WOMEN AND GAMBLING IN CANADA

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CONTEXT

- A gender gap in gambling behaviours
- In North America, men have reported higher lifetime\textsuperscript{1} past-year\textsuperscript{2}, and past-week\textsuperscript{3} rates of gambling participation
- Men report gambling more frequently\textsuperscript{4} and higher expenditures\textsuperscript{5}

Gambling research focus on the experiences of men\(^6\)

Study on gambling behaviors of women is sparse\(^7\)

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OBJECTIVES

- To offer a comparative gender-based analysis of gambling patterns in Canada
- To develop and understanding of the complex relationships between gender, gambling patterns, and gambling context
Poker, Gender & the Role of Settings: A Case Study from Québec
“Experience of play varies according to a set of contextual coordinates that relate to the spatial organization and the social integration of the site where the activity is played.” (Reith, 1999)

Moving beyond individual and towards contextual factors can elucidate the role of gender in gambling behaviors

- E.g., poker occurs within a socially interactive environment historically dominated by men
**Poker, Gender, & Settings**

- It could be hypothesized that men and women report different gambling patterns *because* they gamble in different settings.
- There has been a substantial increase in the number of women poker players in recent years\(^1\); this increase has been concentrated online\(^2\).
- Social barriers continue to exist for women who play non-virtual poker\(^3\).

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ENHJEU-QUÉBEC METHODS

- Québec Gambling Survey
  - 2 cross-sectional waves (2009 and 2012)
  - Representative sample of Québec adult population
  - Response rates = 55% (2009) and 43% (2012)
  - Sample sizes = 11,888 (2009) and 12,008 (2012)
**Gender Comparison of Poker Gambling Patterns by Location**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spending</th>
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<th>Frequency</th>
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<th>Typical session length</th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Private residences</strong></td>
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<td>Online</td>
<td>36.5 †</td>
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<td>Public places</td>
<td>20.7 †</td>
<td>Public places</td>
<td>17.2 †</td>
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<td><strong>Private residences</strong></td>
<td>24.9 †</td>
<td><strong>Private residences</strong></td>
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<td>Online</td>
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<td>Public places</td>
<td>17.2 †</td>
<td>Public places</td>
<td>12.2 †</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Men
- Women

Percent within the top 30th percentile

1. Data were derived from the Quebec Gambling Survey (ENHJEU-Q; 2009 and 2012 combined).
2. Significance in gender differences: * $p \leq .05$; ** $p \leq .01$; *** $p \leq .001$.
3. Public places = bars and casinos
ENHJEU METHODS

- University Students Gambling Survey 2008
  - Representative sample of 2,139 undergraduate university students
  - 3 Montreal universities and 2 affiliated schools
  - Response rate = 41%
It is through the settings in which college male and female gamblers play poker that gender is related to poker behaviors.
Mediation model – Gender, locations, and poker expenditures and problems

Gender, Setting, Spending & Problems
GENDER, SETTING & PROBLEMS

Mediation model – Gender, locations, and poker expenditures and problems
**Gender, Setting, & Spending**

Mediation model – Gender, locations, and poker expenditures and problems

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Gender -> Internet [a1]
Internet -> Public locations [b1]
Public locations -> Poker Spending [b2]
Gender -> Private residence [a2]
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**RESULTS**

- Playing poker in public locations and online emerged as mediators of past-year poker spending and gambling problems.
- Results suggested that gender alone does not explain disparities in gambling patterns.
  - Rather, through increased occurrence of gambling in certain locations (i.e., public, and online), male gender is related to increased risky gambling behaviours and poker spending.
  - Gender alone does not influence poker gambling.
    - The settings where students gamble on poker, given their gender, need closer consideration.
CONCLUSIONS (1)

- Contextualizing gambling patterns across locations is important when looking at the relationship between gender and gambling;
- The locations represent a level of risk for excessive patterns of gambling and gambling problems;
- Prevention should factor in the setting as a significant level of intervention.
CONCLUSIONS (2)

- We must move away from using male gambling patterns as a benchmark
- Need for more Canadian data about women’s gambling as well as policy and services specific to women gamblers’ needs
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REFERENCES


REFERENCES


IMAGE SOURCE:

http://www.eldoradocountyweather.com/canada/AirQuality/air-quality-maps/images/canadamap.jpg