

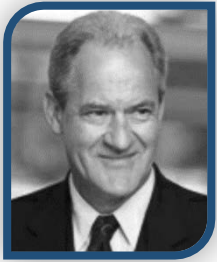
Conceptual framework of harmful gambling

Presented by Per Binde
SNSUS 9th Nordic Conference
Hamar, May 27-29, 2013

Project Overview

- Purpose: develop a clear, comprehensive, internationally relevant **conceptual framework of harmful gambling ...**
- ... that addresses a **broad set of factors** related to population risk and resilience.
- As the project sponsor, **OPGRC** (*Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre*) is collaborating with an **expert panel**.
- The framework is outlined in a **publication**, authored by expert panel members, and presented at the **OPGRC website**.

Authors



Max Abbott

Dean, Faculty of Health Studies, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand



Per Binde

Associate Professor, Social Anthropology, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden



David Hodgins

Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta



David Korn

CAS, DTPH, Public Health Physician, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario



Alexius Pereira

Senior Assistant Director, Gambling Safeguards Division, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, Singapore



Rachel Volberg

President, Gemini Research, Northampton, MA, USA



Robert Williams

Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences & Coordinator, AGRI, University of Lethbridge, Alberta

Contributors

Charlotte Beck

Divisional Director Gambling Safeguards Division, Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, Singapore

Alex Blaszczynski, Ph.D.

School of Psychology, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

David Chan, Ph.D.

Professor, Psychology, Behavioural Sciences Institute Singapore Management University, Singapore

Wendy Slutske, Ph.D.

Professor, University of Missouri, MO, USA

... and many other have been involved in various ways.

Framework Development Process

- The framework is being developed through a number of facilitated **working sessions**.
- The first meeting of the group was in **September 2011** to develop a preliminary framework and project plan.
- Since then, the OPGRC has collaborated on the framework and publication with the expert panel via **teleconferences, an online collaborative portal and email**.
- Published in April, 2013

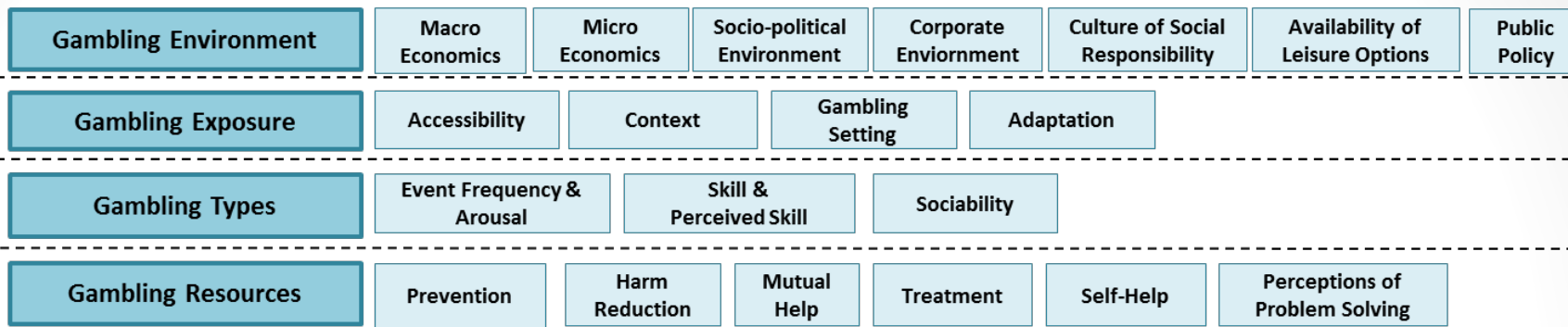
Key Outcomes

The framework is intended to have **three key outcomes**:

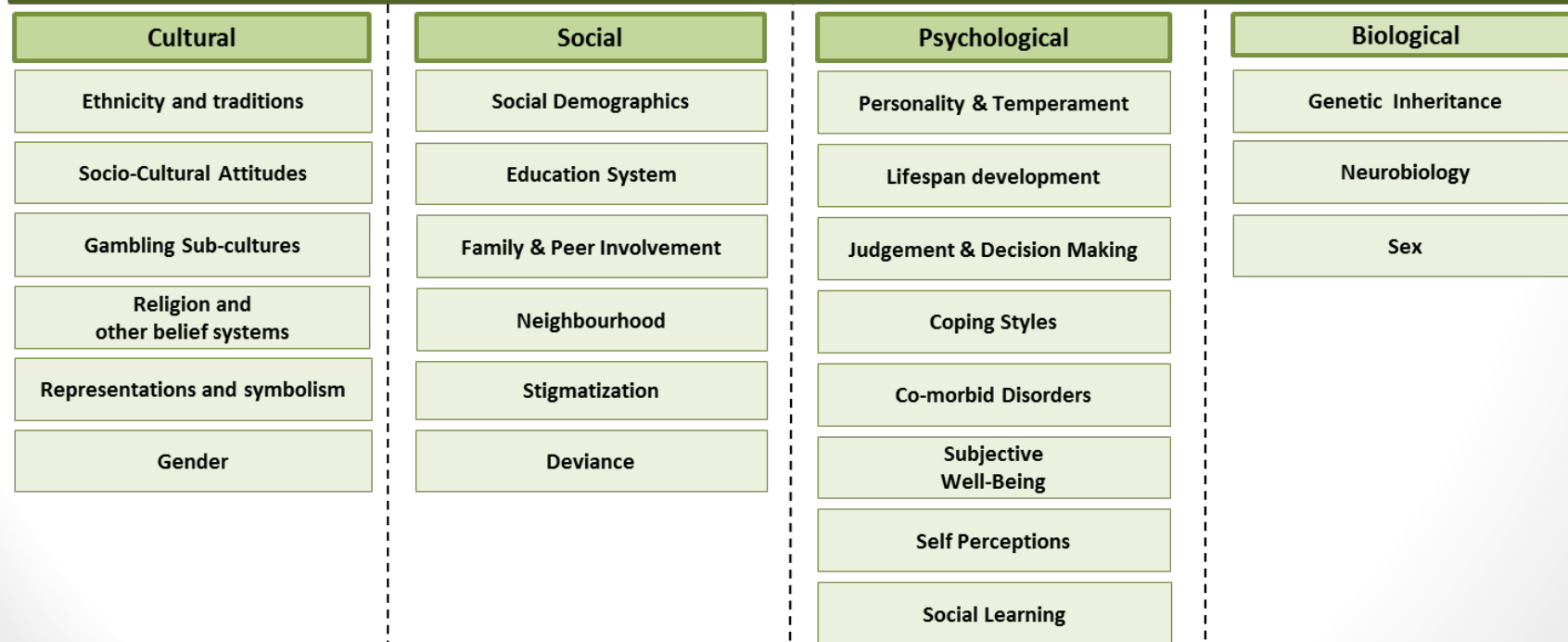
1. To reflect, at a given point in time, **the state of knowledge** (across disciplines and existing models) regarding factors influencing harmful gambling and the relationships among those factors. A **living document**.
2. To **assist service providers, policy makers, regulators, and the public** to better understand the complex dynamics involved in harmful gambling.
3. To act as a **strategic map** that can guide the development of **future research** programs and identify areas where research is most needed.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR FACTORS INFLUENCING HARMFUL GAMBLING

GAMBLING SPECIFIC FACTORS



GENERAL FACTORS



CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR FACTORS INFLUENCING HARMFUL GAMBLING

GAMBLING SPECIFIC FACTORS

Gambling Environment	Macro Economics	Micro Economics	Socio-political Environment	Corporate Environment	Culture of Social Responsibility	Availability of Leisure Options	Public Policy
Gambling Exposure	Accessibility	Context	Gambling Setting	Adaptation			
Gambling Types	Event Frequency & Arousal	Skill & Perceived Skill	Sociability				
Gambling Resources	Prevention	Harm Reduction	Mutual Help	Treatment	Self-Help	Perceptions of Problem Solving	

GENERAL FACTORS

Cultural	Social	Psychological	Biological
Ethnicity and traditions	Social Demographics	Personality & Temperament	Genetic Inheritance
Socio-Cultural Attitudes	Education System	Lifespan development	Neurobiology
Gambling Sub-cultures	Family & Peer Involvement	Judgement & Decision Making	Sex
Religion and other belief systems	Neighbourhood	Coping Styles	
Representations and symbolism	Stigmatization	Co-morbid Disorders	
Gender	Deviance	Subjective Well-Being	
		Self Perceptions	
		Social Learning	

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF HARMFUL GAMBLING

AN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION SPONSORED BY THE ONTARIO PROBLEM GAMBLING RESEARCH CENTRE (OPGRC)
QUEBEC, ONTARIO, CANADA

THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK IS NOW ONLINE
[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



Information on OPGRC:
[Slot Machines Video](#)



Get the latest information from The Centre:
[News from OPGRC](#)



Information from the Synopsis Project:
[Synopsis Project](#)



Open Awards/Grants

There are currently no awards open.

You can learn more about our awards through our [Orientation Guide](#) or review our [General Awards Guidelines](#).

📅 Thursday, January 2013

Internet Gambling Workshop: A Post-Discovery Conference Workshop

[Read more ...](#)

📅 Thursday, October 2012

OPGRC stresses importance of research, responsible gambling to Senate

[Read more ...](#)

📅 Wednesday, September 2012

OPGRC's 13th Annual General Meeting Notes and Photos Available

[Read more ...](#)

📖 *Journal of Gambling Studies*

Pathological gamblers: Inpatients' versus outpatients' characteristics.

[View the synopsis ...](#)

📖 *Journal of Gambling Issues*

Gender differences in problem gambling behaviour from help-line callers.

[View the synopsis ...](#)

📖 *Biological Psychology*

Association of functional variants in the dopamine D2-like receptors with risk for gambling behaviour in healthy Caucasian subjects.

[View the synopsis ...](#)

Conceptual Framework of Harmful Gambling

The Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre (OPGRC) brought together international and interdisciplinary experts to develop a comprehensive framework of harmful gambling.

Download the Framework

Conceptual Framework of Harmful Gambling

Welcome to the Conceptual Framework of Harmful Gambling, an international collaboration sponsored by the Ontario Problem Gaming Research Centre (OPGRC), Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

While seen by many as a form of leisure and recreation, gambling can have serious repercussions for individuals, families, and society as a whole. The harmful effects of gambling have been studied for decades to attempt to understand individual differences in gambling engagement and the life- course of gambling-related problems.

In this framework, we present a comprehensive, internationally relevant conceptual framework of "harmful gambling" that moves beyond a symptoms-based view of harm and addresses a broad set of factors related to population risk, community and societal effects. Interactive factors represented in the framework represent major themes in gambling that range from specific (gambling environment, exposure, types, and resources) to general (cultural, social, psychological, and biological).

This framework has been created by international and interdisciplinary experts from a variety of stakeholder perspectives – including researchers, treatment providers, operators, policy makers, and individuals and their families – to facilitate an understanding of harmful gambling.

The key objectives of the Framework are to

- reflect for all readers the state of knowledge of the factors influencing harmful gambling;
- assist researchers, treatment providers, policy makers, and regulators to better understand the complex dynamics of harmful gambling and facilitate informed decision making; and
- identify areas where research is most needed in order to guide strategic research programs.

Use the Main Menu to learn more about the Conceptual Framework of Harmful Gambling. On this website, you will find options to [provide feedback](#) about the Framework and links to related plain language summaries of research using the Interactive Framework.

We hope that you will take a moment to explore the first edition of the *Conceptual Framework of Harmful Gambling*. We

How to Use this Website?

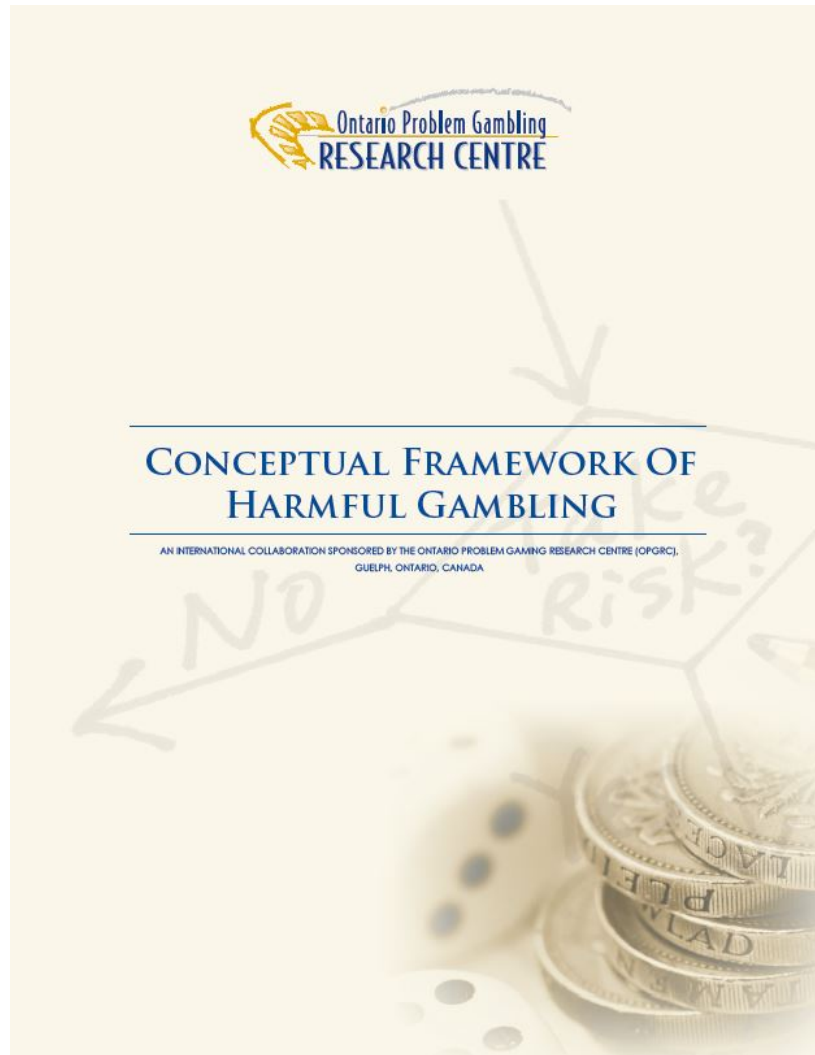
You can navigate the conceptual framework in three ways:

1. Use the [menu](#) to learn more about the Framework.
2. Use the [interactive framework](#) to learn more about each factor and link to research synopses and research projects.
3. [Download](#) and read through the PDF.

Subscribe to Updates!

Use the form below to subscribe and receive an email when the Framework is updated. Don't worry – we won't spam you!

Publication in PDF-format



Abbott, Max, Per Binde, David Hodgins, David Korn, Alexius Pereira, Rachel Volberg & Robert Williams (2013). *Conceptual Framework of Harmful Gambling: An International Collaboration*. The Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre (OPGRC), Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

Ethnicity and Traditions

General Factors	>
Cultural	>
Ethnicity and Traditions	>
Socio-Cultural Attitudes	
Gambling Subcultures	
Religion and Other Belief Systems	
Representations and Symbolism	
Gender	
Social	>
Social Demographics	
Education System	
Family and Peer Gambling Involvement	
Neighbourhood	
Stigmatization	
Deviance	
Psychological	>
Personality and Temperament	
Lifespan Development	

[Return to Interactive Framework](#)

We have already acknowledged that views on gambling vary between peoples and cultural traditions. These range from gambling being a fully acceptable activity or even the norm on certain social occasions, to inappropriately suspect in other cases. Population surveys often show that the demographic category of foreign born individuals has elevated rates of harmful gambling. However, neither minority ethnic groups nor migrant groups are a homogeneous single group.

The cultures and traditions of their countries of origin, and different processes of acculturation, must be considered. While harmful gambling prevalence may be relatively high in some ethnic groups, among other groups – especially among women in these groups – gambling and harmful gambling may be less common than in the host society due to gambling being viewed negatively; little involvement in commercial forms of gambling; and lack of money to spend on gambling. Many groups exhibit bimodal patterns of gambling whereby the group as a whole gambles relatively little, but those members who do gamble do so heavily and experience high rates of gambling problems (Abbott & Volberg, 2000; Kim, 2012; Volberg & Wray, 2007). These are likely sectors of populations in the early stages of introduction to commercial gambling.

In the case of immigrant groups, elevated rates of harmful gambling may have several causes. One category of causes is related to the culture and traditions of the country of origin. The immigrant groups may belong to a culture where views on luck, fortune and destiny increase the risk for harmful gambling or where the level of probabilistic thinking is generally lower. In their culture, gambling may be common and accepted, with heavy gambling less likely to be seen as a problem by the gambler or people around the gambler. In some migrant cultures great value is placed on the possession and display of wealth, which attracts individuals to the world of gambling where great amounts of money rapidly change hands.

By contrast, some cultures consider gambling to be so shameful that individuals might hesitate to talk about or seek help for gambling problems. Finally, in certain cultures there may not be much gambling but if immigrants then move to a host society with plenty of gambling, they may develop unrealistic expectations of making money, which in turn could lead to excessive gambling.

Another category of causes for elevated rates of harmful gambling relates to the experience of migration and of life in the host country. Certain individuals may feel discomfort because of perceptions of being uprooted, loss of social status, altered family roles in the new country and perceptions of being excluded and discriminated against. Such psychological strains may cause them to rely on gambling to relax, dissociate or spend time in a gambling subculture, which increases the risk for harmful gambling. Migrant groups also often include refugees who have suffered physical and emotional trauma and are often characterized by high rates of gambling problems. However, little is known about the precise link between trauma and harmful gambling. Further, in the host society, immigrants or refugees may have a socioeconomically disadvantaged position which in itself constitutes a risk factor for harmful gambling as discussed in section 3.2 Social Factors. Newcomers to the host country may also experience high unemployment rates and gambling

Executive Summary

Gambling Specific Factors

General Factors

Appendices

Acknowledgements

Author Biographies

Cultural

Social

Psychological

Biological

Ethnicity and Traditions

Socio-Cultural Attitudes

Gambling Subcultures

Religion and Other Belief Systems

Representations and Symbolism

Gender

Coping Styles
Co-morbid Disorders
Subjective Well-Being
Self-perceptions
Social Learning
Biological >
Genetic Inheritance
Neurobiology
Sex

In summary, gambling problems of immigrants arise in the interaction between having roots in another culture, the experience of migration, and the process of integration in the host society. Thus, immigrants themselves do not constitute a problem in relation to gambling. In the case of indigenous minority ethnic groups, the main reason for elevated rates of harmful gambling has been argued by some to be a result of the often marginalized and disadvantaged socioeconomic position of such groups (Breen, & Gainsbury, 2013; Volberg & Abbott, 1997). Factors such as unemployment and low education are known to vary with harmful gambling as discussed in Social Factors.

Related Synopses [17]

Title	Authors	Journal	Year
The structure of pathological gambling among Korean gamblers: A cluster and factor analysis of clinical and demographic characteristics.	Lee, T. K., LaBrie, R. A., Grant, J. E., Kim, S. W., & Shaffer, H. J.	International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction	2008
A cross-cultural study of gambling behaviour among adolescents.	Ellenbogen, S., Gupta, R., & Derevensky, J. L.	Journal of Gambling Studies	2007
A profile of lottery players in Guangzhou, China.	Zhonglu, Z., & Dongmei, Z.	International Gambling Studies	2007
Chinese and English probabilistic thinking and risk taking in gambling.	Lau, L., & Ranyard, R.	Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology	2005
Cognitive-behavioral therapy for pathological gambling: Cultural considerations.	Okuda, M., Balna, I., Petry, N. M., Oquendo, M., & Blanco, C.	American Journal of Psychiatry	2009
Cultural influences of stigmatization of problem gambling: East Asian and Caucasian Canadians.	Dhillon, J., Horch, J.D., & Hodgins, D.C.	Journal of Gambling Studies	2011
Disordered gambling among racial and ethnic groups in the US: Results from the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions.	Alegria, A. A., Petry, N. M., Hasin, D. S., Liu, S., Grant, B. F., & Blanco, C.	CNS Spectrums	2009
Gambling cognition and subjective well-being as mediators between perceived stress and	Tang, C. S., & Oci, T. P.	Psychology of Addictive	2011

Interactive Framework

This framework represents major themes in gambling that range from specific (gambling environment, exposure, types, and resources) to general (cultural, social, psychological, and biological). This framework has been created by international and interdisciplinary experts from a variety of stakeholder perspectives – including researchers, treatment providers, operators, policy makers, and individuals and their families – to facilitate an understanding of harmful gambling. It not only reflects the state of knowledge as it relates to factors influencing harmful gambling, but also acts to guide the development of future research programs and educate policy makers on issues related to harmful gambling.

Conceptual Framework of Factors Influencing Problem Gambling

Click on any Framework factors below to learn more and link to related synopses and research. Synopses are one-page summaries of published research studies. Learn more about the Synopsis Project.

GAMBLING SPECIFIC FACTORS

Gambling Environment	Macroeconomics	Microeconomics	Socio-political Environment	Corporate Environment	Culture of Social Responsibility	Availability of Leisure Options	Public Policy
Gambling Exposure	Accessibility	Context	Gambling Setting	Adaptation			
Gambling Types	Event Frequency & Arousal	Skill & Perceived Skill	Sociability				
Gambling Resources	Prevention & Harm Reduction	Risk Assessment	Mutual Help	Treatment	Self-Help	Perceptions of Problem Solving	

GENERAL FACTORS

Cultural	Social	Psychological	Biological
Ethnicity & Traditions	Social Demographics	Personality & Temperment	Genetic Inheritance
Socio-Cultural Attitudes	Education System	Lifespan Development	Neurobiology
Gambling Sub-cultures	Family & Peer Involvement	Judgement & Decision Making	Sex

Provide Feedback

Ongoing Development of the Framework

OPGRC is committed to continually improving the Framework so it remains *relevant* and *accessible* to stakeholders and makes a *contribution* to furthering the understanding and awareness of harmful gambling. To achieve this objective, OPGRC has committed to continue to work with the expert panel and stakeholders in the gambling field to expand and refine the conceptual framework based on new knowledge and feedback. Emerging research evidence will be incorporated into subsequent iterations of the document. Through this sustained active engagement from the scientific community and other stakeholders, the Framework is expected to evolve towards meeting our stated objectives. While similar exercises have been attempted in the past no evolving comprehensive framework currently exists in the field.

The Conceptual Framework of Harmful Gambling will be updated annually. Your feedback is important to us in improving the quality and readability of the Framework. Please take a moment to complete the survey below.

1. How well does the publication meet its **three stated objectives**?

1. To reflect for all readers the current state of knowledge (across disciplines and existing models) as it relates to factors impacting harmful gambling and the relationships among those factors.
2. To assist service providers, policy makers, regulators, and the public to better understand the complex dynamics involved in harmful gambling to enable better informed decision making.
3. To act as a strategic map that can guide the development of future research programs and identify areas where future research is most needed.

2. Is the Framework structure and terminology explained clearly in the document?

3. Did you find the overall document easy to read and understand?

4. Do you see the value in the framework being organized around the principle of harm?

5. How accessible is the document to a broad audience ranging from researchers, treatment providers, policy makers and the public?

6. What value did you derive from reading this publication?

Next Steps

- **Living document** – dedicated resources to regularly incorporate new evidence, forums on groups of domains (e.g., individual vs. external)
- Contribution
 - Reflect the **state of knowledge** across scientific discipline, geographic region and cultural groups on the factors influencing harmful gambling and the associations among those factors
 - **Guide the research** field and external audiences

Contact Gary O'Connor, CEO of OPGRC

gary@opgrc.org