

22nd Annual Alberta Gambling Research Institute Conference



Speakers (alphabetical by last name)

Youssef Allami



Youssef Allami (PhD in clinical psychology) is a postdoctoral fellow at the Alberta Gambling Research Institute. Before moving to Alberta, Dr. Allami practiced as an addiction clinical psychologist in Montreal, Quebec. His past research has looked at how various mental health and gambling-related risk factors differentially predict problem gambling severity. Currently, Dr. Allami studies predictors of treatment-seeking and remission from problem gambling, with the goal of identifying unique predictors as a function of the biopsychosocial profiles of people who gamble.

Presentation: What types of treatments do Canadians with Problem Gambling typically go for and find helpful?

About one in five people with problem gambling seek treatment. This presentation will be the first to provide an assessment of the relative popularity of various types of treatment modalities, along with their reported helpfulness, in a representative community sample of people with problem gambling in Canada. Results will be presented according to various sociodemographic factors and mental health indicators. This presentation will wrap up with an overview of upcoming research we will be conducting in order to further elucidate which factors longitudinally predict people seeking various treatment services.

Kate Bedford

Kate Bedford (PhD) is Professor of Law at the University of Birmingham. She is an interdisciplinary scholar with a background in political economy, international development, socio-legal studies, and gender/sexuality studies. In 2008, she began a project on the gendered political economy of gambling regulation, using commercial and non-commercial bingo to think in new ways about the regulation of everyday speculation. Funded by a large UK Economic and Social Research Council grant (ES/J02385X/1, A Full House: Developing A New Socio-Legal Theory of Global Gambling Regulation), she and a team of researchers explored bingo regulation around the world. Her second book, *Bingo Capitalism: The Law and Political Economy of Everyday Gambling*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2019. It was awarded the 2020 Hart-Socio-Legal Studies Association book prize and the 2020 International Political Economy book prize of the British International Studies Association. She co-edits the journal *Critical Gambling Studies*, with Professor Fiona Nicoll. She is currently researching the impact of Covid on alcohol and gambling regulation.



Fiona Nicoll



Fiona Nicoll (PhD) is a former Alberta Gambling Research Institute Chair in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta, where she now works as to build research capacity in interdisciplinary gambling studies through co-editing the international peer-reviewed journal *Critical Gambling Studies*, developing knowledge transfer projects (including a microcredential in gambling), as well as working with Indigenous youth researchers on intersections of video gaming and gambling. Dr. Nicoll is the author of *Gambling in Everyday Life* (Routledge, 2019) and numerous peer reviewed publications and book chapters on socio-cultural and political aspects of gambling. She is currently completing a manuscript titled *Integrity in Gambling Research* using methods of meta-analysis, interviews and other bibliographic evaluation techniques.

Presentation: What can we learn from gambling researchers working in Humanities, Social Sciences and Law?

In this presentation Drs. Fiona Nicoll and Kate Bedford seek to shift the entrenched grounds of contemporary debates about gambling. The first part of the paper explores what it means for gambling research to embrace “interdisciplinarity”, with reference to CP Snow’s famous essays on the ‘two cultures’ of academic life, and ongoing debates about the value and future of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS). The second part of the paper showcases some of the most interesting and provocative current research on gambling by HSS researchers. In particular, Drs. Nicoll and Bedford note the value of such work in identifying the potential harms caused by gambling law, policy, and treatment frameworks grounded solely in mainstream research in psychology, neuroscience and addiction medicine. They hereby explore the grounded effects, on gambling harm interventions, of a lack of diversity in academic scholarship.

Lori Haskell

Lori Haskell (PhD, CM) is a clinical psychologist who splits her time between delivering professional training and educational presentations across Canada and her clinical private practice. She is a nationally recognized expert on trauma and abuse, and on trauma informed approaches to mental health service delivery and on legal responses. Dr. Haskell has worked on collaborative projects addressing the impact of trauma on Indigenous peoples, trauma and the service challenges for developmentally disabled people, complex trauma and homelessness, and restorative justice and gendered violence. She has provided expert evidence in a number of legal proceedings, including criminal trials and gives expert testimony. She has a status appointment as an assistant professor in psychiatry at the University of Toronto and is an academic research associate with the Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children, at Western University.

Presentation: Trauma-informed approaches to gambling and gaming addiction

David Hodgins

David C. Hodgins (PhD, FCAHS) is Director of the Program in Clinical Psychology in the Department of Psychology, University of Calgary and a coordinator with the Alberta Gaming Research Institute. Dr. Hodgins is registered as a Clinical Psychologist in Alberta. His research interests focus on various aspects of addictive behaviours including relapse and recovery from substance and gambling disorders.



Presentation: Venue and Online-based Self-Exclusion as Harm Reduction:

What we Know and What we Need to Know

The history of the evolution of self-exclusion programs will be outlined. The evidence base on the impact of voluntary self-exclusion programs in land-based and online gambling sites for reducing gambling-related harm will be reviewed. The implications of this research for the design and operation of self-exclusion programs include the value of better marketing, easier enrollment, better detection, and improved linking of participants with other responsible gambling options.

Indige-Spheres Youth Group:



Zhaawan Aanakwad (Matthew Bombardier) is a Wiisaakodewinini person from Waawiiye’adinong-Ziibing and currently resides in Thunder Bay. He is a student in the Faculty of Education with teachables in History and Native Studies. He is a Director of We Matter an organization dedicated to inspiring hope, support and life promotion for Indigenous youth. He is also a youth leader and researcher for the Indige-Spheres Youth Group.

Jessica Meekis is from Sandy Lake First Nation in northwestern Ontario which is in the Treaty 9 territories. She is 24 years old and lives in the city of Thunder Bay. She is a youth leader and youth researcher for the Indige-Spheres Youth Group. She currently works on the WISER Project (Human Trafficking) as a Mino-Bimaadiziwin Anokii-Kwe peer support champion, working on street outreach and organizing Indigenous women’s retreats.

Boozhoo, my name is **Meschaquin Neekan** and I am 25 years old and come from Mishkeegogamang First Nation in Northwestern Ontario. I sit on the Indige-Spheres Youth Research Steering Committee as a Youth Leader and have been actively involved with Indige-Spheres since 2016. I am a gamer and I consider myself a gaming addict. Some of my accomplishments include contributing a testimony of how gaming has affected my life which resulted in a short video that was presented at the GREO annual general meeting a few years ago when I was a teenager. Most recently I was a presenter at the WIPCE Conference in Australia and I was a member of a panel presentation with my colleagues and it was very well received by the audience. I am here to share about my life as a gamer. Miigwech.

Caitlyn Salmon has mixed Indigenous/Jamaican roots and is a traditional artist and digital artist, specializing in 3D modeling, animation, and illustration. She currently resides in Toronto, Ontario. Cait holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (English Major) from York University, and a post grad certificate for Video Game Art and Animation from Seneca College. She has worked on multiple mainstream films for Disney, Sony, and IMAX, specializing in post-production and VFX. Cait also works as a freelance artist and serves as a mentor and gaming facilitator with Indige-Spheres to empowerment.

Panel Presentation: Giwii-nisidotanmin odaminowin: A panel on videogaming in everyday life in Northwestern Ontario from the Indige-Spheres to Empowerment youth research group.

Over the past three years the Indige-Spheres to Empowerment youth research group has been leading a project on the role of videogaming in their everyday lives, using trauma-informed and land and culture-based research methods as well as workshops and an international exchange with youth gamers from Australia. In this panel you will hear reflections from members of this youth-led and youth-driven research group about what they have learned about videogaming through their workshops and land-based activities.

Andrew Kim



Andrew (Hyounsu) Kim (PhD) is a registered clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson). He is also the chair of the Canadian Psychological Association's Addiction Psychology. Dr. Kim's research broadly focuses on understanding the psychological risk factors and mechanisms of addictions and their co-occurring mental health disorders. Dr. Kim's recent work has focused on examining the characteristics and impacts of sports betting in Canada. In particular, he has examined the characteristics of individuals who engage in novel forms of sports betting such as in-play bets and its associated harms. His work has been funded by the Alberta Gambling Research Institute, Gambling Research Exchange Ontario, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Presentation: The Slot Machine of Sports Betting? Who, Why, and the Harms of In-Play Sports Betting

The recent legalization of single event sports betting in Ontario has paved the way for in-play sports betting. Known as game within a game, in-play sports betting allows players to continuously make bets while a sporting event is ongoing. Consequently, in-play sports betting has been compared to slot machines. This presentation will provide results from a series of studies that investigated the characteristics of in-play sports bettors, the triggers of in-play sports betting, and harms of in-play sports betting. Study 1 consisted of a large online survey of adults (N=920) who currently bet on sports to examine the profiles of individuals who engages in sports betting. Study 2 consisted of a 14-day ecological momentary assessment study with 84 in-play bettors from Study 1 to investigate the triggers and gambling-related harms of in-play sports betting. The presentation will conclude with what may happen in Alberta with legalization of single event betting.

Darrel Maniowabi

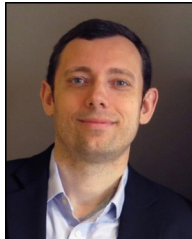
Darrel Maniowabi (PhD) is an associate professor in Human Sciences at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University and is the inaugural Jason A. Hannah Chair in Indigenous Health and Indigenous Traditional Medicine. He is Three Fires Anishinaabe from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory on Manitoulin Island and currently resides in the Whitefish River First Nation. His interest in Indigenous gambling is the intersection of the Indigenous epistemology and practice of gambling within colonialism, determinants of health and Indigenous self-determination. He is currently collaborating on a national study examining the social, political, economic, and cultural impact of Indigenous gambling in Canada.



Presentation: The Social Practice of Indigenous Gambling in Ontario in the Past and Present

The following presentation compares Indigenous gambling in what is now known as the province of Ontario in the pre-colonial and contemporary colonial periods. The methodology consists of an ethnohistorical examination of Ontario's Anishnaabe and Wendat people's past gambling practices compared to the present day. This ethnohistorical analysis contrasts with contemporary gambling and state formations of Indigenous peoples through colonization that has resulted in reserve settlements, socio-political identities, displacements, and transformed gambling via lotteries, bingos, casinos, and online gambling. The analytical framework is the social practice of Indigenous gambling in both the absence and presence of colonialism. In the past, Indigenous gambling practices incorporated social, cultural, and psychological elements in defined leisurely times determined through livelihood. At present, psycho-social-cultural elements of gambling remain comparative to pre-colonial forms. On the other hand, the political context of state regulation, control, and restrictions of Indigenous gambling functions as a modern feature of social practice.

Dan McGrath



Daniel McGrath (PhD) is an Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director in the Department of Psychology at the University of Calgary. Dr. McGrath is also a Senior Research Fellow with the Alberta Gambling Research Institute. His research is primarily focused on the co-morbid relationship between commonly used substances (e.g., tobacco, alcohol) and gambling behaviour, attentional biases in gambling disorder, and the role of personality in addiction. Much of this work involves conducting experiments in a controlled laboratory environment using drug-challenge designs and eye-gaze tracking technology. Most recently, he has also been conducting research in the area of behavioural financial and trading. Dr. McGrath has been the recipient of numerous grants to support his research and has published over 65 peer-reviewed journal articles.

Presentation: Motives for (and against) Cryptocurrency Ownership in Young Adults During a Bull Market

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of people purchasing various cryptocurrencies increased dramatically. Yet, motives for why young adults do or do not engage in cryptocurrency are poorly understood. In the gambling literature, motivational models have usefully described reasons for engaging in gambling. In addition, focusing on self-generated responses has also shown utility in identifying key motivations. The aim of this study was to qualitatively identify motives for cryptocurrency ownership and non-ownership using open-ended responses provided by respondents. A sample of current cryptocurrency owners, and a group of non-cryptocurrency owners, were recruited from the University of Calgary community during the bull market of 2020-2021. Participants were asked to provide their top three reasons for using (or not using) cryptocurrency. Self-generated motivations in both groups were then categorized according to conceptual similarity. Understanding how young adults are involved in cryptocurrency is key to identifying those at possible risk for making poor financial decisions. Ultimately, the results of this study may inform future cryptocurrency policy.

Michael Naraine

Michael Naraine (PhD) is an Associate Professor of Sport Management at Brock University. His research is in the area of digital sport management and marketing, examining the strategy, fan engagement, and analytics related to new developments in the sport business landscape including social media, esports, and, of course, iGaming. He has published over 60 peer-reviewed published journal articles, three books, and is the lead co-editor for The Routledge Handbook of Digital Sport Management released in 2023. In 2019, he was named a Research Fellow of the North American Society for Sport Management and, in 2022, he was named the American Marketing Association's Emerging Scholar for Sport and Sponsorship-Linked Marketing. Prior to Brock, Dr. Naraine taught at the Deakin Business School in Melbourne, Australia, and he remains a consultant for professional, amateur, and intercollegiate sport operations in both Canada and Australia. Presently, he is an elected board member of Canada Snowboard.



Presentation: The New Landscape of Sports Betting in Canada

With the Safe and Regulated Sports Betting Act (SRSBA) achieving royal assent on June 29th, 2021, a new framework of sports betting was introduced to Canadians. However, as we approach two years after royal assent, the landscape of sports betting in Canada looks different from one provincial jurisdiction to another. In this talk, the new landscape of sports betting is discussed in the context of sport management and marketing, emphasizing market structures and considerations. Further, the presentation will serve as a primer to introduce researchers and stakeholders to the dynamic properties of the (professional) sport industry and how that may affect gambling culture and behaviours (and future studies).

Philip Newall



Philip Newall (PhD) is a Lecturer at the University of Bristol's School of Psychological Science. Previously, Dr. Newall completed a PhD at the University of Stirling, before going on to postdoctoral research fellowships at Technical University Munich, the University of Warwick, and Central Queensland University's Experimental Gambling Research Laboratory. He is a member of the Advisory Board for Safer Gambling – an advisory group of the Gambling Commission in Great Britain, and was a special advisor to the House of Lords Select Committee Enquiry on the Social and Economic Impact of the Gambling Industry. Dr. Newall's research applies concepts and research methods from the interdisciplinary field of behavioural science to gambling. He is on the editorial board of the journal Addiction Research & Theory.

Presentation: Reduce the speed and ease of online gambling in order to prevent harm

In jurisdictions that have historically restricted online gambling, the fast and immersive nature of electronic gambling machines (EGMs) means that they have generally been the gambling product most strongly associated with harm. However, a recent international meta-analysis found that only gambling online had a stronger point estimate association with harm than EGM use. The UK has the world's largest regulated online gambling market, and there the main proposals to reduce the harmfulness of online gambling have centred around limits on either stake sizes or expenditure. However, any restrictive approach has the twin downsides of failing to protect those who experience harm below the limit, while unnecessarily restricting the freedoms of those who can gamble safely above the limit. Contrastingly, reducing the speed and ease of online gambling can decrease the risk of harm across the entire population of online gamblers. I illustrate this point using international examples across a range of online gambling products.

Carrie Shaw

Carrie A. Shaw (nee Leonard) (PhD) served as the Project Manager for the AGRI National Project (ANP) "Gambling and Problem Gambling in Canada: A National Study" until 2021. Her research interests include cognitive and social individual differences, the role those individual difference factors play in erroneous belief formation and the role of erroneous beliefs in problem gambling. Dr. Shaw's recent publications include: "Gambling in Canada During the Pandemic: 6 Months After the National COVID Lockdown" (2022), "Gambling in Canada During the COVID Lockdown: Prospective National Survey" (2021), "Gambling Fallacies: Predicting Problem Gambling in a National Sample" (2021), "Fallacious beliefs: Gambling specific and belief in the paranormal" (2018), "The relationship between gambling fallacies and problem gambling" (2016), "Gambling Fallacies: What are they and how are they best measured?" (2015), and "Characteristics of good poker players" (2015)."



Presentation: Stakeholder and general population attitudes towards gambling in Canada: (dis) harmony?

Studies of gamblers often include assessment of participant knowledge and attitudes towards gambling as positive attitudes are associated with increased engagement. It is not known however, how well gambling stakeholder's opinions of gambling align with those of the general public. Thus, this study undertook the novel examination of the current attitudes towards, and knowledge about, gambling in Canada among the major provincial stakeholders: gambling providers, gambling regulators, directors of responsible gambling, problem gambling prevention and treatment administrators, commercial non-government casino providers, and provincial gambling research and/or knowledge translation entities. The second aim was to examine how well stakeholder responses aligned with those of the general public.

Rhys Stevens

Rhys Stevens is an academic librarian (Librarian III) at the University of Lethbridge Library in Lethbridge, Alberta. His primary responsibility is Librarian & Information Specialist for the Alberta Gambling Research Institute, a position he has held since 2001. He is also subject liaison librarian for Geography, Maps & Government Documents, Anthropology and Spatial/Numeric Data. Over the course of his time as Institute librarian, he has had the opportunity to provide literature reviews and other research support for numerous Institute-related initiatives, most recently as a member of the research team for the Institute-funded national study of gambling and problem gambling in Canada.



Presentation: Statistics Update: Provincially Regulated Online Gambling in Canada

The final puzzle piece was added to Canada's provincially regulated online gambling landscape when the Province of Saskatchewan's PlayNow site was launched in November 2022. Online gambling websites certainly aren't new and have been available in Canadian provinces from as early as 2004 when the Atlantic Lottery Corporation began selling lottery tickets online. Gambling offerings have also evolved over time from primarily lottery products to additional formats such as casino games and single-event sports betting. Online gambling, unlike most other forms of gambling in Canada, has also seen a rapid growth in revenue generated for provincial treasuries. In his presentation, Mr. Rhys Stevens will provide a brief overview of this gambling format and a breakdown of statistics related to net revenue and net income.

Rachel Volberg



Rachel A. Volberg (PhD) has been involved in research on gambling and problem gambling since 1985. Dr. Volberg has directed or consulted on numerous gambling studies around the world, including national prevalence surveys in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Norway and Sweden and longitudinal cohort studies in Australia, New Zealand and Sweden. She is currently the Principal Investigator on the major ongoing study, Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts (SEIGMA), funded by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. Dr. Volberg has served as a consultant and advisor to governments and private sector organizations in Europe, Asia, and North America on issues relating to gambling research, policy, and service development. Dr. Volberg is highly published and has engaged in extensive service to the field as an advocate for problem gamblers and their families, as a journal reviewer and editor, and as a mentor of young scholars in the field.

Presentation: The Potential Impacts of Legalized Sports Betting in the United States

The purpose of this presentation is to review the current status of legalized sports betting in the United States including an assessment of the various legislative and operational models adopted, revenues generated, economic and social outcomes identified to date, and sports betting behavior observed in states where this activity has been legalized. The presentation begins with a brief history of sports betting in America and follows with reviews of variation in sports betting legislation, regulatory frameworks, and operations across the 30 states and the District of Columbia that had legal and operational sports betting by 2022. This is followed by a review of the research literature on sports betting, a presentation of survey data from two recent national surveys carried out by the National Council on Problem Gambling, and a review of findings from cross-sectional surveys and cohort research carried out in Massachusetts since 2013. The presentation concludes with policy recommendations intended to optimize the benefits of sports betting while minimizing the harms.

Robert Williams

Robert Williams (PhD) is a professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge, in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada and also a Research Coordinator for the Alberta Gambling Research Institute. Dr. Williams teaches courses on gambling; provides frequent consultation to government, industry, the media, and public interest groups; and regularly gives expert witness testimony on the impacts of gambling. Dr. Williams is widely published and is a leading authority in the areas of: prevention of problem gambling, the etiology of problem gambling, online gambling, the socioeconomic impacts of gambling, the proportion of gambling revenue deriving from problem gamblers, the prevalence and nature of gambling in Indigenous communities, and best practices in the population assessment of problem gambling. He is also the Team Lead for the AGRI National Project.



Presentation: Online Gambling in Canada: Prevalence, Participants, Regulatory Capture, and Harm

This presentation will begin with an overview of the history and current status of online gambling both worldwide and in Canada. This will be followed by an examination of current Canadian and provincial prevalence rates of online gambling, the degree to which legal availability has been able to capture out-of-province online gambling, and how prevalence and regulatory capture have both tended to increase as a function of length and breadth of legal availability. The final part of this presentation will provide a demographic profile of Canadian online gamblers and the relationship between online gambling and gambling-related harm.

Concurrent Session Speakers (alphabetical by last name)

Andree Busenius

Andree Busenius is a speaker for the Problem Gambling Resources Network (PGRN) with an honours degree in Political Science and a minor in French from the University of Alberta. For almost a decade she worked with Alberta Economic Development in Edmonton and Peace River as a researcher, policy advisor and was instrumental in the formation of the Peace Region Economic Development Alliance (PREDA). Ms. Busenius is a popular and effective advocate for those with lived experiences of gambling addiction and speaks regularly to high school students, community groups and clients of detox services. She hopes by sharing not only her experiences but also those of countless others to continue to pull down the curtain of shame that befalls most addictive behaviour – defying social norms. Ms. Busenius hopes that storytellers can help shape gambling research at every stage and not be simple tokenism. As a parent of children with medical and cognitive special needs, she is acutely aware of the need for representation and validation, and she is passionate about giving a voice to those who are not often heard.



Presentation: Stories that matter: the importance of lived experience to understanding, preventing and healing from gambling addiction.

The knowledge of those with lived experiences of addiction is, after many decades, being more widely appreciated as an important aspect of an academic research agenda to inform effective policies to minimize gambling harms. Drawing on my own lived experiences, I have been working as an educator for many years to inform others about the risks of gambling. This presentation is informed by data generated by years of work with hundreds of high school students and detox clients. Adopting a trauma-informed lens on addiction, I will demonstrate the importance of stories in bridging gaps between the understanding and interests of different stakeholders in the gambling field, including providers, regulators and academic researchers. My paper also contributes to recent academic research on the importance of non-academic genres, such as memoir, to communicating and humanizing knowledge about gambling (See Rak, 2021).

Ted Gordon



Ted Gordon (PhD) is the Joe Farry Professor of Public Policy and Civic Engagement at the College of St. Benedict & St. John's University (CSB and SJU), where he also serves as Director of the Initiative for Native Nation Relations and as faculty in the Sociology Department. His research focuses on tribal sovereignty, activism, and boarding school truth and reconciliation. Dr. Gordon earned his PhD in Cultural Anthropology from the University of California, Riverside, where he first began working with native nations, helping to share stories of their successes in self-reliance and sovereignty. He is the author of Cahuilla Nation Activism and the Tribal Casino Movement (University of Nevada Press). His research has been supported by the Sycuan Institute on Tribal Gaming, the McKnight Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. PBS Newshour and Minnesota Public

Radio have featured his collaborations with Ojibwe nations. In 2021, Twin Cities Business Magazine recognized him as a Notable Leader in Higher Education.

Savannah Supan

Savannah Supan is a research assistant at the CSB and SJU Initiative for Native Nation Relations. Her work focuses on tribal sovereignty and boarding school truth and healing, including projects funded by the McKnight Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She has presented her research at the Minnesota Capitol Building and at the White Earth Nation Tribal Headquarters. At CSB, she studies in the Honors Scholars and majors in Nutrition with a minor in Chemistry.



Presentation: Indigenous Sovereignty and Casino Closures in Canada and the United States

During the first wave of COVID-19 in the Spring of 2020, state and provincial governments across the U.S. and Canada ordered businesses to close. As sovereign entities, tribal and first nation governments issued their own orders. Many policy makers and pundits across the U.S. and Canada have critiqued tribal and first nation sovereignty as enabling Indigenous communities to benefit at the expense of others. The first wave of the pandemic provided a unique opportunity to determine whether tribal and first nation governments would attempt to gain a market advantage by keeping their casinos open during state and provincial mandated closures. We collected casino closure and reopening dates from all tribal casinos in the U.S. and all first nation casino in Canada and compared those dates to state and provincial closure orders.

Jonathan Krutz



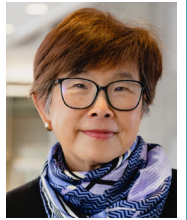
Jonathan Krutz (PhD, MBA) is emeritus professor of the College of Business and Economics at Boise State University in Idaho, USA. Dr. Krutz has been a local, state, and national voice for better gambling-impacts information for 25 years. Within the past year his gambling editorials have appeared in City and State New York and the New York Daily News and he was quoted in the New York Times. He has served on numerous non-profit boards including the Board of the U.S.-based Stop Predatory Gambling Foundation. During his career, Dr. Krutz grew a local agribusiness into a Midwest market leader and three non-profits into national models. His current research focuses on gambling impacts on public policy, economies, and people.

Presentation: Do casinos create economic development? A 15-year national analysis of local U.S. retail sales and employment growth

Claims of economic development have driven 30-years of U.S. casino growth, although the literature has been skeptical of casino-sponsored research behind those claims. For such claims to be true, retail sales and employment must grow faster in local economies with casinos than in similar locations without them. Economic theory and academic research suggest that most casinos do not attract new money to an area. This study provides a broad test of casino economic development impacts by measuring the substitution effect of casinos with regression and Growth Curve Model analyses. Census Bureau data allows comparison of growth rates of retail sales and employment between casino and non-casino micropolitan and metropolitan economic areas from 2002 to 2017. To isolate local-casino economic impacts, the study excludes four destination-casino states and six other states where EGMs (electronic gambling devices, which provide roughly 75 percent of casino revenues) operate apart from casinos. The study finds little evidence that casinos boost retail sales growth; instead, in the 2007 to 2012 period that includes the Great Recession, retail sales in casino economies shrank at a rate two to three times greater than in non-casino economies. The Growth Curve Model also shows that employment grew at a slower rate in casino economies than in non-casino economies across the entire study period.

Bonnie Lee

Bonnie Lee (PhD) is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences. Her research concentrates on the development and evaluation of a systemic congruence couple therapy model for addiction treatment. For Dr. Lee's innovative contributions to addiction treatment, she was awarded the Board of Governors Research Chair Tier 2 (2016-2019). A trainer at the Advanced Clinical Education Institutes for the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Canada, Dr. Lee has been a featured speaker and keynote with many universities and professional organizations internationally.



Presentation: Seekers of Couple Therapy for Gambling and Alcohol Use Disorders: How Did They End Up?

We know very little about the profiles of those who seek couple therapy for problem gambling and/or alcohol use since couple therapy is rarely a treatment option. Who are they and what happened to those who received couple treatment vs individual-based treatment? We will present what we learned from a randomized trial conducted in a real-world health services setting.

Joanne Lloyd



Joanne Lloyd (PhD) is a Reader in Cyberpsychology and the Deputy Director of the Centre for Psychological Research at the University of Wolverhampton in the UK. Dr. Lloyd has been researching gambling for over 15 years, and in recent years has worked on several GambleAware funded projects, including leading an investigation into the convergence of gaming and gambling (specifically, 'loot boxes'). She is currently leading a series of studies exploring the stigmatisation of people who experience gambling harms and supervising a GambleAware-funded PhD student researching gambling in people with intellectual disabilities.

Presentation: Loot boxes and problem gambling: Investigating the “gateway hypothesis”

Convergence of gambling and video gaming has attracted substantial attention in recent years, particularly in the form of ‘loot boxes’ (purchasable in-game items that vary in value according to randomised schedules). While correlations between loot box engagement and problematic gambling are well-established, the question of whether, and to what extent, loot box purchasing acts as a ‘gateway’ to gambling, and/or gambling harms, is less well understood. Whilst the data gathered in this project relies on retrospective self-report, and would merit replication via longitudinal designs, they suggest that gateway (and reverse gateway) effects exist for a substantial proportion of gamers and gamblers; and are associated with measurable risks and harms. Implications for consumer protection and educational messaging will be discussed.

Arthur McLuhan



Arthur McLuhan (PhD) is a Senior Research Associate at MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto. A sociologist of culture and interaction, his research examines the interactional patterns that sustain group affiliations, shape identities, maintain boundaries, and reproduce inequalities. Dr. McLuhan uses qualitative methods to study these issues across a variety of groups and social settings. His research at MAP is focused in two areas: (1) problem gambling, poverty, and homelessness and (2) incarceration, re-entry, and health.

Flora Matheson

Flora Matheson (PhD) leads the Justice and Equity Research Program located at MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, St. Michael's Hospital. Dr. Matheson's research focuses on solutions to reduce social and health inequities among people experiencing problem gambling and imprisonment; solutions that are built with and for these communities. As a Sociologist she uses both a gender and social determinants of health lens to enact change.



Madison Ford



Madison Ford is a Research Coordinator in the Justice and Equity Research Program within the MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, St. Michael's Hospital. Ms. Ford holds a Master's of Public Health from Lund University and focused her thesis research on the association between problem gambling and comorbid physical conditions, mental health problems, problematic substance use, and behavioural addictions with the goal of finding new opportunities for pathways to treatment. As a Research Coordinator, she is currently managing various projects, including a self-management app for people experiencing problem gambling.

Presentation: SPRinG: a digital health tool to support self-management of problem gambling

The prevalence of problem gambling among people experiencing poverty and/or homelessness is up to 58%--9 times higher than in the general population. Both poverty and homelessness are major public health issues: 3.7 million people in Canada experience poverty and every year at least 235,000 experience homelessness. Responsible gambling (RG) tools can help minimize gambling-related harms among vulnerable populations, but current RG tools are not developed, implemented, or validated in ways that are responsive to the context of this population, introducing barriers to support for those who can afford to lose the least. Through a unique collaboration between the research team, community partners, and persons with lived experience we co-designed and developed the SPRinG app, the first smartphone-delivered intervention to support responsible gambling in the context of poverty and/or homelessness. This presentation will describe the design and development of the SPRinG app as well as the SPRinG Pilot Study, a mixed methods project examining the uptake, engagement, and preliminary effectiveness of the SPRinG app. The proposed project will (1) provide evidence on the feasibility of a smartphone-delivered RG intervention by identifying barriers and facilitators among people experiencing poverty and/or homelessness; (2) develop recommendations for improving the current SPRinG app and planning future implementation; and (3) define best-practices and develop guidelines for developing RG tools that are responsive to the context of poverty and homelessness. In doing so, the project begins to redress the neglect of people experiencing poverty and/or homelessness in the RG field.

Elisabeth Papineau



Elisabeth Papineau (PhD) is an anthropologist and researcher at the Québec National Institute of Public Health (INSPQ). She is also associate professor at the School of Public Health, University of Montréal. With over 20 years working experience in the field of gambling, Dr. Papineau authored INSPQ scientific works pertaining to problem gambling prevention, moratorium on video lottery terminals, the moving of Montreal casino and the introduction of gambling salons. She has directed various subsidized projects (gambling in four cultural communities, seniors gambling, lottery and deprivation, the impact of online gambling). Her current project aims to characterize and represent both exposure and vulnerability to gambling in Quebec (CIHR). All of this work aims at a better understanding of gambling problems from a public health perspective: it highlights and questions the harmful nature of environments and games and social inequalities linked to gambling.

Presentation: Empowering cities and communities to manage harmful gambling environments

The nature of the built environment and the layout of neighbourhoods may be conducive or harmful to health, community development and individual development. The Québec National Institute of Public Health has developed a Gambling Exposure Index and Vulnerability to Gambling Index (VGI) and a cartographic tool, intended for the health network and stakeholders in the community, municipal/urban planning, regional and government sectors. It shows that 17% of the Quebec population live in high vulnerability and exposure to gambling. A consultative conference was held and the results submitted to 26 different stakeholders to discuss: If such a situation could be observed in their own areas; How the indices and the cartographic tool can be used and improved to develop favorable environments. This process has highlighted the relevance of consulting stakeholders and knowledge users to produce research rooted in community needs and support more realistic public policies. We will present the ideas and improvements expressed by participants to address harmful gambling distribution according to their respective mandates and environments. We will also discuss the potential adaptation of this tool to other commercial determinants of health like alcohol and cannabis.

Sasha Stark

Sasha Stark (PhD) is Senior Research Lead at Greo, an independent knowledge translation and exchange organization working across the health and wellbeing sectors. Dr. Stark is an internationally known gambling researcher, having worked in the field for 15 years. She oversees development of Greo's knowledge synthesis products, leads research activities, and works with stakeholders globally. Previously, Dr. Stark was Senior Researcher at the Responsible Gambling Council, where she led primary and applied research and evaluation activities.



Presentation: Considering Online Gambling in the Broader Context of Digital Wellbeing

Digital wellbeing is a relatively new concept that focuses on the impacts of spending time in various online spaces, beyond single platforms. Adopting this concept can encourage us to consider online gambling in the context of people's lives. Specifically, it encourages the examination of time spent online beyond gambling platforms, such as gaming, socializing, and working. Considering online gambling in the context of digital wellbeing can allow for a more holistic understanding of the uses, risks, and impacts of online spaces. In doing so, it can provide several benefits for those who spend time online – including gambling – like increased awareness and use of resources across platforms, improved online experiences, and greater digital wellbeing. In exploring the potential of digital wellbeing for work on online gambling, this presentation will consider key questions including: What is digital wellbeing? How does it relate to online gambling? What can we learn from digital wellbeing for how we understand, approach, and provide online gambling?