

# Advancing the Pathways Model: Financially focused self-concept and erroneous beliefs as core psychopathologies in disordered gambling



Nassim Tabri and Michael J. A. Wohl  
Department of Psychology  
Carleton University



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# Disclosure of Potential Conflict of Interest

No specific conflicts of interest for current research.

- Received consulting fees from the gambling industry in Canada, New Zealand, the US, and the UK via Gamres Limited—a research and consultancy service that designs, implements, and evaluates responsible gambling strategies.
- Also received research funding as Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator from Carleton University, Gambling Research Exchange Ontario (GREO) and International Center for Responsible Gambling (ICRG).

# The Pathways Model of Disordered Gambling

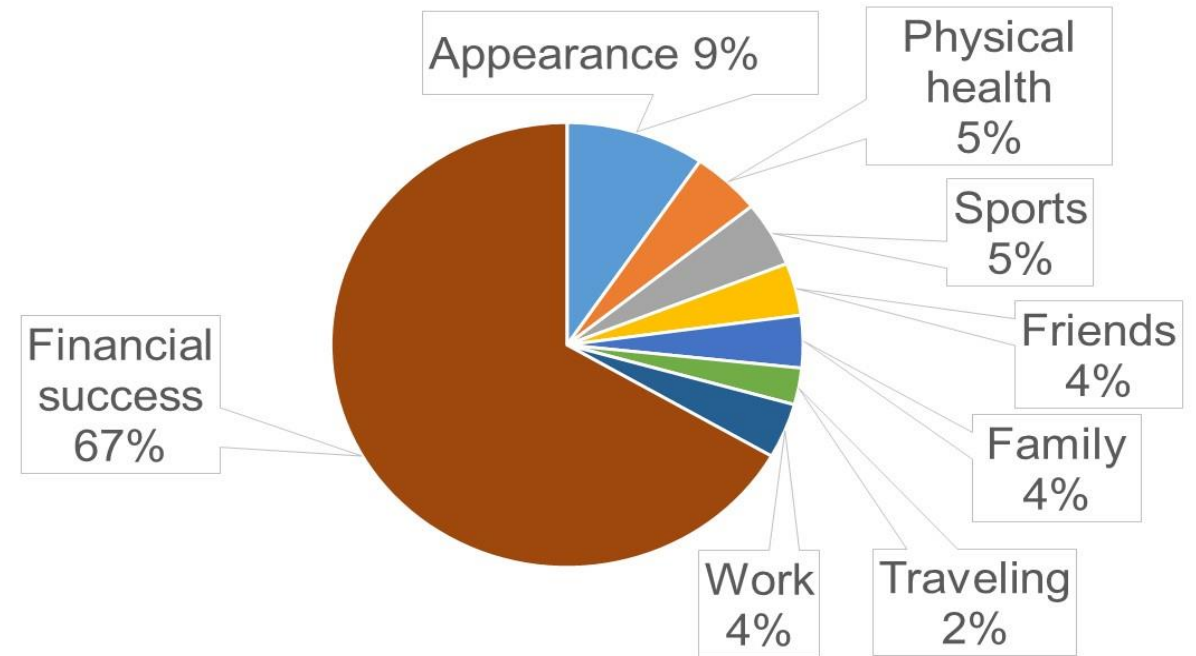
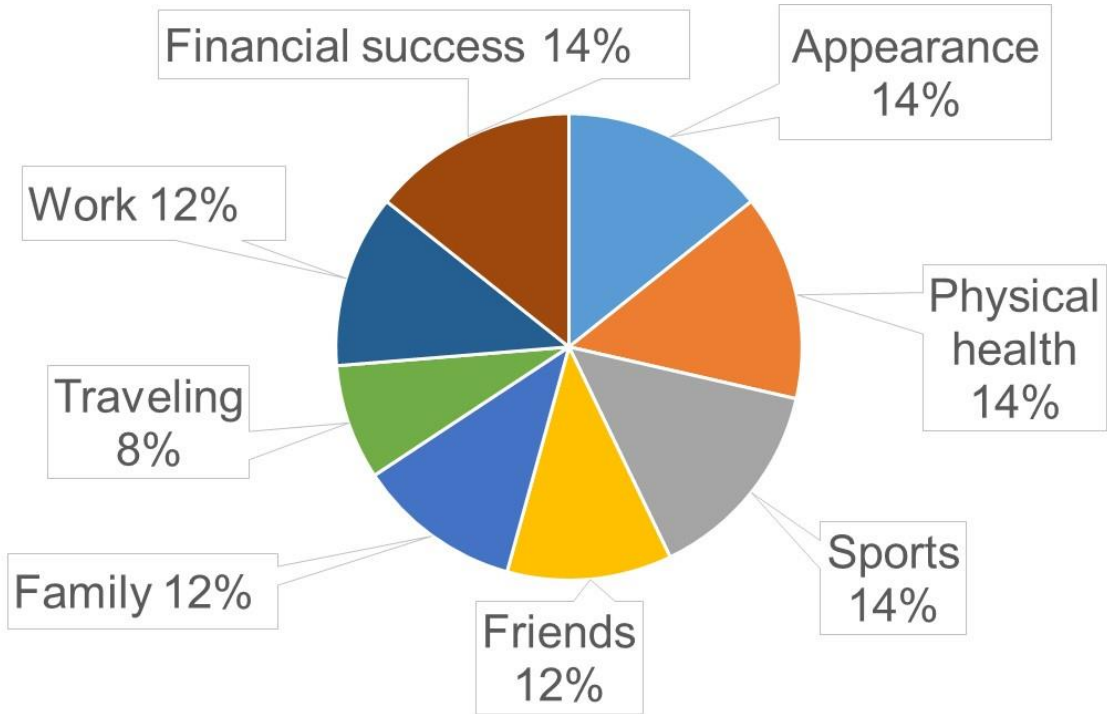
Disordered gamblers are a heterogeneous group:

- Behaviorally conditioned
- Emotionally vulnerable
- Anti-social impulsive risk-taker

# Transdiagnostic Psychopathologies Across Pathways

- Erroneous gambling-related beliefs
  - Illusion of control
  - Belief in luck
- Central feature of the development and maintenance of disordered gambling
- Present in the three etiological pathways

# Financially Focused Self-Concept



# Financially Focused Self-Concept

- “How I feel about myself is largely based on the amount of money I have” and “My moods are influenced by the amount of money I have”
- Financial focus and disordered gambling are moderately and positively correlated
- Financial focus and disordered gambling predict one another over time
- Financial focus is likely elevated across the pathways



# The Current Research

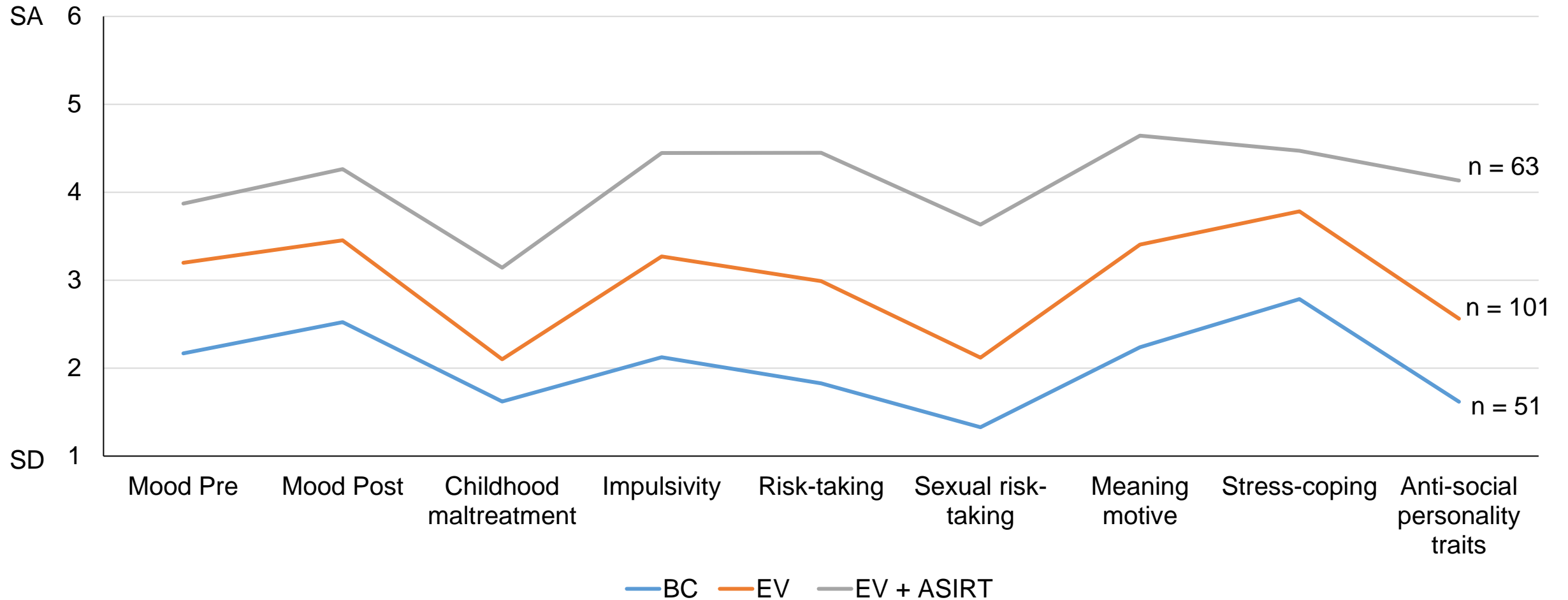
- Are financially focused self-concept and erroneous beliefs present in the three etiological pathways?
- Included financial focus and erroneous beliefs in the classification of disordered gamblers using latent profile analysis
- Examined differences in financial focus and erroneous beliefs across the etiological pathways, and compared these differences to scores for people without gambling problems.

# Method

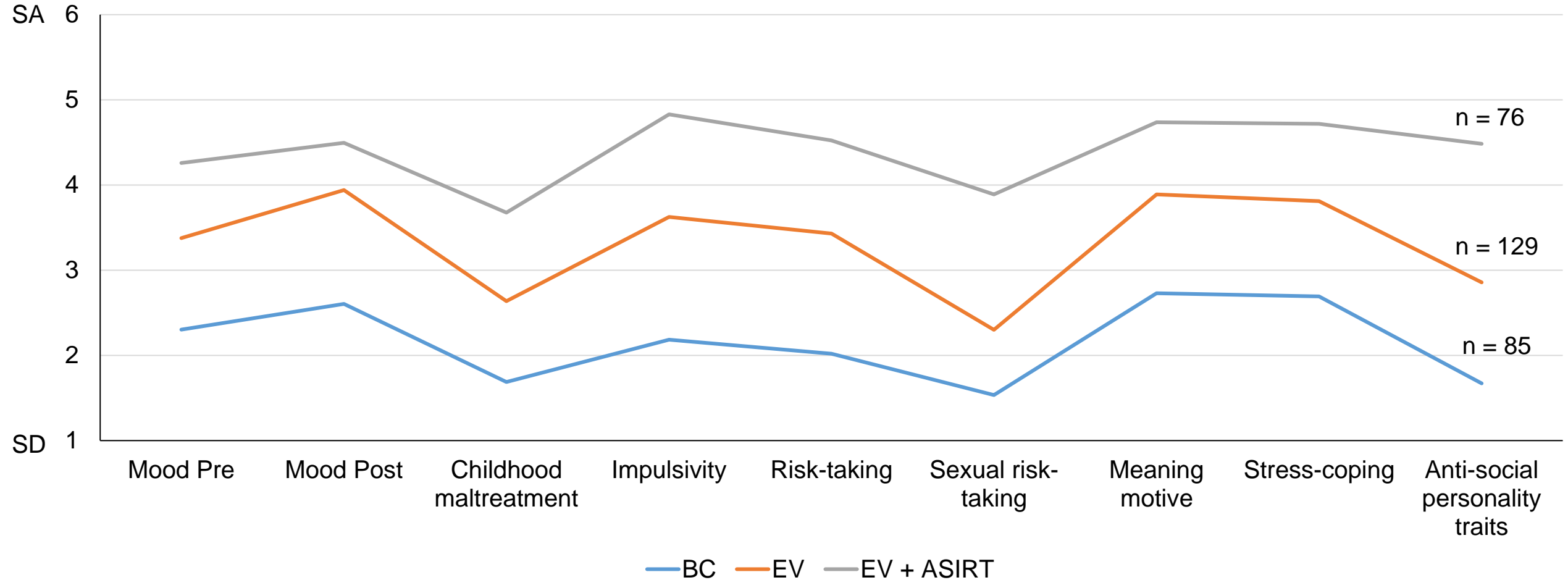
- Re-analysis of published data (Tabri, Salmon, & Wohl, 2021)
  - Two studies (Study 1 N = 215; Study 2 N = 290)
- Participants:
  - US community members with gambling problems (PGSI>0)
    - Most were likely problem gamblers (PGSI>8)
- Measures:
  - 48-item Gambling Pathways Questionnaire (GPQ; Nower & Balszczynski, 2017)
  - 4-item Financially Focused Self-Concept Scale (FFS; Tabri et al., 2017)
  - 21-item Gambling Beliefs Questionnaire (GBQ; Steenbergh et al., 2002) – Study 2 only
- Data analysis:
  - Latent profile analysis (LPA) of GPQ subscales and FFS (Study 1) as well as GBQ (Study 2)



# Study 1: LPA Results



# Study 2: LPA Results



# Results: Means for FFS and GBQ

	Study 1	Study 2	
Etiological Pathway	FFS	FFS	GBQ
Behaviourally Conditioned	2.21	2.54	4.60
Emotionally vulnerable	2.67	3.01	4.96
Anti-social impulsive risk-taker	3.26	3.33	5.56
Non-problem gamblers	1.42-1.73		1.76-2.42

*Note.* FFS = Financially Focused Self-Concept Scale; GBQ = Gambling Beliefs Questionnaire. The range for FFS is 0-4 whereas the range for GBQ is 1-7

# Discussion

- Reduction in erroneous beliefs linked with better treatment outcome
- Financial focus and remission from disordered gambling
- Financial focus and erroneous beliefs may each additively contribute to the development and maintenance of disordered gambling
- Financial focus and erroneous beliefs may also work together to proliferate and maintain disordered gambling

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Nassim Tabri  
[nassim.tabri@carleton.ca](mailto:nassim.tabri@carleton.ca)

 @nassimtabri

