

# GAMBLING RESEARCH



## Institute's 18th Annual Conference Showcases Gambling Research Expertise

Delegates from around the world gathered for the Institute's 18th Annual Conference "Blurred Lines in Gambling Research" which was held at The Banff Centre, March 28-30, 2019. The 100+ conference attendees heard presentations from prominent gambling researchers from Brazil, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, United States and Canada.



The event's international flavor was showcased during the interactive conversation session "Organizing Clinical Services for Problem Gambling – Perspectives from Three Continents." Canada's gambling researchers were also well represented and one of the event's highlights was the presentation "Gambling and Problem Gambling in Canada: A National Study" by Alberta Gambling Research Institute researcher Dr. Rob Williams.

Presentations from this event are now accessible from the [Completed Conference Program 2019](#) web page.



▲ Dr. Hermanto Tavares,  
University of São Paulo

◀ Dr. Michael Wohl,  
Carleton University



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.

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► The Panel Session explored the shift in focus from problem gambling to gambling-related harm. It was moderated by **Dr. Michael Wohl**. The panelists were **Dr. Heather Wardle**, **Dr. Matthew Browne**, and **Dr. Margo Hilbrecht**.

▼ Conference Program Chair **Dr. David Hodgins**, University of Calgary, and **Dr. Matthew Browne**, Central Queensland University



▲ **Dr. Joël Tremblay**,  
Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières



◀ **Dr. Luke Clark**, University of British Columbia



## Poster Session

The conference poster session attracted 38 informative research posters and displayed an incredible diversity of gambling-related topics from across a multitude of subject disciplines. Winner of the best poster award went to Alana Guidry from University of Calgary for her poster entitled, "Gaming or Gambling? Assessing the Correlates of Problematic Social Casino Gaming Use."

## Reception

The welcome reception was held in the Kinnear Centre Building and took place on the evening of March 28th.

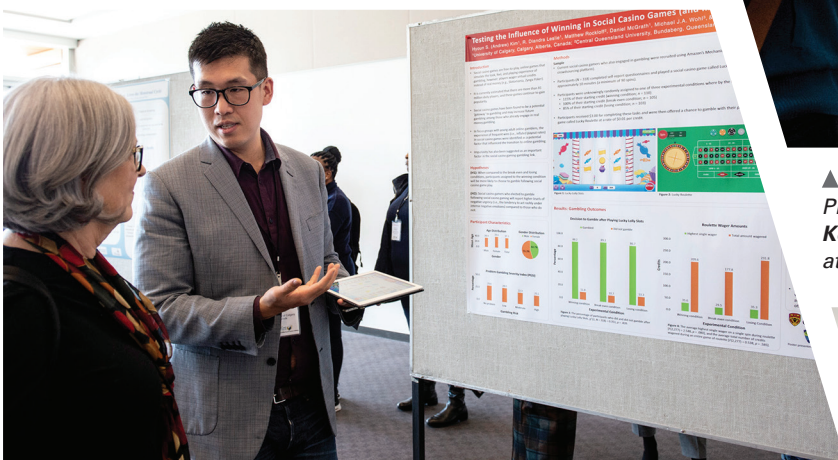
In what has become an annual tradition, all graduate students attending the conference gathered for a presentation session that was held on March 28th. Mr. Chang Lu, the scholarship students' representative for the Institute, reported that twenty-one Master's and PhD students – including AGRI scholarship recipients – discussed their research and received feedback from their peers. Students presented a wide array of research that included several of the strategic research areas designated by the Institute (e.g., gambling addiction treatment, prevention, risk choices, and First Nations gaming).



▲ Poster Presentation Winner **Alana Guidry**, University of Calgary



▲ **Michael Koo**, BC Responsible & Problem Gambling Program, speaking with **Yvonne Gwenhure** and **Caroline Kongwa** of the National Gambling Board - South Africa at the opening reception.



▲ Poster presenter **Mr. Andrew Kim**, University of Calgary (right), and **Ms. Gael MacLeod**, AGLC Board Chair (left)



◀ **Dr. Linda Kongnetiman** and **Anna Murphy**, Alberta Health Services.

## Gambling Research Day Event at the University of Alberta a Great Success

- by Fiona Nicoll

The inaugural Gambling Research Day at the University of Alberta took place on April 2nd and attracted a diverse variety of attendees from across of the university, together with alumni and stakeholders. Four sessions were held at the event which included workshops, lectures and a book launch.

- **Sheila Wahsquaikeshik's** workshop brought a new approach to the research and treatment of gambling problems among youth in Northern Ontario's Indigenous communities. Wahsquaikeshik is the director of Indige-Spheres and an experienced professional with a background in gambling industries and problem gaming outreach programs. Her interactive presentation involved helping participants to explore challenges for youth empowerment in places marked by trauma from residential schools, drug and alcohol addiction, and human trafficking. Stakeholders attending the talk included several workers from Alberta's youth correctional services as well as researchers from the Faculty of Arts interested in Indigenous cultural approaches to treatment and research with youth.



- Professor **Rebecca Cassidy's** lecture provided a detailed and compassionate ethnographic account of how government and industry stakeholders respond to suicidal gamblers who



raise concerns about harmful gambling products in the UK. Professor Cassidy (Goldsmiths, University of London) has made unique contributions to qualitative gambling research methodologies. She has also been a driving force behind the creation of a code of ethical practice for researchers on gambling to define and disclose funding sources and conflicts of interest.

- Laurentian University Associate Professor **Darrel Manitowabi's** public lecture was a closely described and persuasive account of how the deployment of cultural symbolism in casino spaces is part of broader Indigenous political strategies to contest hegemonic colonial



Professor Darrel Manitowabi



strategies of power. Grounded in his work with Ontario's Casino Rama for over a decade, his presentation provided a welcome cultural dimension to existing research on Indigenous gambling, primarily focused on economic development and the lens of authenticity through which non-Indigenous stakeholders judge Indigenous gambling spaces.



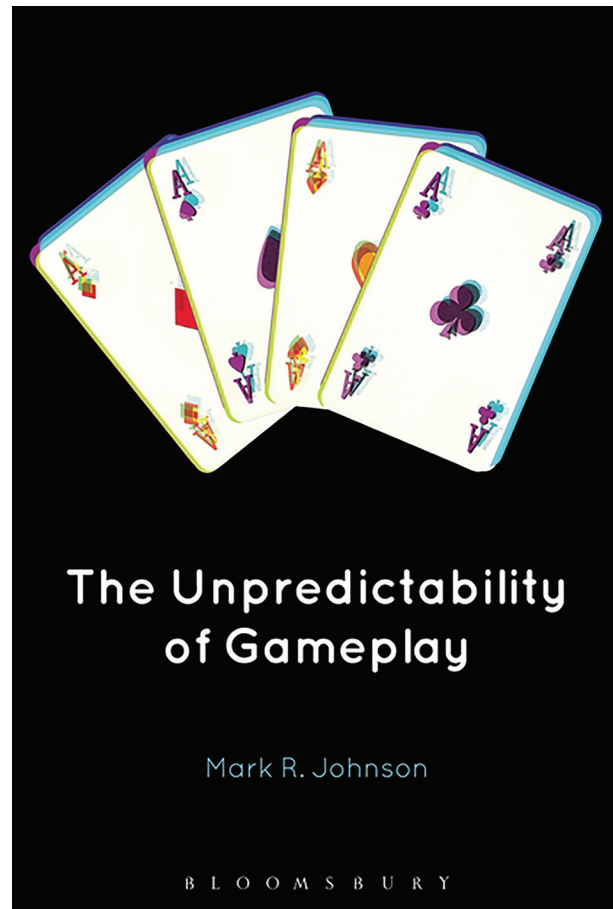
At the end of the day, Professor **Geoffrey Rockwell** (U. of Alberta) and **Fiona Nicoll** (U. of Alberta) spoke to celebrate the publication of Killam postdoctoral research fellow, **Mark Johnson's** latest book. *The Unpredictability of Gameplay* (Bloomsbury Press, 2019) is an important milestone in the literature as the borderlands between gambling and video-gaming continue to rapidly expand. It explores how different



ways of understanding the role of skill, luck, and chance in video-gaming impact on the ways that players experience, talk about, judge, and make games. His book is a valuable supplement to psychological approaches to gambling research in which questions about unpredictability in gameplay are often subordinated to a focus on cognitive errors and addictive behaviours.



*For those unable to attend these events, an online video will be available on the University of Alberta's gambling research Facebook page in the near future.*



## Upcoming Institute Research Grant Opportunities

The Institute is now accepting proposals from eligible applicants for the following types of research grant opportunities:

- **Annual Major Research Grants (\$160,000 maximum)**  
– Application deadline **June 22, 2019**
- **Semi-annual Small Research Grants (\$10,000 maximum)**  
– Application deadline **October 1, 2019**
- **Impact Grants, Leveraging Grants & Team Development Grants**  
– Apply anytime throughout year

For more information about the Institute's grant opportunities and graduate scholarships, please visit the Institute website:

<https://abgamblinginstitute.ca/grants>

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