

GAMBLING RESEARCH



Institute Conference 2019: Blurred Lines in Gambling Research

BLURRED LINES

In Gambling
Research



The Alberta Gambling Research Institute's 18th Annual Conference will be held March 28 - 30, 2019, at The Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta. Presentations will explore the blurring of gaming and gambling; the blurring of the focus on harms versus addiction; the blurring of treatment, harm reduction, and prevention; and the blurring of traditional face-to-face treatment and self-directed online interventions. Sessions will be relevant to researchers, treatment providers, policy makers, and industry staff.

In the gambling field there has been an incredible paradigm shift! For decades, it was clear what the product was, what was considered problem and pathological gambling, and what prevention and treatment entailed. Those lines are getting fuzzier and fuzzier. When does a video game become a form of gambling? How do we reconcile that most of the gambling-related harm is experienced by those we categorize as 'low risk'? Are the responsible gambling interventions we offer to online gambling patrons, treatment or prevention? This year's AGRI Conference provides the opportunity to discuss these issues among the field's leading researchers.

Continued on next page >

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.

Sessions include:

Harm is a Unitary Construct

- Prof. Matthew Browne, Central Queensland University

Internet Interventions for Gamblers: Any Evidence It Is a Viable Option to Provide Help?

- Dr. John Cunningham, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and University of Toronto

Loot Boxes and the Gamblification of Digital Game Design

- Dr. Mark R. Johnson, University of Alberta

What is the Utility of Responsible Gambling Programs?

- Dr. Michael J. A. Wohl, Carleton University

Day two of the conference will include a conversation session:

Perspectives on Organizing Clinical Services for Problem Gambling

Conference 2019 Registration

Register before **Monday, February 11**, to receive the discounted early registration rate. The deadline for regular registration is **Monday, March 4**.

Student delegates are invited to attend the Student Ice-Breaker session on **Thursday, March 28**.

For more information, visit the Conference web site at <http://www.abgamblinginstitute.ca/events/2019-conference>

*Dr. John Cunningham,
Centre for Addiction
and Mental Health and
University of Toronto*



*Prof. Matthew Browne,
Central Queensland
University*



*Dr. Mark R. Johnson,
University of Alberta*



*Dr. Michael J. A. Wohl,
Carleton University*



Gambling Research – “Getting the Word Out”

Dr. Fiona Nicoll, the Institute Chair in Gambling Policy Studies at the University of Alberta, hosted two gambling research presentations in September and November. Professor Nerilee Hing came to visit the University of Alberta presenting recent research on the effects of gambling advertising in Australian markets and to share the results of a survey on safe gambling behaviours among Albertan consumers with stakeholders from Alberta Health Services, AGLC, and GameSense.

Professor Tim Simpson also visited from the University of Macau to deliver a fascinating research presentation on the role of electronic baccarat machines in cultivating new, cosmopolitan, ‘post-socialist’ Chinese citizens.

In addition, Dr. Nicoll and Dr. Mark R. Johnson, a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Alberta, visited Nishnawbe Aski Nations in Northern Ontario on November 16, at the invitation of Indige-Spheres to Empowerment and Pelican Falls First Nation High School. They delivered workshops on the effects of gambling and video-gaming. An article describing their visit appeared in the local newspaper, *The Sioux Lookout Bulletin*: <http://www.siouxbulletin.com/pffnhs-snhs-students-learn-effects-of-video-gaming-during-workshop?id=1620>

Also in November, Dr. Sylvia Kairouz gave her presentation for the annual Una Ridley Lecture, which is an invited talk put on by the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Lethbridge. Dr. Kairouz provided an additional talk on ‘Responsible Gambling’ to the Gambling Research Group the next day. Both events garnered considerable interest and attention.

Presenters:

Raising the Stakes: The Effects of Advertising on Gambling Behaviour

Dr. Nerilee Hing is Research Professor of Gambling Studies at CQUniversity in Australia, and former Director of the Centre for Gambling Education and Research at Southern Cross University in Australia.



LIVE Baccarat Calculations: Macau Machine Gaming and the Production of the Post-Socialist Subject



Dr. Tim Simpson is Associate Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and Associate Professor in the Department of Communication, University of Macau. He is currently completing a manuscript entitled “Macau: Casino Capitalism and the Biopolitical Metropolis.”

Gam(bl)ing realities in the new digital era: Epistemological shifts and challenges for public health

Dr. Sylvia Kairouz is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Concordia University. She holds an FQRSC research chair on the study of gambling and is the head of the Lifestyle and Addiction Research Lab at Concordia University.



Research Grants 2018-19

The Institute is pleased to announce the 2018-19 Research Grant recipients.

MAJOR GRANTS

Development of an Ecologically Valid Non-Human Primate Model of Gambling

Dr. Jean-Baptiste Leca (Principal Investigator)
Department of Psychology, U. of Lethbridge

Dr. Robert J. Williams (Co-principal Investigator)
Faculty of Health Sciences, U. of Lethbridge

Dr. Elsa Adressi (Co-principal Investigator)
CNR, Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies

This project addresses the need for more ecologically valid animal models of human gambling. Our unique non-human primate model will closely mirror the conditions under which risk-sensitive decisions are made by human gamblers and potentially validate existing animal research in this area.

Lottery Winnings and Entrepreneurship

Dr. Barry Scholnick (Principal Investigator)
Alberta School of Business, U. of Alberta

Dr. Sahil Raina (Co-investigator)
Alberta School of Business, U. of Alberta

A large academic literature has examined the positive and negative impacts of lottery wins. This research project aims to exploit newly available data from Statistics Canada, as well as data on Canadian lottery winners, to examine the impact of lottery wins on entrepreneurial activity. Our aim is to provide evidence on two contradictory hypotheses; whether the lottery win allows for the financing of new, previously financially constrained, businesses, or alternatively, whether the lottery win encourages existing business owners to exit their business, and pursue greater leisure.

Priority area: Socio-economic implications

TEAM DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Towards a Transdiagnostic Etiological and Treatment Model of Gambling Disorder and Addiction: An International Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration

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

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

Dr. Hermano Tavares (Co-principal Investigator)
Faculty of Medicine, U. of Sao Paulo

Dr. Andre Malbergier (Co-investigator)
Department of Psychiatry, U. of Sao Paulo

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

Dr. Kristin von Ranson (Co-investigator)
Department of Psychology, U. of Calgary

This project will further develop and strengthen a new, but already fruitful, collaboration in the area of gambling and other addictive disorders between the Faculty of Arts, Department of Psychology, at the University of Calgary and the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, at the University of Sao Paulo. This project brings together international expertise from multiple disciplines (psychology and psychiatry) to advance our understanding and establish a research program on the etiology and treatment of gambling and other addictive disorders from a transdiagnostic and cultural perspective.

Priority area: Treatment

Annual Report 2017-18 Now Available!



The Institute 2017-18 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 at:

<https://www.abgamblinginstitute.ca/about/annual-reports-business-plans>

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Glenda Wong
Email: gfwong@ucalgary.ca

INSTITUTE LIBRARIAN

Rhys Stevens
Email: rhys.stevens@uleth.ca

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Karen Buttner
Email: kbuttner@ucalgary.ca

Media Inquiries
Ph. 403-220-3062

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RESEARCH COORDINATORS

University of Alberta

Dr. Fiona Nicoll
Email: fnicoll@ualberta.ca

University of Calgary

Dr. David Hodgins
Email: dhodgins@ucalgary.ca

University of Lethbridge

Dr. Robert Williams
Email: robert.williams@uleth.ca

RESEARCH CHAIRS

University of Alberta

Dr. Fiona Nicoll
Email: fnicoll@ualberta.ca

University of Calgary

Dr. Daniel McGrath
Email: Daniel.mcgrath@ucalgary.ca

Please forward any comments or inquiries to:

Email: agri@ucalgary.ca
Ph. 403-220-3062

David Hodgins, Fiona Nicoll, Rob Williams & Karen Buttner
Writers

Glenda Wong, Rhys Stevens & Karen Buttner
Editors

North Design Group
Design/Layout

Photo Credit/Images:
Stock & individual researchers

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