

GAMBLING RESEARCH



Conference 2018 Showcases Latest Academic Research from Alberta and around the World



(Left to right) Rhys Stevens, Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, Dr. Garry Smith, Dr. David Hodgins, Glenda Wong, Dr. Rob Williams, and Dr. Séamus O'Shea.

The Institute's 17th Annual Conference "Current Issues in Gambling Research" took place at The Banff Centre, April 12-14. More than 100 conference attendees heard presentations from a range of established and up-and-coming gambling researchers from jurisdictions around the world. Presentations from this event are now accessible from the [Conference 2018 Completed Program web page](#).

The conference poster presentation session included 39 high-quality research posters. Winner of the award for best poster went to Kristy R. Kowatch from Lakehead University for her poster entitled, "Review of Gambling Behaviours in Indigenous Populations within Canada."

At the conference welcome reception, two Albertan researchers were honoured for their remarkable contributions to gambling research. Institute Research Director, Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, was recognized for being appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada for distinguished leadership on addictions research and treatment (see Fall 2017 newsletter for details). Dr. Garry Smith was recognized for his longstanding contributions to gambling research in Alberta and his foundational contributions to the establishment of the Institute.

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.

Glimpses of the Conference



◀ (From left) Graduate students Amanda Wuth and Nabhan Refaie from the U. of Regina and Berenika Kienc of the AGRI Board



▲ Adela Colhon and Darlene Holowachuk of the YMCA of Greater Toronto



▲ Dr. Per Binde, U. of Gothenburg, and Dr. Rob Williams, U. of Lethbridge



*Dr. Fiona Nicoll,
U. of Alberta*



*Dr. David Hodgins,
U. of Calgary*



*Dr. Igor Yakovenko,
U. of Alberta*

◀ *Dr. Sally Gainsbury, U. of Sydney, and Dr. Margo Hilbrecht,
Gambling Research Exchange Ontario*



*Dr. Sherry Stewart,
Dalhousie U., at the Research
Poster Session*

▼ *Dr. Rachel Volberg,
U. of Massachusetts Amherst*



▲ *Hyoun S. (Andrew) Kim, PhD Candidate, U. of Calgary,
and Dr. Michael Wohl, Carleton U.*



Dr. Garry Smith Recognized at Conference for His Outstanding Contributions to Gambling Research

Gambling Research Specialist Dr. Garry Smith was recognized at the Institute Conference 2018 for his outstanding contributions to gambling research in Alberta. Dr. Smith was one of the first Canadian academics to pursue scholarly gambling research and his pioneering, policy-relevant investigations proved pivotal for the establishment of the Institute in 1999. Smith was also the Institute's first appointee as Gambling Research Coordinator at the U. of Alberta and held the position from 2000 until 2018. In this role, Smith was a trusted mentor to multiple generations of Albertan gambling scholars and graduate students. Additionally, throughout his time with the Institute, he garnered a reputation as a highly respected scholar who relished tackling the thorny issues surrounding gambling – in particular, the provincial governments' somewhat conflicted role as both gaming operator and regulator.



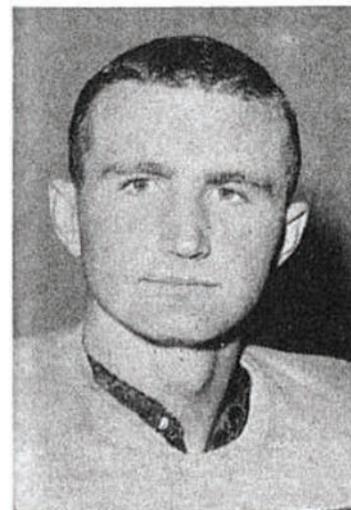
Smith's voluminous body of gambling research has included investigations on an extensive array of topics such as gambling prevalence in Alberta, Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs), Responsible Gambling Frameworks, The Reno Model, sports betting, criminal involvement, problem gambling, casino tourism, and issues pertaining to the legalization of gambling in Canada. He frequently appeared as an expert witness at gambling-related trials across the country and is considered one of Canada's foremost academics on the subject of gambling legalization. In addition, he served as the Institute's official spokesperson in the national media and his interviews were featured on CBC television's

The National, Newsday, The Fifth Estate, and several sports-betting documentaries.

Dr. Garry Smith, Professor Emeritus, retired from his position as Gambling Research Coordinator at the University of Alberta at the end of March 2018.

From the Archives...Legendary Alberta Golden Bears Sportsman Garry Smith

Those who have spent time getting to know Garry Smith soon discover that when he's not pursuing gambling research, he's likely to be found playing a round of golf, game of basketball, or enjoying a work out. What people may not know is that, in addition to being a leading Albertan gambling researcher, Garry also reached the pinnacle of athletic achievement as a student athlete, coach, professor, and athletic director.

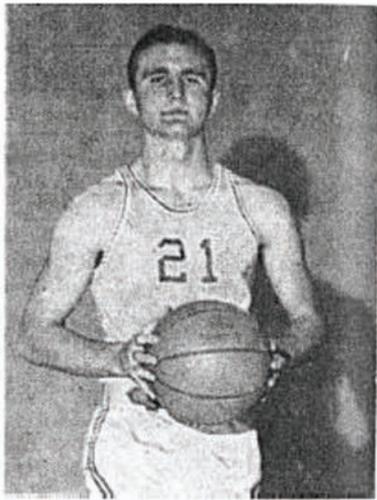


GARRY SMITH

SOURCE: "Golden Glory," The Gateway, October 20, 1961, Page 11.

During his four years as an undergraduate student at the U. of Alberta, Garry was a star quarterback for the men's football team and captain of the men's basketball team. His athletic and leadership qualities were formally recognized when he was awarded the Wilson Challenge Trophy of 1962-63 for Most Outstanding Male Athlete at the University of Alberta. As quarterback for the football team, Garry led the Golden Bears to several championship seasons and established a Canadian university record for passing completion percentage that remained unbroken for 45 years. Upon graduation he was drafted by the Edmonton Eskimos but Garry passed up professional football to take graduate study at the University of Western Ontario.

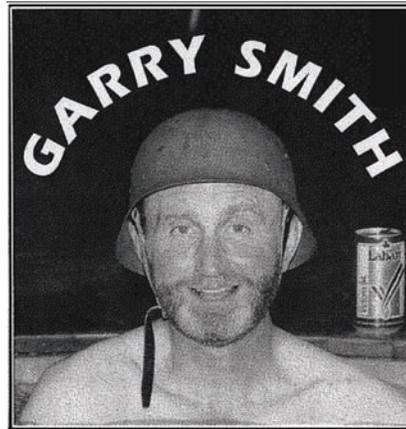
After stops in Ontario and New Brunswick, Garry returned home to Edmonton and obtained his Doctor of Physical Education from the U. of Alberta where his primary research interest related to the sociology of sports. He joined the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation several years later and went on to enjoy a long and distinguished academic career (1972-1997). His numerous accomplishments included becoming Chair of the Department (1981-1985), Head Coach of the Men's Basketball team (1976-79), Assistant Coach of the Men's Football team (1971-1975), and University Athletic Director.



GARRY SMITH

... guard

SOURCE: Garry Smith Biographical File, University of Alberta Archives.



Garry Smith Roast
Friday June 20, 1997

- Master of Ceremonies**
Darrell Smith
- Garry the Academic**
Brian Nielsen and Dan Syrotuik
- Garry the Athlete**
Don Horwood
- Garry the Businessman**
Blake Dermott
- Garry the Coach**
Dave Sharuga and Dalton Smarsh
- Garry the Comedian**
Brent Foster and Bob Davidson
- Garry the Family Man**
Keith Smith
- Garry the Gambler**
Jack Rutherford
- Garry the Lover**
John Acheson
- Last Rites Committee**
John Barry
Joe Daniel
George Thomlison
Dan Syrotuik

▲ *SOURCE: "62 Golden Bears Have Talent, Need Time," The Gateway, November 30, 1962, Page 8*

Selected Research Publications - Garry J. Smith

- Campbell, C., Hartnagel, T. F., & Smith, G. (2010). The legalization of gambling in Canada. In B. Burch & N. Larsen (eds.). *Law in Society* (3rd ed.). Toronto, ON: Nelson.
- Campbell, C., & Smith, G. J. (2003). Gambling in Canada - from vice to disease to responsibility: A negotiated history. *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History*, 20(1), 121-149. <https://doi.org/10.3138/cbmh.20.1.121>
- Hancock, L., & Smith, G. (2017). Critiquing the Reno Model I-IV international influence on regulators and governments (2004-2015) - the distorted reality of "responsible gambling". *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*, 15(6), 1151-1176. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11469-017-9746-y>
- Robson, E., Edwards, J., Smith, G., & Newman, S. (2006). *Investigating the efficacy of the Gambling Decisions program in three Alberta communities: Report of the one year community trial*. Edmonton, AB: Capital Health, Public Health.
- Smith, G. (2013). The nature and scope of gambling in Canada. *Addiction*, 109, 706-710. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/add.12210>
- Smith, G. (2013). Tangled web: Investigating Canadian lottery scandals. *Journal of Gambling Issues*, 28, 1-16. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4309/jgi.2013.28.7>
- Smith, G. J. (2012). Sports betting in Canada. In P. M. Anderson, et al. (Eds.). *Sports betting: Law and policy* (pp. 288-303). The Hague, The Netherlands: T.M.C. Asser Press.
- Smith, G. J., & Campbell, C. S. (2007). Tensions and contentions: An examination of electronic gaming issues in Canada. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 51(1), 86-101. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0002764207304854>
- Smith, G. J., Currie, C. L. & Battle, J. (2011). Exploring gambling impacts in two Alberta Cree communities: A participatory action study. In Y. Belanger (Ed.). *First Nation Gaming in Canada* (pp. 118-139). Winnipeg, MN: University of Manitoba Press.
- Smith, G. J., Hartnagel, T. F., & Wynne, H. (2009). Gambling-related crime in a major Canadian city. In Cosgrave, J. F., & Klassen, T. R. (Eds.), *Casino state: Legalized gambling in Canada* (pp. 161-191). Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Smith, G., Hodgins, D., & Williams, R. J. (Eds.). (2007). *Research and measurement issues in Gambling Studies*. San Diego, CA: Elsevier.
- Smith, G., & Rubenstein, D. (2011). Socially responsible and accountable gambling in the public interest. *Journal of Gambling Issues*, 25, 54-67. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4309/jgi.2011.25.5>
- Smith, G. J., Schopflocher, D. P., el-Guebaly, N., Casey, D. M., Hodgins, D. C., Williams, R. J., & Wood, R. T. (2011). Community attitudes toward legalised gambling in Alberta. *International Gambling Studies*, 11(1), 57-79. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14459795.2010.550306>
- Smith, G., & Simpson, R. (2014). Gambling addiction defence on trial: Canadian expert witness perspectives. *International Journal of Criminology and Sociology*, 3, 319-326. <http://dx.doi.org/10.6000/1929-4409.2014.03.27>
- Smith, G. J., & Wynne, H. J. (2004). *VLT gambling in Alberta: A preliminary analysis*. Edmonton. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5072/PRISM/9910>
- Smith, G. J., & Wynne, H. J. (2002). *Measuring gambling and problem gambling in Alberta using the Canadian Problem Gambling Index*. Edmonton: Prepared for the Alberta Gaming Research Institute. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5072/PRISM/9890>
- Smith, G. J., Wynne, H. J., & Hartnagel, T. F. (2003). *Examining police records to assess gambling impacts: A study of gambling-related crime in the city of Edmonton*. Edmonton: Alberta Gaming Research Institute. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5072/PRISM/9877>

Tribute to Garry Smith from Friends & Colleagues



“Garry J. Smith’s presence in gambling studies is huge and will be missed. His stellar contributions have had a profound impact, not only on the direction and content of gambling studies in general but on the careers of so many other gambling studies scholars, including my own. As the progenitor of AGRI - which is but one of his many achievements - Garry’s influence has not only been significant but will be lasting.”

Dr. Colin S. Campbell, Douglas College

“Professor Garry Smith deserves to be recognized as a sociologist of gambling in the grand tradition of Erving Goffman. His body of work provides an important balance to research narrowly focused on the prevalence and etiology of pathological gambling. He adopts a long and a wide view of gambling, addressing its cultural histories in Alberta, its social transformations as well as its connection with different kinds of criminal activities in Canada.

Smith is also one of the rare scholars to seriously attend to positive benefits of gambling, exploring the skills and modes of social interaction that can make it a “salutary” activity for many. An early article published in the very first issue of *International Gambling Studies* considered the self-regulatory practice of wagering among recreational golf players. His most recent research, with Linda Hancock, explores a very different gambling context, pointing to the limitations of individual responsibility and the conflicts involved in corporate self-regulation in an era of high intensity, digital gambling technologies. The heated debate recently sparked by their article “Critiquing the Reno model” in the *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction* testifies to the enduring impact of Smith’s work and its capacity to inspire a rising generation of critical gambling scholars.”

Dr. Fiona Nicoll, Institute Research Chair,
University of Alberta



“It is such a great pleasure to accept this invitation to say a few words about Garry as he retires. His has been such a long and meaningful contribution to the field of insightful gambling studies, that it is hard to remember early gambling research before Garry. Many others will mention his early work on SEIG and ongoing gambling research on longitudinal gambling research, the flaws in Canadian and international gambling regimes and his contribution to legal challenges. He has always had an eagle eye for detail and pithy critiques that go to the heart of the matter. His legacy is many seminal pieces of work, some now classics in the field, usually collaborative and always riveting and insightful. Behind the scenes, he has nurtured many early career researchers and played a central role in reviewing scholarly work and assessing the merits of grant application across Canada and more widely. My own collaborations with Garry have been deeply pleasurable and from my sabbatical at Edmonton, I learned how boot camp gym at lunchtime and a bowl of soup actually stimulates productive afternoons. His

past sporting prowess and generosity as a coach have contributed to a long and healthy working life and a notable popularity across campuses. Above all, Garry’s droll sense of humour and intelligent wit, his coinage of new terms like the “pretzel logic” of Responsible Gambling advocates, stick in my mind. I feel deeply privileged to have had the opportunity to work with Garry and carry many great memories. Thanks, Garry, and we acknowledge it’s time for more golf! ”

Dr. Linda Hancock, Deakin University

“Garry Smith’s early and ongoing contribution to gambling research cannot be overstated. Not only did he achieve an exceptional reputation for his own gambling research but he also significantly contributed to the high regard attained by the Alberta Gambling Research Institute in the international community. In my position as founding Executive Director of AGRI, I frequently solicited his input on a range of matters. He was always available with helpful advice and assistance delivered with his unfailing sense of humor. Interacting with him was a genuine pleasure. My sincerest best wishes for a healthy, relaxing (with lots of golf), and well-deserved retirement.”

Vickii Williams, Institute Executive Director (2000-2015)

“I doubt that anyone meeting Garry Smith casually would be able to guess what he is: a pioneering researcher who combines practical, “feet on the ground” empiricism with a deep theoretical grounding in sociology. He wears his erudition lightly, and blends forthright honesty with humour. It’s a style that made him an effective leader in gambling research and a key figure in creating and shaping AGRI. Thanks, Garry! ”

- Dr. Séamus O’Shea, Institute Board Chair

“As I enter my 25th year of studying problem gamblers -- and gambling more generally -- nowadays I find myself reflecting on the people who helped me out early on, and I feel tremendous gratitude when doing so. When I was a mere graduate student, fresh off chasing a ball around for a tiny amount of money (something that endeared me, I suspect, to one of Canadian basketball’s finest!), I first met Garry Smith. He invited me to speak at one of his very first conferences, which was something he most certainly did not have to do for a graduate student. He didn’t know

it then, but it was my first major speech. I was nervous -- but is it even possible to be nervous when one is in the presence of the brilliant goofballery (I made up that word, I believe, and I say it with the utmost affection) of Garry Smith? After he introduced me, I went up to the podium, and I remember it being light, fun, and engaging -- much as Garry Smith always is. In the years to come, we would play pick-up basketball in between conferences, and all over the world. The man -- and don't tell him I told you this -- could PLAY. He was incredibly efficient. And very smart. And it is that playful, efficient, smart Garry Smith who has brought so much to our field. Thank you, Garry!,,

Dr. Bo J. Bernhard, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

“Garry was instrumental in the conception of AGRI. His creative and principled spirit of enquiry continued to guide us over the years. As a valuable and reliable colleague, one could always count on his sense of humor to make our

meetings enjoyable. Garry may be retiring but one hopes we will be able to continue to benefit from his extensive Emeritus wisdom.,”

Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, Institute Research Director

“Garry is one of Canada's pioneers of gambling research. As such, he helped set the stage for a very vibrant and policy-relevant research agenda, which has benefited all Canadians.,”

Dr. Robert Williams, Institute Research Coordinator, University of Lethbridge

“Passion and wisdom are the adjectives that immediately come to mind when think of Garry's contribution to our field. Passion about ensuring that gambling is promoted in a way that minimizes negative effects and maximizes its pleasures, and wisdom about what factors need to be considered in developing good policy. He approached his scholarship like he approaches his sports - fair play, collegial play, but play to win!,”

Dr. David Hodgins, Institute Research Coordinator, University of Calgary

“Garry Smith has certainly earned his reputation as being a first-class gambling scholar whose investigations have ventured into some of the most interesting, thought-provoking and policy-relevant issues related to gambling. It has been great getting to know Garry over the years ... I especially enjoyed his memorable “roast” at the 2010 conference banquet to celebrate the Institute's tenth anniversary.,”

Rhys Stevens, Institute Librarian & Information Specialist

“It has been a great pleasure knowing Garry for these past three years in my role as Executive Director for AGRI. His in-depth knowledge in gambling research has shown me his influence and brilliance! Garry's outreach in collaborating with fellow researchers, providing expertise for various mediums and working with AGRI members is extensive, and I'm so glad to have had a chance to be a part of it. Garry's humility and humour, especially his humour, will be remembered ... I will certainly miss our football and hockey conversations! All the best, Garry, for a well-deserved retirement with many rounds of golf!,”

Glenda Wong, Institute Executive Director





Institute Research Director, Dr. Nady el-Guebaly, was recognized at the Institute's 17th Annual Conference for being appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada for distinguished leadership on addictions research and treatment

(see Fall 2017 newsletter for details).



Dr. Nady el-Guebaly and Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, May 10, 2018

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Glenda Wong
Email: gwong@ucalgary.ca

RESEARCH DIRECTOR

Dr. Nady el-Guebaly
Email: nady.el-guebaly@ahs.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

University of Lethbridge
Dr. Darren Christensen
Email: Darren.christensen@uleth.ca

Please forward any comments or inquiries to:
Email: agri@ucalgary.ca
Ph. 403-220-3062

Rhys Stevens
Writer

Glenda Wong, Rhys Stevens & Karen Buttner
Editors

North Design Group
Design/Layout

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