

GAMBLING RESEARCH



Institute Conference 2018: Current Issues in Gambling Research



The Alberta Gambling Research Institute's 17th Annual Conference will be held April 12 - 14, 2018, at The Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta. Speakers from Canada, United States, Australia, and Europe will provide a collection of presentations representing contemporary and cutting-edge ideas in gambling research. This conference will be of interest to researchers, policy makers, and treatment providers.

Sessions include:



Dr. Per Binde

Risk of Harm as a Function of Type of Gambling - Dr. Per Binde, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Responsible Gambling and Harm in Low Risk Gamblers: All Quiet on the Western Front? - Dr. Paul Delfabbro, University of Adelaide, Australia

The Technological Transformation of Gambling - Dr. Sally Gainsbury, University of Sydney, Australia

The Intersection between Gaming and Gambling - Dr. Sylvia Kairouz, Concordia University, Canada



Dr. Sylvia Kairouz

Minding the Gap: Inequality, Socioemotional Comparisons, and Risk-sensitivity - Dr. Sandeep Mishra, University of Regina, Canada



Dr. Sandeep Mishra

Day two of the conference will include concurrent sessions by Alberta researchers such as

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.



Mr. Andrew Kim (Ph.D. Candidate) presenting *Back to the Future: Memories of the Non-Gambling Self Facilitates Behavioural Change*.

Student delegates are invited to attend the Student Ice-Breaker session on Thursday, April 12.

Conference 2018 Registration

Register before February 13, 2018, to receive the discounted early registration rate. The deadline for regular registration is March 12, 2018.

Call for Poster Submissions

Poster presentation sessions will be held during the conference. Researchers should email a 150-200 word abstract to Dr. Robert Williams (robert.williams@uleth.ca). Abstracts should include: title of research, name(s) of author(s) with the presenting author underlined, author affiliation, and contact information. The submission can address any area of gambling research. A best poster award will be adjudicated and presented during the closing session. The submission deadline is Friday, January 19, 2018. Decision notifications will be sent by Friday, February 2, 2018. All poster presenters must register for the conference.

For more information, visit the Conference web site at <http://www.abgamblinginstitute.ca/events/2018-conference>

Dr. Yale Belanger Elected to The Royal Society of Canada

Institute-funded researcher Dr. Yale Belanger was recently welcomed to The Royal Society of Canada as one of 70 new members to The College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. The College is a handpicked selection of top mid-career scholars and artists in Canada, representing the emerging generation of scholarly, scientific and artistic leadership in Canada. Its members have already received recognition in their fields for excellence and serve as ambassadors of their fields.

Dr. Belanger, a member of the Department of Political Science at the University of Lethbridge, is a leading scholar of Indigenous Studies whose research breaks new ground in the understanding of First Nations' gambling enterprises, urban Aboriginal policy and the role of federal housing policy in addressing homelessness among Indigenous peoples. He has been involved as a principal investigator in the following Institute-funded projects: *Social & Economic Impacts of Gambling in Alberta (SEIGA)* [Strategic Initiative]; *A mixed methods study to assess urban aboriginal gambling in Canada's prairie provinces* [Major Grant #59], and; *Aboriginal gaming in Canada: An overview of the issues affecting an industry in its infancy* [Small Grant #S5]. Results from these projects have been featured at



Dr. Yale Belanger, University of Lethbridge



past Institute conferences and Dr. Belanger will be presenting at the upcoming Institute Conference 2018 as part of a panel session on Indigenous gambling.

The Royal Society of Canada, founded in 1882, comprises the Academies of Arts, Humanities and Sciences, in addition to The College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. Its mission is to recognize scholarly, research and artistic excellence, advise governments and organizations and promote a culture of knowledge and innovation in Canada.

For additional information:

[Two U of L scholars elected to The Royal Society of Canada.](#) September 12, 2017, edition of *UNews* [U. of Lethbridge].

Belanger, Y. D. (Ed.). (2011). *First Nations gaming in Canada*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press.

Institute Research Coordinator Dr. David Hodgins Selected for 2017 Killam Annual Professorship

Dr. David Hodgins was awarded a University of Calgary Killam Annual Professorship for 2017. Killam Annual Professors are selected for demonstrating excellence in research and teaching for ten years or more, while serving their academic discipline and their community outside the university. This prestigious award was given to Dr. Hodgins in recognition of his work as a celebrated scholar, clinical advisor and mentor.

Dr. Hodgins is a professor in the Department of Psychology and has also been the Institute's Research Coordinator at the University of Calgary since 2000. He is considered an international authority in gambling and addiction studies. His research focuses on natural recovery, the study of the precipitants of relapse to problem gambling, and the evaluation of brief interventions. The results of his numerous research investigations have influenced the theory of pathological gambling and the practice of gambling treatment in Canada and throughout the world.

The Killam Scholarship and Prize Programs were established in memory of Izaak Walton Killam through the Will of his wife, Dorothy Johnston Killam, and through gifts made during her lifetime. Their primary purpose is to support advanced education and research at five Canadian Universities including the University of Calgary.

For additional information:

[Gambling and addiction studies lead to Killam Award for David Hodgins.](#) October 6, 2017, edition of *UToday* [U. of Calgary].



Dr. David Hodgins, University of Calgary



FROM THE LIBRARY... CBC's The Fifth Estate Documentary "Gambling on Addiction: How Governments Rely on Problem Gamblers"

In the December 8, 2017, episode of The Fifth Estate, investigative reporter Mark Kelley revealed how Canadian government programs are failing to adequately keep problem gamblers out of casinos. Dr. Rob Williams, Institute Research Coordinator at the University of Lethbridge, was one of several gambling researchers interviewed for the documentary. Dr. Williams provided a research-based estimate of the proportion of gambling revenue that comes from individuals exhibiting problem gambling behaviour.

Full Documentary: [Gambling on Addiction How Governments Rely on Problem Gamblers](#)

Small and Major Grants Approved in 2017-18

The Institute is pleased to announce the 2017-18 Research Grant recipients.

SMALL GRANTS

Selective Memory in Gamblers: An Autobiographical Memory Approach

**Dr. Norman R. Brown (Principal Investigator),
Department of Psychology, U. of Alberta**

While it is common for researchers to assume that gamblers' autobiographical memories are selective for wins, there appears to be no direct evidence to support it. This project intends to directly address this issue. As well, content analysis performed on event memories may be very informative, shedding new light on the range of experiences that gamblers find particularly noteworthy.

Priority area: Treatment

Disordered Gambling and Bankruptcy Law: Research-Informed Practice for Insolvency Professionals

**Dr. Anna J. Lund (Principal Investigator),
Faculty of Law, U. of Alberta**

Building on previous research on how insolvency professionals respond to individuals who file for bankruptcy with gambling-related debts, some adopt a therapeutic approach and others a punitive one, the researchers are developing research-informed practice guidelines for insolvency trustees about what responses are appropriate to incorporate into the bankruptcy system.

Priority areas: Public policy; Treatment; Crime and gambling

Gambling Risk-Taking Behavior in the Aftermath of Broken Promises: The Role of Stress

Dr. Yannick J-L. Griep (Principal Investigator),
Department of Psychology,
U. of Calgary

Dr. Daniel McGrath (Co-Investigator),
Department of Psychology, U. of Calgary

The primary goal of the study is to examine the extent to which heightened levels of stress, as induced by perceptions of broken promises, lead to riskier gambling behavior (more risks and lower accuracy of play) among expert gamblers and novice gamblers.

Priority area: Treatment

MAJOR GRANTS

Gambling in the Workplace: Characteristics and Experiences

Dr. Rebecca Hudson Breen (Principal Investigator), Faculty of Education,
U. of Alberta

Dr. James Sanders (Co-Principal Investigator),
Faculty of Health Sciences,
U. of Lethbridge

This project will investigate the characteristics and experiences of individuals who engage in gambling in the workplace, including the relationship between problem gambling and gambling in the workplace, and the potential mediating role of job satisfaction in workplace problem gambling.

Priority areas: Internet gambling;
Crime and gambling

Pop-up Messages for Internet Gambling: An Experimental Study Examining the Efficacy of Fear Appeals

Dr. David C. Hodgins (Principal Investigator),
Department of Psychology,
U. of Calgary

Dr. Seema Mutti-Packer (Co-Principal Investigator), Department of Psychology,
U. of Calgary

Mr. Hyoun (Andrew) Kim (Co-Investigator),
Department of Psychology, U. of Calgary

Dr. Daniel S. McGrath (Co-Investigator),
Department of Psychology, U. of Calgary

Dr. Matthew J. Rockloff (Co-Investigator),
School of Human, Health and Social Sciences,
Central Queensland U.

Dr. Michael J. A. Wohl (Co-Investigator),
Department of Psychology, Carleton U.

Recent evidence suggests that Internet gamblers are at greater risk for developing gambling problems. Pop-up warning messages that inform consumers and interrupt continuous play have the potential to be an effective tool for prevention and harm minimization in disordered gambling.

Priority area: Internet gambling

From Motivation to Compulsion: The Neural Bases of Disordered Gambling Explored in a Rodent Model

Dr. David R. Euston (Principal Investigator),
Department of Neuroscience,
U. of Lethbridge

This project will model gambling addiction in rats in order to map changes in the brain's dopamine system and test the role of different prefrontal regions in the genesis of compulsive gambling. Two new therapeutic drugs will be tested for their ability to reduce gambling urges.

Priority area: Treatment

Grant program details and application forms are available on the Institute web site.

<https://www.abgamblinginstitute.ca/grants>

Annual Report 2016-17 Now Available!



The Institute 2016-17 Annual Report provides information about research activity, grant opportunities, scholarship awards, research publications and audited financial statements.

It can be accessed from the web site @
<http://www.abgamblinginstitute.ca/about/annual-reports-business-plans>

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