

Responsible Gambling: Towards a Critical Understanding

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(Ir)Responsibility in Gambling (RG)

Construction of Responsible Gambling

- Concept has multiple points of origin, but term seems to have first appeared in 1999
- Visions and perspectives vary greatly
- Policies and practices designed to prevent and reduce potential gambling-related harms
- Predicates rationality, informed decision-making, & controlled consumption (i.e. self-regulation)
- Binary concept – **'responsible'** gamblers vs **'irresponsible'** gamblers (i.e. 'pathological' gamblers)

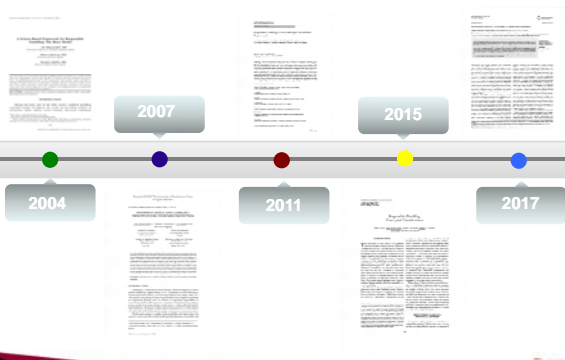


RG - Reno Model

- Strategic framework to reduce potential gambling-related harms (using RG as organizing principle)
- Two guiding principles:
 - Personal freedom to choose
 - Informed choice



Reno Model (2004-2017)



Reno Model Emphasis

- Traditional gambling
- Emphasis on individual player vulnerability and personal pathology
- Responsibility as organizing principle
- Focus on risk (harm minimization linked to excessive gambling)
- Personal determinants
 - Biological
 - Cognitive and emotional
 - Behavioural

“The elephant in the room is the links between Reno authors and the gambling industry”

(Hancock & Smith, 2017)



Objective

1. Identify and conceptually map the existing literature on RG
2. Understand how the notion of RG has been driven by the scientific literature



Scoping Review

- Databases: Web of Science, Scopus, PsychInfo, SOCIindex, Academic Search Complete, Business Sources Complete

Inclusion

Language: English or French

Keywords in abstract: "responsible gambling", "problem gambling" (+ responsible), gaming (- responsible), play (- responsible), harm (+ responsible), risk (+ responsible), prevention (+ responsible)

Abstracts must use both 'gambling' (or 'gaming') and 'responsible'

RG must be a central objective of the article

Exclusion

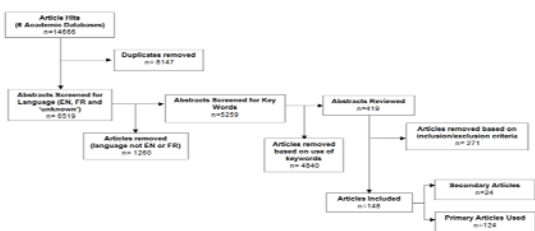
Conference papers

Articles not related to gambling

Articles that mention gambling but are not focused on gambling as a main objective



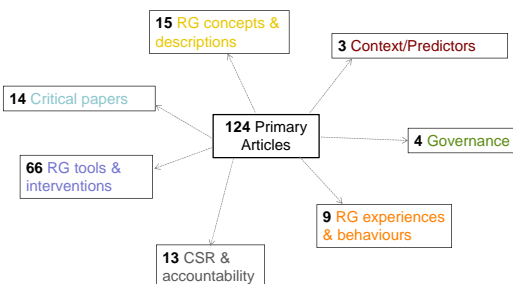
Process Illustration

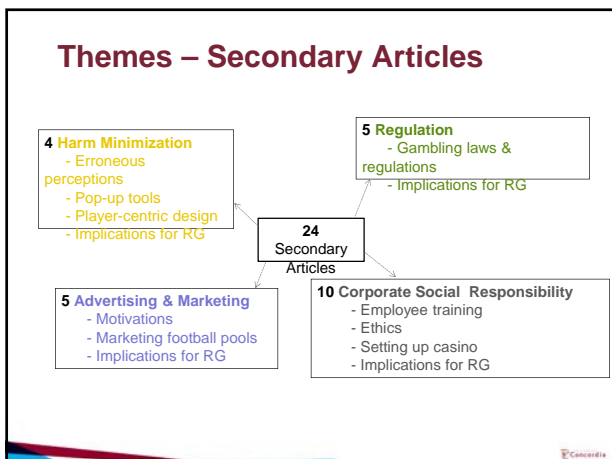


Findings

- Primary = 124 Secondary = 24
- Year of publications 2001-2017
- Top countries of origin (first author)
 - Australia (35%)
 - Canada (22%)
 - England (11%)
 - US (8%)
- Top disciplinary backgrounds (first author)
 - Psychology (46%)
 - Business (30%)
 - Public Health (6%)

Themes – Primary Articles





Conclusions

“The way you define a problem will determine what you do about it”

Dr. Jonathan Mann
Global AIDS Program
World Health Organization

- Predominance of literature from disciplinary backgrounds of psychology & business
- Lack of critical literature in opposition to RG
- Next steps - Genealogy of the RG concept
 - analyze the how the concept of RG emerged and map normative discourses

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Thank you!

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