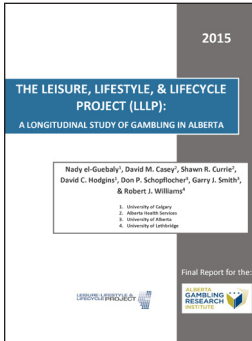
both gambling involvement and gambling problems (e.g., gender), some factors were more predictive of only gambling (e.g., excitement-seeking) and others more predictive of only gambling problems (e.g., mental health problems). Taken together these findings provide a solid basis for designing prevention and intervention programs.

The results also shed light on the question of stability of gambling problems. At a broad population level, there is considerable stability in people's overall involvement in gambling and problems they experience. However, at the individual level, there is a considerable amount of transition. These findings underscore the importance of looking at gambling problems at both the population and individual levels. Investigations

The primary aim of the Alberta Gambling Research Institute, a consortium of the Universities of Alberta, Calgary, and Lethbridge, is to support academic research related to gambling.

MISSION

To facilitate evidence-based broad research that informs gambling public policy and educates Albertans and the wider audience about the effects of gambling.



at the population level inform the creation of focused interventions aimed at reducing overall gambling problems. Investigations concerning how individuals experience change in their gambling habits over time, and the characteristics that lead to such change, can inform interventions targeted at helping people make smooth and long term

transitions away from problematic gambling.

For citations to additional scholarly articles, working papers and conference presentations related to this initiative, see the [Leisure, Lifestyle, Lifecycle Project \(LLLP\) web page](#) on the Institute web site.

The Quinte Longitudinal Study (QLS) was a prospective study of gambling and problem gambling conducted in the Quinte region of Ontario, Canada from 2006 to 2011.

URL: <http://hdl.handle.net/10133/3641>

Call for 2015-16 Major Research Grant Applications

The Institute is pleased to announce the Call for 2015-16 Major Research Grant Applications. [Complete application guidelines and application forms are available](#) from the Institute web site. Stakeholder-identified funding priorities include: crime and gambling; Internet gambling; indigenous/First Nations gambling; longitudinal follow-up studies; public policy; socio-economic, and; provision and delivery of effective treatment programs.

Deadline for research grant submissions to respective University Research Officers (RO) is Friday, June 19, 2015.

Institute Administrative Hub Relocating to Calgary

The Institute's administrative office will be relocating from its current space in Edmonton at the University of Alberta's HUB Mall to the University of Calgary. The move will be coordinated by Executive Director Vickii Williams and will involve a gradual transition between offices that is anticipated to be complete by Fall, 2015. The Institute's core purposes and businesses will remain unchanged and research grant recipients will be unaffected.

CONFERENCE 2015 REPORT: Critical Issues in Gambling Research a Success



The focus of the Institute's 2015 Conference (March 27-28, 2015) was "Critical Issues in Gambling Research" and, as in past years, was held at the Banff Centre. The one-hundred conference attendees heard presentations from twenty-two gambling scholars from jurisdictions worldwide as well as a similar number of poster presenters. Day one of the event focused on critical issues and under-researched topics in gambling research. Day two of the conference highlighted Albertan gambling research in addition to continuing the theme outlined in day one. All conference presentation materials are available from the [Completed Conference 2015 Program web page](#).

Highlights from Day One of the Conference:

CRITICAL ISSUE

Gamblers derive leisure benefits from participation in legalized gambling.

PRESENTER

Dr. Jonathan Parke (Responsible Gambling Trust)



▲ Parke's study of 40,000+ European customers of the Unibet gambling site found that 55% reported deriving some form of gambling-related benefit; 45.7% indicated that gambling was somewhat or very important to them as a leisure activity.

CRITICAL ISSUE

The interlinking of everyday gambling experiences with broader socio-cultural identities.

PRESENTER

Dr. Emma Casey



▲ Casey's qualitative investigation of data from Britain's Mass Observation Archive (MOA) found that gambling had the effect of promoting social connections and social networks. Her study was specifically focused on working class women in Britain.

CRITICAL ISSUE

Legalized gambling has increased inequality amongst populations.

PRESENTER

Dr. Rachel A. Volberg



▲ When gambling participation is statistically controlled, Volberg's investigation found that ethnicity and low socio-economic status (but not gender and age) continued to be significantly related to problem gambling.

CRITICAL ISSUE

Involvement in the provision of gambling compromises provincial governments, charitable organizations and gambling researchers.

PRESENTER

Dr. Garry Smith (U. of Alberta)



▲ "Gambling remains a morally contested activity... because it's not an essential services or product and it harms some who partake in it." – Dr. Garry Smith.

CRITICAL ISSUE

Recreational gambling has provided a rewarding entertainment experience for non-problem participants.

PRESENTER

Dr. Richard Wood



▲ Wood described his two-part study (interviews / online questionnaire) of 1,797 gambling participants from the U.K. which used real player data supplied by Camelot UK Lotteries Limited; "Rather than saying Internet gambling is inherently dangerous... we really need to look at the individual games themselves." – Dr. Richard Wood.

CRITICAL ISSUE

Aboriginal casinos have provided employment, revenues and political/social empowerment to First Nations groups in Canada.

PRESENTER

Dr. Yale Belanger



▲ Belanger's review established that Canada's Aboriginal casinos had created 7,000 new jobs, provided funding stability, and led to a consistent revenue streams for localized business development and enhanced community infrastructure. There were no discernible increases in problem gambling and little increase in crime rates.

CRITICAL ISSUE

Modern bingo terminals and their evolution to resemble slot machines.

PRESENTER

Dr. Kevin Harrigan



▲ "There's no 'paper' in the bingo halls now... [bingo terminals] are much more like slot machines."
– Dr. Kevin Harrigan

CRITICAL ISSUE

Are animal models useful in unraveling gambling processes?

PRESENTER

Dr. Catharine Winstanley



▲ Winstanley reported on a variety of studies utilizing a rat gambling task (rGT) and a "near-miss effect."

Research Posters @ Conference 2015

A total of twenty-six research posters were presented at Conference 2015. The award for best research poster went to Juliette Tobias-Webb from the Centre for Gambling Research at UBC whose poster was entitled, *"The influence of acute alcohol intoxication on Gambler's Fallacy."*



*Conference Organizer
Dr. Rob Williams*



*Conference
Attendees*



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