Alberta Gambling Research Institute 25th Annual Conference

Conference Program

April 30 – May 2, 2026
Kinnear Centre
The Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta

All times Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)

Thursday, April 30	
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	**Student Session (for 'Student' Registrants only)**
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	**Welcome Reception** Sponsored by: AGLC Choices Albertans can trust. GameSense

Friday, May 01		
8:30 am – 8:55 am	**Welcome / Conference Opening Remarks**	
Morning Sessions - Theme: Sports Gambling & Advertising		
9:00 am – 9:45 am	**Session 1:** *Leveling the Playing Field: Current Knowledge and Future Directions of Sports Betting Research*	**Andrew Kim**
9:50 am – 10:35 am	**Session 2:** *Gambling Marketing: Insights from a Decade of International Research*	**Philip Newall**
Morning Sessions - Theme: Youth Gambling		
10:50 am – 11:30 am	**Session 3:** *25+ Years of Youth Gambling Research: Myths, Realities and New Understandings*	**Jeffrey Derevensky**

Morning Sessions - Theme: Youth Gambling (con't)		
11:35 am – 12:15 pm	**Session 4:** *Relative Prevalence of Problems With Gambling, Substances, Digital Media and Mental Health Among Youth*	**Carrie Shaw**

Afternoon Sessions – Theme: Regulatory Challenges		
1:30 pm – 2:10 pm	**Session 5:** *Nudging Positive Play: Overcoming Barriers to Responsible Gambling Tool Use with Incentives*	**Michael Wohl**
2:15 pm – 3:00 pm	**Session 6:** *True Regulatory Capture of Provincial Online Gambling Market*	**Rob Williams**
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	**Poster Presentations**	

Saturday, May 02

Morning Sessions – Theme: Qualitative Research		
8:30 am – 9:10 am	**Session 7:** *Lost in the Data: The Case for Qualitative Inquiry into Gambling Problems and Harms*	**Rachel Volberg**
9:15 am – 9:55 am	**Session 8:** *The Evolution of Lived Experience in Gambling Research: Insights and Challenges*	**Stephen Sharman**

Morning Concurrent Sessions

Time	Theme: Harms & Special Populations	Theme: Gambling Research
10:10 am – 10:40 am	**Session 9a:** *The Awareness, Use and Helpfulness of EGM Harm Minimization/Responsible Gambling Measures in Canada* **Speaker: Darren Christensen**	**Session 10a:** *Help on Demand. Development of an Engaging Self-directed Mobile App for Gambling* **Speaker: David Hodgins**
10:45 am – 11:15 am	**Session 9b:** *Casino and Online Self-Exclusion in Canada: Awareness, Uptake, and Breach Behaviour* **Speaker: Youssef Allami**	**Session 10b:** *The Naltrexone Imaging Study II: Evidence from the Control Arm for Naltrexone as a Pharmacological Intervention* **Speaker: Catherine Laskowski**
11:20 am – 11:50 am	**Session 9c:** *Immigration Status and Gambling Risk Profiles: Is there Evidence for a Harm Paradox?* **Speaker: Corina Picco**	**Session 10c:** *A Unified Protocol for In-lab Measurement of Video Gaming and Gambling Behaviours* **Speaker: IgorYakovenko**

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Time	Theme: Technology in Gambling	Theme: Regulatory Challenges & Longitudinal Research
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	**Session 11a:** *Quantity Over Quality: Effects of AI-Generated Warning Messages on Gambling Beliefs, Cravings, and Intentions* **Speaker: Spencer Murch**	**Session 12a:** *The impact of 'Opening' the Ontario Online Gambling Market: Changes in Engagement and Problem Gambling* **Speaker: Truong Bo**

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions (con't)		
1:35 pm – 2:05 pm	**Session 11b:** *Online Gambling Among Young Canadian Adults* **Speaker: Matthew Young**	**Session 12b:** *Affect Regulation Motives for Gambling in a Two-Year Longitudinal Panel of Americans who Gamble* **Speaker: Joshua Grubbs**
2:10 pm – 2:40 pm	**Session 11c:** *Cash Out: Frequency of Use and Characteristics of Users* **Speaker: Joanna Park**	**Session 12c:** *Problem Gambling Rates Across Different Gambling Formats: A 2024 Snapshot from British Columbia* **Speaker: Luke Clark**
Afternoon Sessions		
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	**Session 14:** *A Cross-Country Tour of Canadian Gambling Statistics*	**Rhys Stevens**
3:20 pm – 4:10 pm	**Session 15:** *Regulating Gambling-Like Products: Loot Boxes, Blind Boxes, and Card Packs*	**Leon Xiao**
4:15 pm – 4:30 pm	**Poster Award Presentation & Closing Remarks**	**Carrie Shaw**

Note: Program subject to change.