

Regulating Gambling-Related Harms

Via the Internet



Martin French
Myriam Tardif
Claude Leduc
Sarah Bibeau
Sylvia Kairouz
Annie-Claude Savard

Outline

1. Context:

- \$\$ in online gambling
- the internet-blocking efforts of other governments.

2. Methods

- discourse analytic
- ethnographic.

3. Two positions in the internet-blocking debate in Quebec



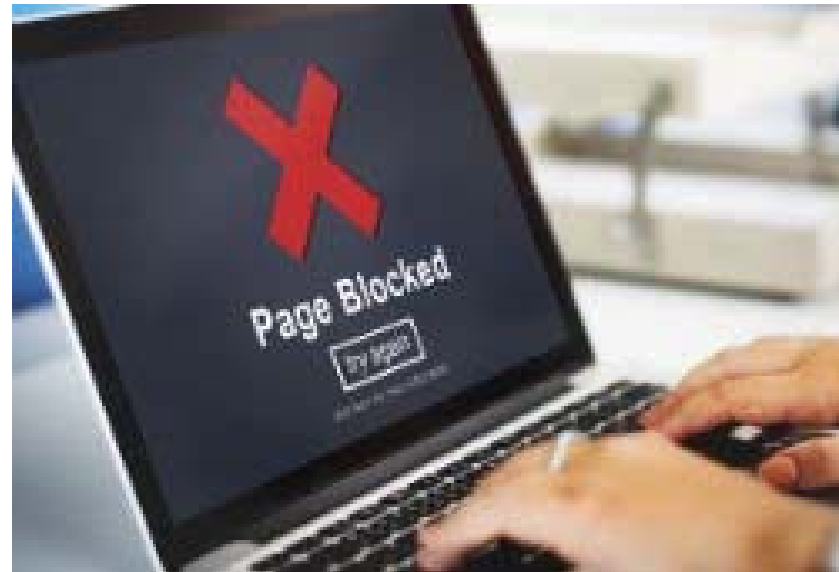
Context

- The global online gambling market in 2015 was valued at over 37 billion US dollars.



Context

- Russia
- Denmark
- Belgium
- France
- Greece
- Italy



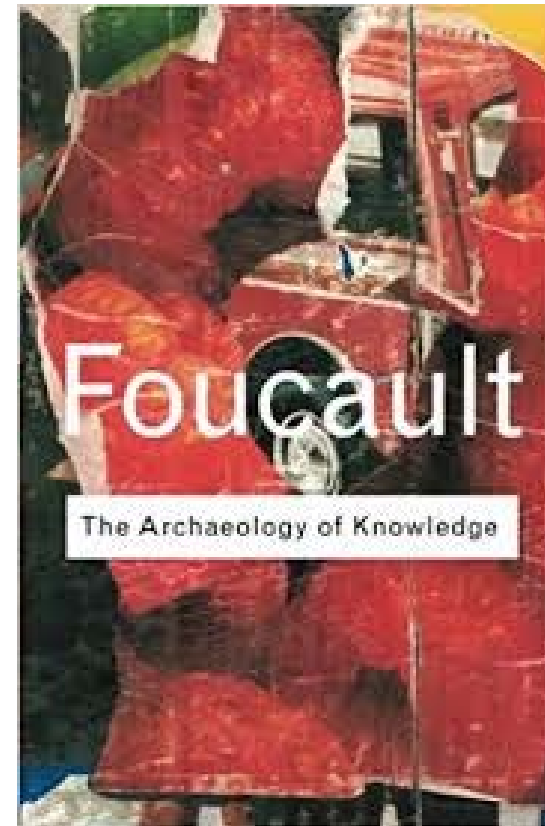
Context

- Russia
- Denmark
- Belgium
- France
- Greece
- Italy
- ...and Quebec?



Methods

- A Foucaultian discourse analytic approach
 - news media coverage
 - government websites
 - blogs of net neutrality advocates
 - transcripts of debates from the committee hearings in the National Assembly on the internet blocking parts of Law 74



Law 74: Background



Law 74: Background

Québec 

© Éditeur officiel du Québec

Updated to November 30, 2017
This document has official status.

chapter P-40.1

CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

Law 74: Background

FINANCIAL POST

NEWS • INVESTING • MARKETS • PERSONAL FINANCE • FP TECH DESK • FP COMMENT • ENTREPRENEUR • EXECUTIVE • FP MAGAZINE

Quebec's controversial website-blocking law Bill 74 faces court challenge from telecom group

Positions

1. public health - harm-reduction – public safety
2. net-neutrality - anti-censorship – democratic public good

-
- These two positions in the discourse tell us something about the “political and academic trade-offs” that inflect the process of producing evidence about gambling (Cassidy et al. 2013: 4).

Public Health – Harm Reduction – Public Safety

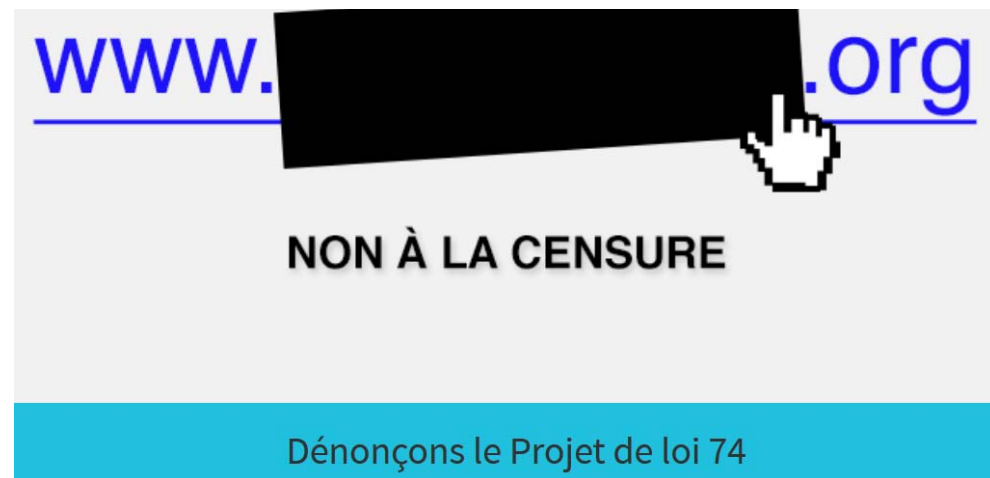


Santé
publique

- « Oui, bien sûr, c'est une décision gouvernementale, mais une décision gouvernementale qui est motivée principalement par des questions de **sécurité publique**, de **santé publique**. Ces sites qui offrent du jeu illégal ne suivent pas les règles. Donc, il y a des risques d'abus des consommateurs, il y a **des risques de santé publique**, donc que des personnes vulnérables et très jeunes se mettent à jouer et à perdre des sommes importantes. Donc, oui, il y a des coûts pour la société à faire ça »

Net-Neutrality - Anti-Censorship – Democratic Public Good

- « ...il y a un enjeu du CRTC. Il y a un enjeu où on serait la première province, à ma connaissance, au Canada, qui pourrait censurer la libre circulation sur Internet. »



Conclusion

A curious silence in the debate...

- Where are those with lived experience using online gambling websites?



Thanks!

Thanks to my awesome RA Team!

- April Bailey, Sarah Bibeau, John Bryans, Tyler Dockendorff, Carmen Lamothe, Gabrielle Lavenir, Claude Leduc, Myloé Martel-Perry, Myriam Tardif, Cristy Vista, and Andrei Zanescu.

Thanks to the IGC Organizers!

Thanks to our Funders!



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada 

References

- Breindl, Yana, Patrick Theiner and Andreas Busch. 2015. "Internet Blocking Regulations: A Comparative Analysis of 21 Liberal Democracies," presented at the "Governance of a Contemporary Multilateral Institutional Architecture Conference," Groningen, https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Patrick_Theiner/publication/283854458_Internet_blocking_regulations_a_comparative_analysis_of_21_liberal_democracies/links/5648a22008aef646e6d1f341/Internet-blocking-regulations-a-comparative-analysis-of-21-liberal-democracies.pdf.
- Cassidy, R., C. Loussouarn and A. Pisac. 2013. Fair Game: Producing Gambling Research. The Goldsmiths Report. London: Goldsmiths: <http://www.gold.ac.uk/gamblingineurope/report/>.
- Diebert, Ronald and Masashi Crete-Nishihata. 2012. "Global Governance and the Spread of Cyberspace Controls," *Global Governance* 18(3): 339-361.
- Foucault, Michel. 1969/2002. *The Archaeology of Knowledge*. A.M. Sheridan Smith (trans). London: Routledge.
- Haworth, Lana. 2018. "The Latest Wave of Internet Blocking in Russia—What's Behind it and if it Matters," *Gaming Law Review* 22(1): 31-39.
- Owens, Martin. 2012. "Twilight of the Open Internet? What New Initiatives in Internet Regulation Might Mean for Gambling Online," *Gaming Law Review and Economics* 16(11): 671-676.
- Owens, Martin. 2017. "Which Movie Are We In? Net Neutrality, Narratives, and the Future of I-Gaming," *Gaming Law Review* 21(9): 671-677.
- Vojtěch, Chloupek. 2017. "Blocking of Illegal Online Gambling Websites Found Acceptable by the Czech Constitutional Court," *Gaming Law Review* 21(5): 393-393.
- Williams, Robert, Robert Wood, and Jonathan Parke. 2012. "History, Current Worldwide Situation, and Concerns with Internet Gambling". In Robert Williams, Robert Wood, and Jonathan Parke (eds). *Routledge International Handbook of Internet Gambling*. London: Routledge, pp. 3-26.