

Funding Disclosure/Conflicts of Interest

Kate Bedford

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- I have never sought, or received:
 - gambling industry funding, or funding from law firms advising gambling companies.
 - funding from private companies who profit from problem gambling treatment or responsible gambling services.
 - funding to advise government agencies seeking to expand gambling.
- Past 3 year funding includes 2 sources of support from academic research bodies dispersing funds from gambling levies or taxes (AGRI, CAN\$500 honorarium, and Gamble Aware, PhD studentship award of GBP £66,000). Both have arms-length governance arrangements in place to prevent industry influence. Neither body funded the research in this presentation.

Funding Disclosure/Conflicts of Interest

Dr Fiona Nicoll Nicoll held an AGRI Research Chair in Gambling Policy from 2016-2021 and is currently the Director of Research Capacity at the University of Alberta.

She has never sought, or received:

- gambling industry funding, or funding from law firms advising gambling companies;
- funding from private companies who profit from problem gambling treatment or responsible gambling services;
- funding to advise government agencies seeking to expand gambling.

What can we learn from gambling researchers working in Humanities, Social Science and Law?

Fiona Nicoll (Professor of Political Science and AGRI Research Capacity Director, University of Alberta)

Kate Bedford (Professor of Law and Political Economy, University of Birmingham)

Experiences of gambling researchers in HSS



The Two Cultures

It is not only that the young scientists now feel that they are part of a culture on the rise while the other is in retreat. It is also, to be brutal, that the young scientists know that with an indifferent degree they'll get a comfortable job, while their contemporaries and counterparts in English or History will be lucky to earn 60 per cent as much. No young scientist of any talent would feel that he isn't wanted or that his work is ridiculous.

Snow, C.P. (1961) *The two cultures and the scientific revolution*. Cambridge University Press. (19).

A profile of *disciplinary* gambling research

Study of peer-reviewed articles in Web of Science and Scopus from authors' home departments based in Canada, US, Australia, NZ and the UK published between 2014-2018.

M. Akçayır et al. / Critical Gambling Studies, 2 (2021) 21–28

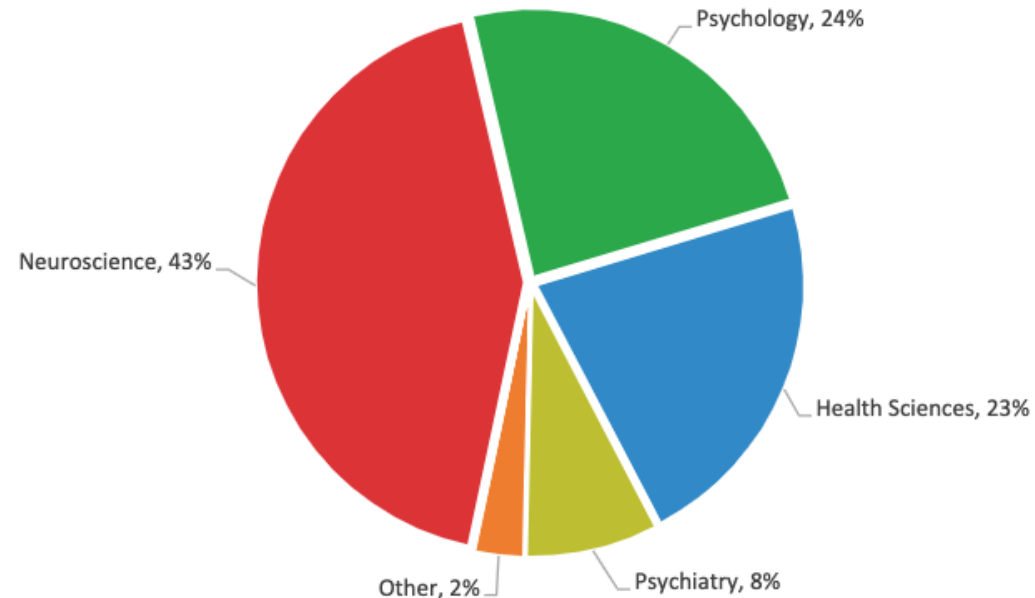


Fig. 2. *Disciplinary Distributions in the Cited Sources*

A profile of *interdisciplinary* research claims

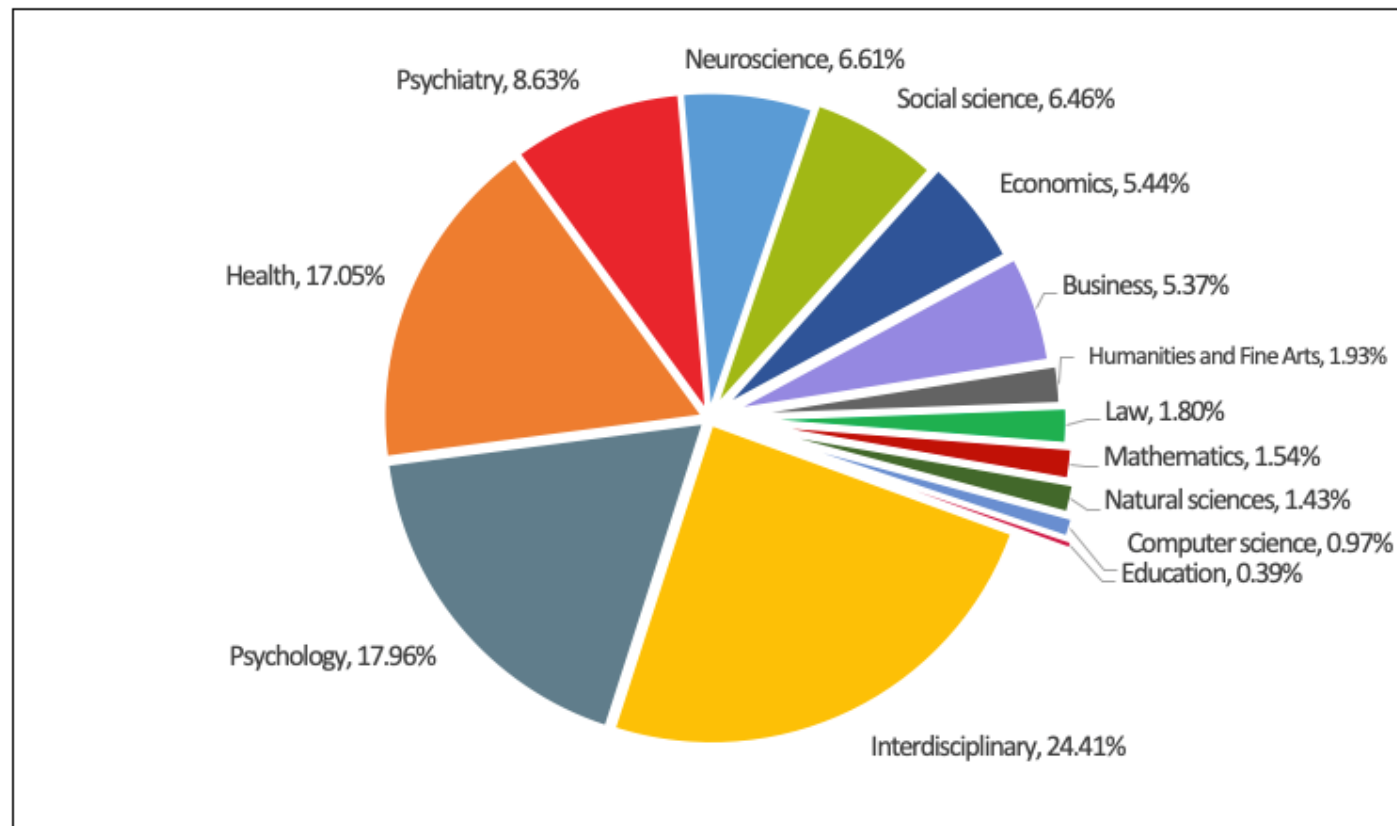


Figure 3: Academic disciplines of primary literature research publications on gambling, according to journal self-description (N=1292)

The politics of interdisciplinary research in the contemporary university



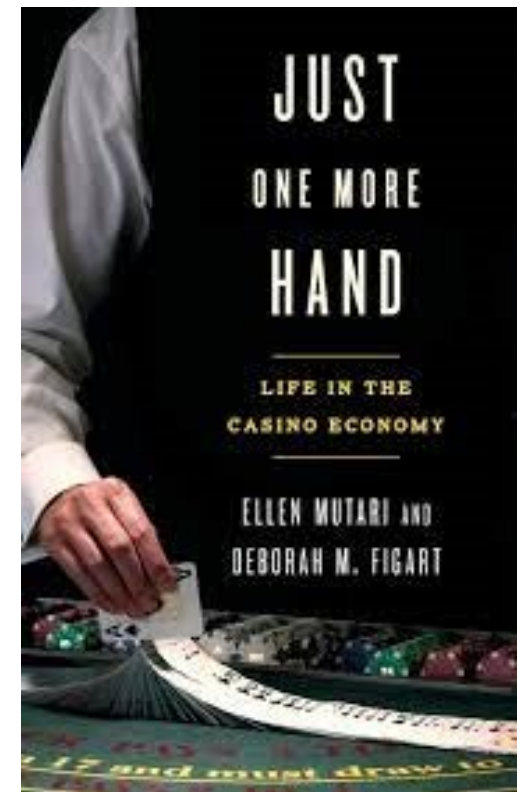
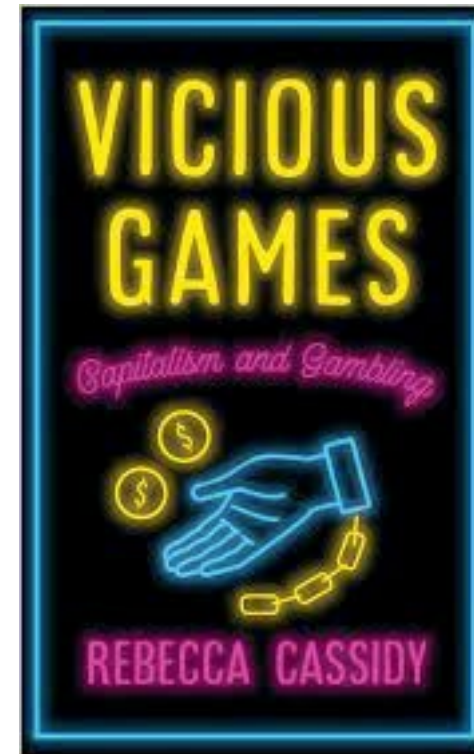
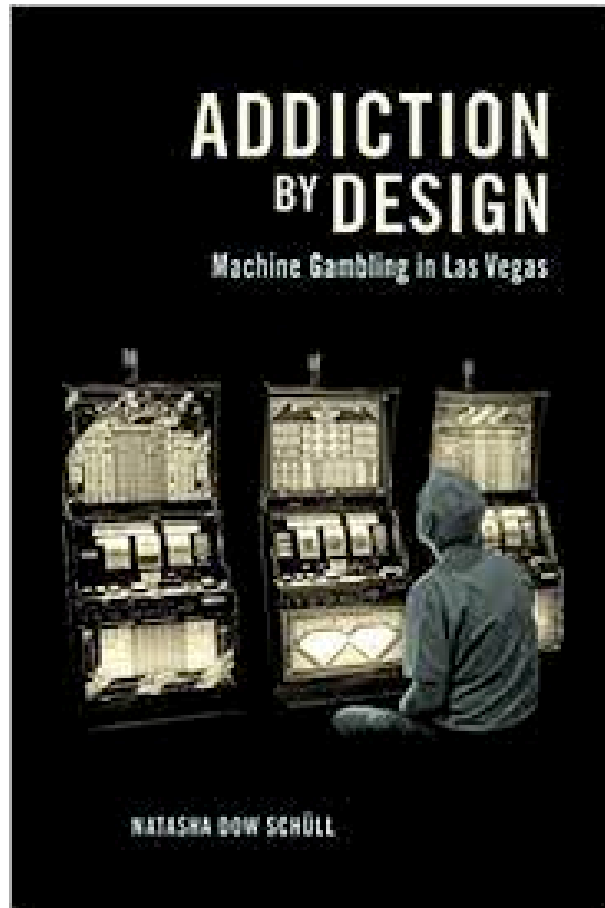
Gaming Metrics

‘There’s a chance that doing things differently would be resisted by faculty not because they *like* metrics but because their careers have become so reliant on them.’ (Peter Fleming Dark Academia 2021, 82)

Dark Academia
How Universities Die
Peter Fleming



Monographs: A Critical Resource

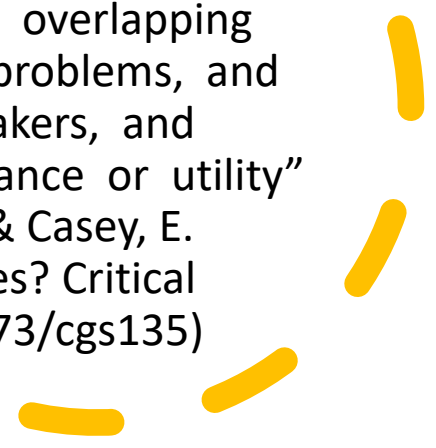


CRITICAL gambling studies



What are CGS?

“We embrace the provisional and context-specific knowledge that emerges when distinct and overlapping disciplines begin to converge on new research problems, and we defend its value even when states, policymakers, and industry are unable to discern immediate relevance or utility” (Nicoll, F., Bedford, K., Rintoul, A., Livingstone, C., & Casey, E. (2022). Editorial: What are Critical Gambling Studies? Critical Gambling Studies, 3(1), i-v. <https://doi.org/10.29173/cgs135>)



The Adverse Effects of Interventions to Reduce Gambling Harm: widening the disciplinary lens.

- Ineffective interventions, and potentially harmful consequences of interventions.
- Histories and current realities of differentiated access restrictions.
- “The ideological tension between ‘freedom to gamble ‘ and ‘freedom from gambling’ in liberal political debates has very real implications for different populations....We need to attend to the role of gambling in making specific populations the target of punitive welfare policies which involve more or less direct exercise of force through surveillance and policing functions of the state” (Nicoll 2019, 16).

Affordability checks and the Single Customer View

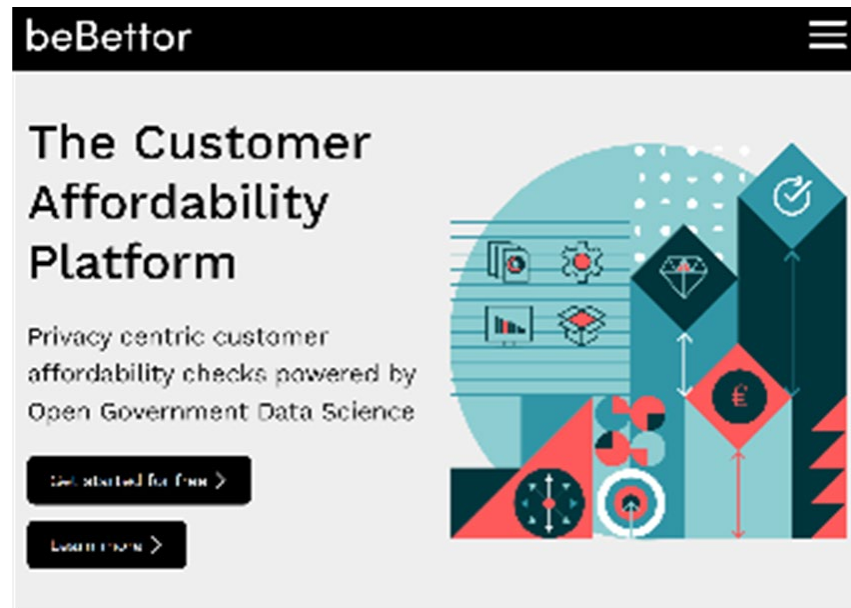


Gambling Commission sets new rules on action for at risk customers

14 April 2022

“The reality is that it is simple to identify customers that *may* be at risk of harm, based on financial, time and behavioural indicators and applying knowledge about average consumers or knowledge about individual consumers.” (Gambling Commission November 2020, 5, original emphasis).

Third party providers and the need to trouble the state-industry-researcher faith in algorithmic regulation



Data-driven organisations choosing beBettor



Casumo



genesis

“Affordability is absolutely key. There is a huge desire for the industry to get to a standard view among all licensed operators, all using the same affordability checks, all agreeing and making the same decision about an individual player if they were to come to that business.” Kenny Alexander, the CEO of GVC (now Entain, a major global online gambling company), House of Lords 2020, para 312.

Wider implications?

- How do we comprehensively and robustly measure the unintended effects of proposed regulatory changes, including the ‘intervention-generated inequalities,’ and the opportunity costs of pursuing one pathway versus others?
- Need for a comprehensive, historically aware, socio-legal approach to public health measures designed to reduce gambling harm.
- Troubling state/industry/*academic* faith in algorithmic regulation as a solution to harm, via science and technology studies/law and regulation studies/critical data science.
- *Risks* of intensified surveillance of ‘the vulnerable’ as a solution to harm, and *benefits* to the gambling industry.
- Broader critiques of gambling (and alcohol) control approaches that rest on differentiated access for groups of adults: philosophical, historical, sociological, political economic, from critical race and Indigenous studies.

Interdisciplinary Gambling Research Beyond the Two Cultures

How do we move towards interdisciplinary collaboration where HSS researchers have equal power to:

- formulate research problems;
- design research methodologies;
- critically reflect on proffered solutions to harms;
- be established/senior academic partners