

GAMBLING RESEARCH



Conference 2020 Theme: Freedom, Justice and Sovereignty in Gaming

Commercial gambling industries have expanded exponentially over the past three decades. Gambling not only contributes substantial revenue to public infrastructure, programs and charitable organizations; it is increasingly harnessed to platforms and genres of media entertainment such as video-games and televised sporting competitions. At the Institute's upcoming conference on gambling research, presenters will address some of the most important challenges posed by gambling today, including corporate responsibility, consumer protection, sustainability, Indigenous sovereignties, and broader social justice issues.

Local and international speakers will consider the following questions, among others: How do political struggles at local, regional and national levels extend or limit gambling's jurisdictional scope? What are some of the ethical dilemmas confronting gambling researchers today? How should the entanglement of gambling with addictive algorithms and pervasive surveillance technologies be evaluated and governed? What do qualitative and socio-cultural studies of gambling and play have to offer gambling providers, regulators and consumers? What are the limits of self-regulation for individuals and gambling organisations? How are gambling and video gaming used by specific groups to work through individual and intergenerational impacts of trauma? How do Indigenous world views complicate the ways that freedom, justice and sovereignty are mobilised in existing debates on gambling?



What are some of the cultural and spiritual practices used by Indigenous people in different parts of the world to foster healthy gambling and play, both past and present?

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.

The Institute's 19th Annual Conference, set to take place March 26-28, 2020 at The Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta, Canada. Information about the conference, including the preliminary program and registration, is available on the Institute website:

<https://abgambingresearch.ca/events/2020-conference>

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The conference will take place March 26-28, 2020 at The Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta, Canada.
Register online to confirm your attendance.

Confirmed conference speakers include:

- **How Do We Do Critical Gambling Studies?**
– Dr. Charles Livingstone, Monash University
- **Gambling Policy in High Income Countries: Key Lessons and Challenges for Regulation and Reform**
– Professor Angela Rintoul, Monash University
- **Nation or Ethno-Corporation: How Indigenous Gambling Reframes Sovereignty**
– Dr. Ted Gordon, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University
- **Pocket Queens: Poker Writing by Women (and a Few Stories of My Own)**
– Dr. Julie Rak, University of Alberta
- **Wai 1909: A Treaty Claim in Waiting**
– Dr. Ruth Ann Herd, Auckland University of Technology
- **Gaming in Kahnawàke: Using the Power of an Indigenous Right to Build a Sustainable Economy**
– Mr. Murray Marshall, Kahnawàke Gaming Commission
- **The Global Spread of Gambling: Issues for Social Justice, Regulation and Sovereignty**
– Dr. Gerda Reith, University of Glasgow
- **Researching Indigenous Gambling Research Experiences: Reflection on Sovereignty and Neoliberal Citizenship**
– Dr. Sylvia Kairouz, Concordia University
- **Archaeology and the Evolution of Indigenous North American Games**
– Dr. Gabriel Yanicki, Canadian Museum of History



AGRI National Project (ANP) - January 2020 Update

The Institute's three-year national research project, ***Gambling and Problem Gambling in Canada: A National Study***, continues to make significant progress toward comprehensively documenting what is known about the prevalence, pattern and impacts of gambling in Canada. Principal investigator Dr. Rob Williams and project manager Dr. Carrie Leonard have provided the following highlights from project investigations:

- **Statistics Canada Survey of 28,000 Canadians**
– In 2018, a new Gambling Module was administered as part of the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS). This survey is the second largest prevalence study of gambling and problem gambling ever conducted worldwide. All survey data has been tabulated and analyzed. At present, the research team is awaiting data release from the Research Data Centre so it can be incorporated into peer-reviewed publications. The first planned article will report basic Canada-wide prevalence data and will be submitted to the *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*.
- **A national two-year Online Panel longitudinal cohort of 10,000 Canadians** – A baseline online panel survey was administered by LegerWeb¹ from August to October, 2018. The final sample of 10,198 responses was stratified by province and/or region (1,420) and oversampled for gamblers. This represents the largest sample of problem (1,350) and at-risk gamblers (1,522) ever collected worldwide. Initial analyses have found very high rates of comorbidities (2,710 with one or more DSM-5 disorder).

A follow-up online panel survey was administered between mid-August, 2019 and November, 2019 to all baseline participants to identify variables in the baseline that best predict onset, continuation, and remission from problem gambling in the follow-up. Presently, this data set is being cleaned. It contains a total of 4,707 responses from people (including 511 problem gamblers) who were retained from the baseline survey.

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- **Supplemental Investigations in 2019**

- Key informant surveys of major provincial stakeholders were completed, with 31 of 46 identified informants completing our survey. Stakeholders included provincial regulators, provincial operators, casino owners/managers, treatment providers and research directors.
- Key informant interviews of indigenous leaders were completed, with very good response from most of the identified key individuals. This initiative also included several focus groups.
- Casino patron surveys as originally planned were not successful. Over 40 casinos were approached, but only River Cree in Edmonton allowed us access (108 surveys collected in June, 2019). Instead, a data set of 18,674 patron surveys on responsible gambling awareness and utilization from most of Canada's casinos across Canada was acquired from GREO². We are the first ones to see and use this data.
- The problem gamblers in treatment survey questionnaire has been finalized and ethics approval been received. Survey administration is slated for Spring, 2020.
- Data collection for a comprehensive background history of gambling in Canada has been ongoing and will be incorporated into the project's final report.

1 Subsequently re-named LEO (LegerOpinion.com).

2 Patron surveys were administered by the Responsible Gambling Council of Ontario.

Research Grants 2019-20

Institute Awards Two Major Research Grants in 2019-20

The Institute is pleased to announce that the following two major research grants were awarded in 2019-20:

- [Targeting Implicit Cognitions in Comprehensive Prevention Programming for Gambling, Alcohol and Cannabis Use](#) (#87)
- Ms. Gillian Russell, PhD Candidate (Principal Investigator), Department of Psychology, University of Lethbridge.
- [A Cross-National Investigation of the Convergence of Gambling and Gaming](#) (#88)
- Dr. David C Hodgins (Co-Principal Investigator), Department of Psychology, University of Calgary;
Mr. Hyoun S. Kim (Co-Principal investigator), Department of Psychology, University of Calgary.

Two following small research were also approved in 2019-20:

- [What You See and What You Get: Incomplete and Cumulative Information as Determinants of Competitive Decision-Making Quality](#) (#S47)
- Dr. Ben Dyson (Principal Investigator), Department of Psychology, University of Alberta.
- [Multimodal Investigation of the Relationship between Cannabis, Decision-making, Reward Processing and Motor Learning](#) (#S48)
- Dr. Anthony Singhal (Principal Investigator), Department of Psychology, University of Alberta.

Alberta's Gambling Revenue: Facts & Figures from the AGLC Annual Report

Alberta Gaming Liquor Cannabis (AGLC) commission's [2018-19 Annual Report](#) contains an assortment of interesting facts and figures about provincial gambling revenue. Highlights include:

- \$1.445-billion was allocated to the Alberta Lottery Fund¹ in 2018-19 which was up slightly as compared to \$1.416-billion in 2017-18.
- WCLC sales (lottery tickets) increased to \$946-million in 2018-19 from \$835-million in 2017-18; WCLC revenue after prizes and expenses was \$340-million in 2018-19 from \$298-million in 2017-18.
- Both casino gaming terminals (slot machines in casinos and racing entertainment centres) net sales (\$1.134-billion) and revenue after cost of sales (\$796-million) were relatively flat. Comparable 2017-18 figures were \$1.126-billion and \$794-million.
- Video lottery terminals (VLTs) net sales (\$589-million) and revenue after cost of sales (\$496-million) were marginally lower than in the previous year. Comparable 2017-18 figures were \$598-million and \$502-million.
- Electronic bingo net sales (\$11.7-million) and revenue after cost of sales (\$8.1-million) were relatively flat. Comparable 2017-18 figures were \$11.4-million and \$7.8-million.
- Charitable gambling (bingo, casino table games, % of slot machine revenues, pull tickets, raffles) net win was \$414-million and total proceeds to charity was \$347-million which were both up slightly. Comparable 2017-18 figures were \$398-million and \$331-million.

¹ The Government of Alberta announced in Bill 20: Fiscal Measures and Taxation Act, 2019 that the Alberta Lottery Fund was disestablished and the money from the fund shall be paid into the General Revenue Fund.

Institute Annual Report Now Available



Annual Report 2018-19 has now been released. It contains details about Institute-related research activities, opportunities, publications, conference events and audited financial statements. It can be accessed online from the [Annual Reports & Business Plans](#) section of the web site.

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