

# Conference Presenters

## Yale Belanger

Yale D. Belanger (PhD) is professor of Political Science at the University of Lethbridge (Alberta), and a Member, Royal Society of Canada, College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists (2017-2024). He has written or edited numerous books and articles about First Nation casino development and the gaming industry, Indigenous self-government and self-determination, housing and homelessness, and Indigenous activism. His books include First Nations Gaming in Canada (Manitoba, 2011), Gambling with the Future: The Evolution of Aboriginal Gaming in Canada (Purich, 2006), and Ways of Knowing: An Introduction to Indigenous Studies in Canada, 4th Ed. (Nelson, 2021), among others.



## Darrel Manitowabi

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



### Presentation:

#### **“Casinos in the Wild”: Settler Colonialism, Provincial Hegemony, and the Indigenous Challenge of Pursuing Economic Sovereignty**

Every First Nation-operated casino in Canada is located on a legally designated reserve in accordance with provincial policies regulating their placement. As Veracini (2010) notes, these outcomes are characteristic of a settler colonial approach provincial officials universally employ to contain First Nations and their gambling-related initiatives to demarcated and frequently geographically isolated reserve communities. Relying on a combination of law and policy, in this way provincial officials seek to preserve dominion over historic Indigenous lands they occupy and economically exploit. As we will show, provincial officials marshalling settler colonialism in this fashion formally subdue Indigenous economic sovereignty's potential threat to ongoing provincial economic and political control. Our review of various provincial First Nations gaming policies combined with interviews with government officials and Indigenous leaders conducted as part of the AGRI National Gambling Study: Gambling and Problem Gambling in Canada, will confirm settler colonialism's reality. Our analysis will further demonstrate that the state's efforts to control First Nations gambling market entry subvert Indigenous economic sovereignty in ways that economically benefit the state while ensuring First Nations ongoing physical, political and economic marginalization.

Session 1

**Friday,  
June 24**

**9:00 am -  
9:40 am**

# 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.

## Session 13

**Saturday,**

**June 25**

**2:00 pm -**

**2:40 pm**

### Presentation:

#### **Sumptuary Laws, Sumptuary Ethics, and Gambling: Lessons from the COVID-era.**

Covid has refocused academic and policy attention on the role of law and regulation in co-constituting essential goods and services. I seek to contribute to this conversation through a case study of COVID-era rules about gambling. In so doing, I deploy, and adapt, the sumptuary ethic: the belief that it is the right and proper function of government to regulate consumption and pastimes (including gambling) as a form of moral regulation (Hunt 1996, xi). According to Alan Hunt, although sumptuary law as such waned in the 17th and 18th Centuries in Europe, 'the sumptuary ethic remained intact long after the waning of sumptuary legislation' (Hunt 1996, 359). Moreover, at times of perceived crisis sumptuary law could resurface: the rationing introduced in the UK in 1941 included neo-sumptuary restrictions of conspicuous consumption (Hunt 1996, 373). This paper applies these insights to a range of Covid-era gambling law reforms. It identifies a puzzling paradox: the pandemic has reinvigorated efforts at moral regulation involving disapproval of some forms of gambling, while governments at varying levels have encouraged other forms of gambling to support post pandemic recovery. Sumptuary laws and ethics help us to make sense of this apparent paradox, while revealing the risks of neo-sumptuary approaches to gambling regulation.

# Darren Christensen

Darren R. Christensen received his PhD in psychology from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. He has previously worked at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and at the University of Melbourne examining the efficacy of contingency management as an adjunct treatment for substance use and gambling disorders. He has also worked for the Australian Gambling Research Centre developing harm minimization policies for the federal government. He is an associate professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences and a board of governors' research chair (tier II) at the University of Lethbridge. He is an honorary research fellow at the University of Melbourne and a senior research fellow sponsored by the Alberta Gambling Research Institute. His research includes evaluations of the effectiveness of harm minimization measures, investigations of opioid antagonist dosing on gambling urge, agonist dosing on opioid withdrawal, and the electroencephalographic and neural imaging correlates of gambling urge and behavior..



## Presentation:

### Harm Minimization Training, Knowledge, and Behaviour of Canadian Casino Employees

Casino employees regularly interact with problem and at-risk gamblers and thus have considerable potential to both prevent and reduce gambling-related harm. While harm minimization (HM) and responsible gambling (RG) are routinely espoused by the casino industry, the actual level of employee HM/RG training, knowledge and behaviour is unknown. The present study investigated this issue in the Canadian context by examining the employee surveys collected by the RG Check accreditation program (8,260 surveys from 78 Canadian casinos/racinos collected between 2011-2020). These surveys revealed that almost all casino employees do receive HM/RG training, but that the amount of training tends to be quite limited (one hour) except for supervisors, managers, and security personnel. Basic HM/RG knowledge among all employees appears adequate, although their understanding of probability appears weak. The most important consideration is whether this training and knowledge translates into meaningful HM/RG behaviour toward patrons. Most employees (83.1%) report engaging in at least one HM/RG interaction with a patron at some point during their employment (median length of 4 to 9 years), with security personnel reporting the highest rates. While positive, the frequency and proactive nature of these interactions is unknown, and thus, the overall impact on reducing gambling-related harm is also uncertain.

Session 9

**Saturday,  
June 25**

**9:35 am -  
10:00 am**

# Nikki Dowling



Nikki Dowling (PhD) is a Professor at Deakin University in Australia, with an honorary position at the University of Melbourne. She is a registered clinical psychologist who has had considerable experience in the treatment of gambling problems in specialist gambling services. She has been an active researcher in the field of gambling studies for over 20 years and she has published nearly 200 articles and reports. Her area of research expertise is in the identification, prevention, and treatment of people with gambling problems and their affected others. Nikki is currently leading an innovative international program of research in mobile and online gambling intervention development and evaluation for gamblers and their affected others, which has demonstrable translational impacts.

## Presentation:

### Just-in-Time Adaptive Interventions: Providing 'in-the-moment' support for gamblers

Just-In-Time Adaptive Interventions (JITIs) are emerging "push" mHealth intervention designs that overcome many of the barriers to accessing face-to-face services. These interventions leverage mobile and wireless technologies to address dynamically changing individual needs by providing the type and amount of support required, at the right time, and only when needed. JITIs are particularly well-suited to delivering interventions in addiction science, given the complex and dynamic nature of use episodes or lapses, as well as the presence of discrete but fluctuating antecedent states or events that can serve as triggers for intervention delivery. Given that few JITIs have been developed to support changes in gambling behaviour, we developed a theoretically-informed and evidence-based gambling JITI: GamblingLess: In-The-Moment. This app is designed to reduce the likelihood of unplanned gambling episodes by reducing urge intensity, enhancing self-efficacy, and lowering positive outcome expectancies. This presentation will describe the decisions, methods, and design tools we employed to develop GamblingLess: In-The-Moment, with a view to guiding addiction science researchers in the development of future JITIs.

Session 14

**Saturday,**

**June 25**

**2:50 pm -**

**3:30 pm**



# Heather Gray

Heather Gray (PhD) is Director of Academic Affairs at the Division on Addiction, Cambridge Health Alliance, a Harvard Medical School teaching hospital and Assistant Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Gray studies the development of, and recovery from, addictive disorders. She has completed program evaluation to document how people change their lives after completing substance use disorder and wellness interventions. In collaboration with Internet and land-based gambling operators in the United States and internationally, Dr. Gray has studied how people respond to interventions designed to promote responsible gambling. She serves as Senior Editor of The BASIS, the Division on Addiction's flagship tool for sharing addiction science with the general public. Prior to joining the Division on Addiction, Dr. Gray earned a PhD in social psychology from Harvard University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the Boston University Health and Disability Research Institute.



## Presentation:

### **Who's responsible for responsible gambling? Exploring the impact of RG programs and gamblers' beliefs about responsibility for minimizing gambling harm**

Legal gambling opportunities are expanding and diversifying in jurisdictions around the world. Minimizing harm from expanded gambling opportunities will require united action from diverse stakeholders, including operators, decision makers, researchers, and healthcare providers. A common approach to minimizing gambling-related harm is the implementation of responsible gambling policies and programs. This first half of this presentation will review evidence regarding the safety, reach, and effectiveness of responsible gambling programs implemented by Internet- and land-based operators, with a focus on programs implemented in Massachusetts (GameSense, an onsite player education program; voluntary self-exclusion; and PlayMyWay, a voluntary budgeting tool). The second half will review survey research exploring how gamblers perceive responsibility for minimizing gambling-related harm, with a focus on the links between responsibility attributions and gambling beliefs and behaviors. This presentation will conclude with implications for prevention specialists, treatment providers, and operators.

## Session 3

**Friday,  
June 24**

**10:40 am -  
11:20 am**



# Nerilee Hing



Nerilee Hing (PhD) is a Research Professor (Gambling Studies) at CQUniversity in Australia, working with a team of researchers in its Experimental Gambling Research Laboratory. Previously, she was Director of Southern Cross University's Centre for Gambling Education and Research. Nerilee has been conducting research into gambling for over 25 years. Her research aims to inform policies and practices to reduce gambling-related harm for individuals, families and communities, and to increase the safe provision and consumption of gambling. Her research focuses mainly on gambling behaviour, online gambling, wagering, gambling marketing, risk factors for gambling harm, venue and policy interventions to reduce gambling harm, gambling in vulnerable populations, impacts of gambling on women, and gambling problems, stigma and help-seeking. She has published over 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts on gambling.

## Presentation:

### **Gambling, intimate partner violence and economic abuse against women: Insights from people with lived experience**

Quantitative studies have consistently shown strong links between gambling and intimate partner violence (IPV). However, little research has examined the context within which this violence occurs, drivers of this violence, and victims' experiences of coercive control linked to gambling. In addition, economic abuse to fund gambling has been largely unexplored. This presentation shares findings from an Australian study investigating the nature of the relationship between gambling and IPV against women. We interviewed 72 women with lived experience of IPV linked to gambling, as well as 39 service providers. Our analysis explored violence linked to a male partners' gambling; the interaction between women's gambling and their experiences of abuse, including their use of gambling venues to escape violence; and gambling-related economic abuse. It particularly considered how gambling interacts with gendered drivers of violence to increase the frequency and severity of IPV. The presentation also highlights some interventions that may help to reduce IPV linked to gambling and to assist those experiencing this abuse.

## Funding

The research team acknowledges the financial and other support it received from Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) towards this research and, through it, the Australian Government and Australian state and territory governments. The views reported in this presentation are those of the authors and cannot be attributed to ANROWS or to the Australian Government, or any Australian state or territory government.

**Session 15**  
**Saturday,**  
**June 25**  
**3:35 pm -**  
**4:15 pm**

# Jakob Jonsson

Jakob Jonsson (PhD) is a Swedish clinical psychologist and PhD with experience from problem- and responsible gambling since 1992. Jakob works at Sustainable Interaction, a private company specialized in problem- and responsible gambling (RG). He is affiliated to Karolinska Institutet. He was a member of the Swedish gambling studies research team 1996- 2003 and responsible for writing the in-depth report. He has written book chapters on problem gambling and research publications with focus on preventing gambling problems. He is a member of the advisory board of Swedish Longitudinal Gambling Study and wrote a report from an eleven-year follow-up of problem gamblers. Jakob was a member of the reference group to the ongoing re-regulation process of the Swedish gambling market. He has for many years worked as a consultant for gambling companies in Sweden and internationally with focus on RG and duty of care. Clinically he works with treatment for problem gamblers.



## Presentation:

### New ideas in Harm minimization in gambling.

Gambling disorder is a public health issue in many countries, and expectations that the gambling industry protects individuals from harm are increasing. This has started to show in gambling regulations, not only by requirement for responsible gambling measures for the industry, but also a requirement for duty of care for their customers. This presentation will focus on (mostly) new ideas in harm minimization for the gambling industry and regulators. It will cover registered play as a prerequisite for many measures, including player tracking systems and feedback to customers on gambling behavior. A special focus will be on contacting high consumers and customers scoring as problem gamblers on self-assessment. The results of having a central self-exclusion register will be presented. The possibility to have a central deposit system with mandatory limit setting will be discussed and a step-wise duty of care among other things.

Session 2

**Friday,  
June 24**

**9:45 am -  
10:25 am**

# 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. She is now the Senior Researcher at the Centre of Excellence in Responsible Gaming at the University of Gibraltar. 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 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)."

**Session 8**  
**Saturday,**  
**June 25**  
**9:05 am -**  
**9:30 am**

## Presentation:

### Online gambling, and migration to online gambling, during the Canadian COVID Lockdown

The COVID-19 pandemic and the responses used to mitigate the spread of the virus, such as social distancing and selective closure of non-essential businesses, have had far-reaching impacts. It has been reported that some of these impacts include changes in the areas of health, economics, and both social and recreational engagement. In many jurisdictions in-person gambling venues closed when other non-essential businesses did. These venues were closed across Canada during the nation-wide lockdown (Spring 2020). Yet, online gambling opportunities remained available, a historical first in Canadian gambling. As previously reported by the ANP team, there were quantifiable ramifications of this sudden forced abstinence from in-person gambling including the migration to online gambling for some individuals. Online gambling is reported to be a robust predictor for problematic gambling thus, the evidenced migration could lend to increased risk. Not all individuals migrated to online gambling however, so this study was designed to examine this migration phenomenon in greater detail. Specifically, this study aimed to disentangle what differentiated those who gambled online during the lockdown from those who did not. Pre-pandemic baseline data was provided by ANP online panel participants (n = 2,790), who were then re-surveyed during the nation-wide lockdown. During the lockdown period, nearly one-third of gamblers reported a complete cessation of gambling during the lockdown period. However, for those who reported engagement in legal gambling opportunities during this period about 17% of the sample reported migration to online platforms. It was found that gender, age, number of game types engaged in, problem gambling scores, and both tobacco and illicit drug use were factors that contributed significantly to the correct classification of online versus land-based gamblers. Moreover, it was found that age, number of game types engaged in, problem gambling scores, and the presence of a mental health disorder predicted migration to online gambling during the lockdown. COVID specific factors did not significantly contribute to these classification models, however, this may be due in part to the early onset of the nation-wide lockdown. Future waves of this study are planned to examine if these predictors are robust across time, if migrators maintain online gambling as part of their gambling platform repertoire post-lockdown, and if/how pandemic specific factors influence gambling engagement platform in subsequent phases of the study.



# 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:

### Canada's Provincial & Territorial Gambling Revenue 2020/21

Year 2020/21 saw prolonged COVID-19-related venue closures across the country, which resulted in plunging net revenue and net income generated by gambling activities. The impact of these closures on specific gambling formats was, however, not uniform as several bucked the overall trend and experienced an uptick in growth. In his brief presentation, Mr. Stevens will explore current statistics related to revenue generated in fiscal 2020/21 from Canada's major commercial gambling formats and show how current and historical statistics are accessible from his Canadian Gambling Statistics (1970-2021) database.



**Session 7**  
**Saturday,**  
**June 25**  
**8:50 am -**  
**9:00 am**

# Rachel Volberg



Rachel A. Volberg is a Research Professor in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and President of Gemini Research, Northampton, MA.

Dr. Volberg has been involved in research on gambling and problem gambling since 1985. She 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 two major studies funded by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, including the ongoing Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts (SEIGMA) study and the completed Massachusetts Gambling Impact Cohort (MAGIC) study. Dr. Volberg is a leading authority in the areas of: the epidemiology of gambling and problem gambling, the etiology of problem gambling, measurement of gambling and problem gambling, co-occurrence of problem gambling and other disorders, and the socio-economic impacts of gambling. She 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.

## Session 12

**Saturday,  
June 25**

**1:15 pm -  
1:55 pm**

### Presentation:

#### **The Social and Economic Impacts of a Resort-style Casino in Western Massachusetts**

In November 2011, an Act Establishing Expanded Gaming in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was signed into law (Chapter 194 of the Acts of 2011). This legislation permits casinos and a slots parlor in Massachusetts under the regulatory auspices of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC). Section 71 of the Expanded Gaming Act requires the MGC to fund research to assist in understanding the effects of casino gambling in Massachusetts and minimizing the negative impacts. This presentation focuses on the social and economic impacts associated with the construction and first year of operations of MGM Springfield, a resort-style casino located in the downtown area of the region's largest city. Economic impacts include the geographic distribution of construction and operational spending and employment, the recapture and reallocation of patron expenditures, and the impact of the casino on lottery sales and local real estate values. Based on targeted population surveys carried out before construction of the casino and one year after it opened, social impacts include changes in attitudes toward gambling, gambling participation, problem gambling prevalence and awareness of problem gambling services in the host and surrounding communities. The goal is to improve understanding of the balance of impacts identified in Western Massachusetts in the first year after the opening of MGM Springfield.

# 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 Aboriginal communities, and best practices in the population assessment of problem gambling. He is also the Team Lead for the AGRI National Project.

## Presentation:

### AGRI National Project (ANP): Overview and Update

Comprehensive national investigations of gambling have been conducted in many countries, but not Canada. The ANP addresses this deficit with the aid of a large multi-disciplinary, multi-university, AGRI-based team of researchers combined with co-funding from the Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research, the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse and Addiction, and Gambling Research Exchange Ontario. The three research elements to this investigation are a national Statistics Canada Survey of 28,000 Canadians in 2018; a national two-year Online Panel cohort of 10,000 Canadians in 2018 and 2019; and Independent Corroborating Investigations in 2019 in the form of key informant interviews of major provincial stakeholders and indigenous leaders, large-scale surveys of casino patrons and employees; and an online survey of people in treatment. This presentation will give a brief overview of the ANP, results to date, and availability of data deriving from the ANP.



**Session 6**  
**Saturday,**  
**June 25**  
**8:30 am -**  
**8:45 am**

# Matthew Young



Matthew M. Young (PhD) is Director of Research and Evidence Services at Greo, Senior Research Associate at the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA), and an Adjunct Research Professor of Psychology at Carleton University in Ottawa. Matthew has been working in the field of gambling, substance use and addiction for over 20 years. He has served on numerous domestic and international advisory committees overseeing the monitoring and surveillance of addictive behaviours. Before joining Greo, Matthew spent 12 years at the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction leading their substance use epidemiology research activities. Matthew has extensive experience studying gambling-related harms and did his doctoral work investigating craving among people who gamble. He also, along with Dr. David Hodgins, co-chaired of the scientific committee who led the first large scale, international project to develop lower risk gambling guidelines.

## Presentation:

### The Science Behind Lower Risk Gambling Guidelines

Advice about how to gamble “responsibly” is widely promoted in many jurisdictions. However, until now, there has been no evidence-based, specific advice for people who gamble who want to reduce their risk of gambling harms. In 2016, the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction began the first large scale international, comprehensive, multimodal project to develop evidence based Lower-Risk Gambling Guidelines (LRGGs). Borrowing the same collaborative, evidence-driven approach used to develop the nation’s Low Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines, the LRGG initiative produced a set of workable, evidence-based quantitative limits on gambling behaviour to help people make informed decisions about their gambling. This project included collaboration with researchers in eight other countries, analysis of epidemiological data from over 60,000 people who gamble, consultation with a pan-Canadian, multi-sectorial advisory committee made up of over 20 members, input from over 10,000 people who gamble via a national online survey, and qualitative data obtained from focus groups and interviews. This presentation will describe key deliverables from the LRGG project including the lower-risk limits for expenditure, frequency and number of types of games. It will also present a self-assessment quiz, a suite of posters and other knowledge mobilization tools that are freely available to those who wish use or promote the guidelines ([www.gamblingguidelines.ca](http://www.gamblingguidelines.ca)).

Session 4

**Friday,  
June 24**

**11:25 am -  
12:05 pm**



# Concurrent Session Presenters

## David Baxter

David Baxter is an AGRI Graduate Scholar who has been engaged with gambling research for five years, first as Information Specialist at Greo and currently as a Political Science Master's student at the University of Alberta. Using his skills as a professional librarian, he employs mapping review techniques to examine broad trends in gambling research with a focus on grey literature: hard-to-find research published as reports rather than journal articles and books. He is a co-author of the forthcoming book *Integrity and Disciplinarity in Gambling Research* with Fiona Nicoll, Murat Akçayır, and Mark Johnson. Always eager to apply his knowledge and skills in new domains, David will be beginning his legal education at Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law in September 2022.



### Presentation:

#### Gambling researchers' experiences producing research published as grey literature

A significant portion of gambling research is published outside of academic journals and books, including government or institute reports. Referred to as "grey literature", such research often addresses important policy-relevant questions. Despite this, its quality and researchers' motivations for producing it have not been investigated. We conducted in-depth interviews with 23 gambling researchers from five countries who shared their opinions on the relative quality of grey literature, funding, and their experiences producing it. The most common view was that academic and grey gambling research both vary widely in quality and are comparable overall. Some participants held that journal articles had higher quality standards, while others held that their most rigorous research publications were grey reports. Higher levels of funder involvement in grey research were variously described positively, negatively, and neutrally. Many agreed that Research Council funding is ideal, but grey research is a more accessible source for funding. Some also see it as a greater opportunity to positively impact gambling policy. Although it does not receive as much career recognition, gambling researchers have developed creative solutions to disseminate and demonstrate the impact of their grey research.

Concurrent  
Session 10C

**Saturday,**  
**June 25**  
**11:10 am -**  
**11:35 am**



# Magaly Brodeur



Magaly Brodeur (MD) is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Université de Sherbrooke. Dr. Brodeur also practises family medicine at the Jacques-Cartier Family Medicine Group in Sherbrooke (Quebec). Dr. Brodeur is specialized in public policy analysis and management. Her main area of expertise is public health policy and behavioral addictions including problem gambling. Her goal is to improve public policies and patient experience in the health care system. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the Université de Sherbrooke, a master's degree in political history from Université de Sherbrooke and a doctoral degree in applied human sciences from Université de Montréal. Dr. Brodeur completed her training in medicine and her residency in family medicine at Université de Sherbrooke.

Concurrent  
Session 11B

**Saturday,**  
**June 25**

**10:40 am -**  
**11:05 am**

## Presentation:

### **Gambling and the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Province of Quebec (Canada): A Mixed Methods Study**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on the gambling sector. To enforce public health restrictions, since the beginning of the pandemic, the government of the province of Quebec (Canada) temporarily suspended and reopened several gambling activities (casinos, lotteries, etc.). The objective of this study was to draw a portrait of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and public health measures on gamblers and to learn more about their experiences during the pandemic in the province of Quebec. This study used a sequential explanatory mixed-method design. Phase 1 was a cross-sectional online survey of Quebec residents who were 18 years of age or older and had gambled at least once in the previous 12 months. Phase 2 was a qualitative study involving semi-structured interviews with gamblers and their family members. The protocol for this study, funded by the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services, was published in BMJ Open. This study is one of the first mixed studies at the international level to focus on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on gambling. This study will provide a better understanding of gamblers' experiences during the pandemic.

# Mark Johnson

Mark R Johnson (PhD) is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Digital Cultures in the Department of Media and Communications at the University of Sydney, having previously been a Killam Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Alberta. Dr. Johnson's research on gaming and gambling has been published in journals including "International Gambling Studies", "Information, Communication and Society", "New Media and Society", and "Games and Culture". He is also an independent game designer best known for the roguelike "Ultima Ratio Regum", an invited judge on New York University's annual Generative Design in Minecraft AI competition, and a current board member of the Digital Games Research Association.



## Presentation:

### **So, you're a gambling researcher who wants to study computer games? Five tips for tackling the field.**

Digital gambling and digital gaming are increasingly converging through multiple phenomena. Gambling researchers are thus increasingly studying digital games, yet unfortunately struggling to do so properly. Publications in these areas are full of broad, general and sweeping comments about digital gaming showing little awareness of the field. Gambling studies papers on gaming also often "reinvent the wheel" by proposing simplistic or reductionist models for phenomena analysed by game scholars for decades. A striking number of trivial mistakes regarding specific games also continue to find their way into gambling research papers, even those published in the most elite journals. This is a serious issue for many reasons. It undermines the legitimacy of these articles; it turns games researchers away from engaging with gambling scholars; it omits decades of computer game scholarship that would massively assist scholars' enquiries and save them time; and, perhaps most damningly, it strongly suggests that the authors actually know very little about the topic they claim to be addressing. In this talk I will explore these issues, their solutions, what it means for gambling studies' interests in digital gaming. Specifically, I will offer five pieces of advice for gambling scholars starting to work in this domain, highlighting valuable journals, resources, and research methods, that would assist in studying and understanding digital games. I will conclude by emphasizing the potential of a fusion between gambling and game studies, highlighting examples of leading work at this intersection, and discussing where such cross-disciplinary work could take us in the future.

Concurrent  
Session 11A

**Saturday,**  
**June 25**  
**10:10 am -**  
**10:35 am**

# Andrew Kim



Hyoun S (Andrew) Kim (PhD) is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at Ryerson University. Dr. Kim completed his PhD in clinical psychology at the University of Calgary and a CPA accredited psychology residency at The Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre in the Substance Use and Concurrent Disorders Program. He is also the Chair of CPA's Addiction Psychology. Dr. Kim's clinical interests are in providing evidence-based care for people with co-occurring addictions and mental health difficulties. Relatedly, his research interest lies in developing an integrated treatment for substance and behavioural addictions and their mental health comorbidities.

## Presentation:

### **Are the Causes and Symptoms of Gambling Disorder Similar to Substance Use Behavioural Addiction? Examining the Perspectives of People with Lived Experiences.**

The presentation will describe the results of two large-scale studies that investigated the perceived causes (N=1,210; Study 1) and most important symptoms (N=857; Study 2) of gambling, substance use, and video game problems from people with lived experiences using the Syndrome Model of Addiction as a theoretical framework. Thematic content analysis was used to analyze the qualitative responses. In Study 1, 10 unique categories were identified for the perceived causes. Coping with negative emotions was the most common perceived cause for gambling, substance use, and gaming, accounting for 35.65% of all responses. Statistically significant differences were found in six of the 10 categories in the proportion of the perceived causes. Social determinants of health, specifically lack of finances, were a common perceived cause of gambling (14.83%) compared to substance use (2.69%) and video games (0%). In Study 2, 14 unique categories were identified for the most important symptoms. Dependence symptoms (e.g., craving) were the most endorsed symptom for video games (25.07%) and alcohol (28.4%), while financial harms were the most endorsed symptom for gambling (31.61%). Statistically significant differences were found in eight of the 14 categories. The results of the present research suggest that while there is some overlap in both the causes and symptoms across addiction from the perspectives of people with lived experience, there are also important differences. Specifically, financial-related factors are important to understanding both the etiological and clinical expression of gambling disorder. The presentation will conclude with the clinical and theoretical implications of the findings.

Concurrent  
Session 10D

**Saturday,  
June 25**

**11:40am -  
12:05 pm**



# Riley Kostek

Riley Kostek is a High School Teacher in Lethbridge Alberta, and a Sessional Instructor and Graduate Student in The Faculty of Education at the University of Lethbridge. He is also working as a Research Assistant for Dr. Sharon Pelech's and Dr. Darron Kelly's "Agents in the Field: Exploring the Educational Value of Place-Conscious Pedagogy" research project. Riley's research interests include at-risk youth, behavioral addiction, sports gambling and narrative research. Riley started his career teaching science at an alternative high school for non-traditional learners in Southern Alberta.

## Presentation:

### Parlays and Problems: Sports Gamblers' Experiences of Problem Gambling Progression

Widespread legalization of sports gambling in North America is changing the Canadian gambling landscape at a historic rate. The potential impacts of these changes on sports gambling progression are not fully understood. This paper explores the lived experiences of Sports Betting Problem Gamblers to shed light on factors influencing gambling progression and the impacts sports gambling has on their lives. A narrative inquiry methodology was employed and interviews as conversations were conducted with five Sports Betting Problem Gamblers to generate individual narrative accounts. The researcher then looked across the narratives for patterns. Six threads emerged from the participants' narratives: 1) all the participants had significant early childhood gambling experiences, and 2) an everlasting relationship with sports, 3) sports gambling motivations for each participant were complex, 4) all perceived harm differently, 5) their sports gambling behaviour was dynamic, and 6) cultural, institutional, and psychological factors all impacted their progression. The participants' narratives challenged the notion that Sports Betting Problem Gambling is a binary construct that can be defined by a set of predetermined criteria, and they showed that it was never a singular event that was everlasting. Going forward, a broader definition of what it means to be a Sports Betting Problem Gambler is needed and it is hoped that these narratives will be of relevance for understanding the fluid, contemplative, and complicated ways in which sports gambling is experienced by individuals.



Concurrent  
Session 11D

**Saturday,**  
**June 25**  
**11:40 am-**  
**12:05 pm**

# W. Spencer Murch



Spencer Murch (PhD) is a cognitive psychologist specializing in behavioural addictions. Dr. Murch is primarily interested in understanding the harmful aspects of modern electronic gambling formats like slot machines and eCasino apps. Dr. Murch obtained his PhD from The University of British Columbia in 2020, where he examined the structural characteristics of modern slot machines, and people's experience of immersion in gambling activities. In his current role as a Horizon Postdoctoral Fellow at the Concordia Research Chair on Gambling Studies, Dr. Murch is working to identify behavioural markers of problem gambling in large datasets involving online gambling transactions. His primary research interests include cardiac psychophysiology, real-world eye tracking, and statistical modelling for gambling behaviour."

## Presentation:

### Machine Learning for Discovery and Prevention: Identifying behavioural markers of self-reported gambling problems in France and Quebec

Gambling activities are rapidly migrating online. Current efforts aimed at creating personalized tools to prevent online gambling problems depend on the development of algorithms to accurately detect at-risk people. Users of licensed gambling platforms in France and Quebec completed the Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI), and agreed to release their online gambling data for the previous year. Using indicators of participants' gambling behaviour across various activities, we explored whether machine learning algorithms could accurately classify participants at high-risk (PGSI 8+) and moderate-to-high-risk (PGSI 5+) of experiencing gambling-related harms.

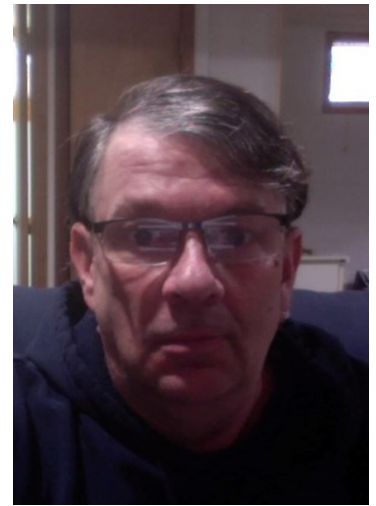
In France, our models using Support Vector Machine algorithms showed excellent overall performance, accounting for 87.70% and 83.20% of the total areas under their respective receiver operating characteristic curves (AUC). In Quebec, the PGSI 5+ and 8+ models used Random Forest algorithms, and showed similar performance (PGSI 5+ = 84.33%; PGSI 8+ = 82.52%). In each model, we identified a range of decision thresholds at which a majority of at-risk and lower-risk participants were correctly classified. The most important predictors in these models related to the frequency and variability of participants' betting behaviour, as well as two indicators of loss chasing.

Concurrent  
Session 10B

**Saturday,**  
**June 25**  
**10:40 am -**  
**11:05 am**

# Sean Wilcox

Sean Wilcox is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Cultural, Social, and Political Thought at the University of Lethbridge. His research focuses on the historically contingent nature of the concept of gambling addiction. His interest in addiction is rooted in personal experiences with various substances and repeatedly being categorized as a diseased addict who is out of control. He never felt this diagnosis accurately represented his experiences. His MA thesis, *Addiction, Treatment, and Evidence-Based Medicine*, uncovered the historical construction of the modern concept of addiction. For his PhD dissertation, he applies Foucault's genealogical approach to unpack the modern concept of gambling addiction and the corresponding treatment protocols.



## Presentation:

### A History of the Medical Model of Problem Gambling

By applying Foucault's genealogical approach, this paper understands the ascension of the medical model of problem gambling as a happenstance and contingent effect of a new form of social control (bio-power). The investigation reveals the cumulative effect of some of the heterogeneous components surrounding the medical model's creation: discourses, institutions, laws, regulatory decisions, administrative measures, scientific propositions, philanthropic, moral, and philosophical arguments. In the process, it becomes apparent that the medical model is an effect of a form of control which is embedded in the population itself as a norm, and follows the blueprint of confessional discourse. This power is disciplining individual bodies and regulating populations towards normality by making problem gamblers critically examine themselves and discursively reveal the results. However, present subjectivity for problem gamblers i.e. how they understand themselves and how they are understood by those who would improve them, is an effect of the type of power contained in the confession as well. A certain form of subjectivity is created by admitting 'I am powerless over gambling.' While the language problem gamblers use to describe themselves is a mere effect of power, it nevertheless determines how they think of themselves and their relationship with gambling.

Concurrent  
Session 10A

**Saturday,  
June 25**

**10:10 am -  
10:35 am**

# Igor Yakovenko



Igor Yakovenko (PhD) earned his PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Calgary specializing in behavioural addictions, completing his clinical residency at Yale University and a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Alberta in public health and cannabis use disorders. He is an Assistant Professor and clinical psychologist in the Departments of Psychology & Neuroscience and Psychiatry at Dalhousie University. His research and clinical work focus on the associated features and determinants of addictive behaviours, and co-morbidity of addiction and other psychiatric disorders. He has expertise in the treatment of a variety of substance use disorders including behavioral addictions and continues to engage in clinical work outside of his academic work. His recent CIHR-funded research in Canada has been invested in developing evidence-based web interventions for addictive behaviours including drug use, gambling and video gaming.

## Presentation:

### Identifying and screening out low quality panel and crowdsourced data in behavioral addiction research

The use of crowdsourced and panel survey data in gambling and broader behavioral addiction research has become widespread. However, the validity of data obtained from newer panels such as Qualtrics has not been extensively evaluated and has been criticized for being of potentially low quality. Reviews of gambling literature suggest that most researchers use few measures to improve the quality of their collected data. We present data from a panel sample focusing on the behavioral addiction of video gaming, which has seen an increased focus from gambling researchers due to the proliferation of gambling features in video games. The data is based on 600 regular video gamers (gaming at least one hour per week, every week, for the past three months), recruited via Qualtrics in Canada, to evaluate the quality of data obtained for Qualtrics's internal data screening process and to demonstrate an implementation of best practices for maximizing crowdsourced/panel data quality.

Concurrent  
Session 11C

**Saturday,**  
**June 25**  
**11:10 am -**  
**11:35 am**