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2018-04

Alberta Gambling Research Institute Conference 2018: Current Issues in Gambling Research

Binde, Per; Christensen, Darren; Delfabbro, Paul; Dixon, Mike;
Euston, David; Gainsbury, Sally; Hodgins, David; Johnson, Mark;
Kairouz, Sylvia; Kim, Hyoun S. (Andrew)...

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conference paper

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The Instrumentality of Human Rights for Gambling Research and Policy in Canada



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Indigenous Studies: Business as Usual

- Indigenous people approached as a research object of social sciences focusing on culture, law, government, history, identities, languages, health, economy.
- Epistemological focus is on knowing and documenting the 'difference' of Indigenous people.
- Methods: ethnography, social research, archival research and oral history... and others.

▸ Epistemic break

From research focused on Indigenous peoples as more or less resistant subjects of settler-colonial governance to research emerging from and deeply engaged with Indigenous resurgence and sovereignties.

Critical Indigenous scholarship in Canada

Some arguments:

- Refusal of the politics of state recognition (Coulthard, G.S. 2014)
- Importance of conciliation before reconciliation (Garneau, D. 2016)
- Exposing the 'ruse of consent' (Simpson, A. 2017)

Some methods:

- Land-based research and pedagogy, arts-based research, statistics, advisory roles in non-Indigenous research projects ... and more

▶ Gambling and Indigenous Policy

- In settler-colonial states, the governance of Indigenous people and the governance of gambling are framed as domestic matters for national or sub-national jurisdictions.
- Important Canadian work explores this at national, provincial, local and Indigenous community levels (Manitowabi, D. 2011; 2017, Belanger, Y. 2006; 2014).
- Where does gambling fit within unfolding national and global projects of decolonization? How do *all* researchers on gambling become more responsive to important paradigm shifts in Indigenous Studies?

➤ Towards a New Framework for Gambling Research and Policy

- *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (2007) as result of global human rights activism by Indigenous people over several generations.
- Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to Canadian institutions to repudiate *Terra Nullius* and the *Doctrine of Discovery* and reference to UNDRIP as a framework for living together as citizens bound by treaties.
- What do these human rights templates require of gambling policy and research? What would excellence in gambling research look like if they guided our work?

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