



澳門大學
UNIVERSIDADE DE MACAU
UNIVERSITY OF MACAU



Call for Paper Proposals “Philosophy and Gambling”



International Conference coorganized by:

Department of Communication (University of Macau)

Philosophy and Religious Studies Programme (University of Macau)

Alberta Gambling Research Institute

October 18-19, 2019

Venue: University of Macau

Forms of gambling have been present in every society. While gambling has often been treated with suspicion, being immersed in games of chance gives rise to distinctive forms of experience. Philosophers have mentioned gambling only in passing or treated it from a one-sidedly rational perspective as part of game theory. This conference sets out to correct this marginalization by interpreting a variety of gambling-related phenomena from a range of philosophical perspectives.

Inspired by the historical and political palimpsest of Macau, this conference offers cross-cultural reflections on the gambler as a citizen, consumer and seeker of fortune. All three of these aspects are embodied by the particularities of Macau, but also manifest more broadly across Asia and elsewhere, both historically and in the contemporary moment. The inevitable complexity of “the gambler” as a figure offers many different routes into theorising those who play games with money on the line, and how their lives intersect with their surroundings, contexts, and historical moments. What theories are best suited to understanding gambling in

Asia and its global diasporas? What do gambling's transforming architectures, physical, digital and regulatory, tell us about bodies, borders and statecraft in different kinds of societies? Which cultural histories and spatial narratives best account for gambling's transnational flows and local impacts? How do gambling industries reproduce and unsettle national, class, ethnic and gender identities within and between nation states? How is the gamification of everyday life, together with the gamblification of videogaming, transforming what it means to play with and for money?

Potential presentation topics include, but are not limited to:

- Gambling, rationality and superstition
- Gambling and embodiment
- The meaning of and relationship between concepts such as risk, daring, gambler's luck, chance, fortune, destiny and the variety of phenomena they refer to
- Mythology related to gambling (e.g. depictions of the goddess Fortuna)
- The temporality of gambling
- Play and games in different cultural and historical contexts
- The phenomenology of gambling sites from casinos to online gambling
- Engagements with theoretical accounts of gambling by authors such as Schiller, Kierkegaard, Caillois, Elias, Benjamin, Simmel, Huizinger, Gadamer, Czikszentmihalyi and Sloterdijk
- The portrayal of gambling in the media and in the arts
- Gamification and the transformation of risk aversion in late modern societies
- Gambling addiction
- Fairness and foul play
- The ethics of gambling

Please send an Email with the subject line "Philosophy and Gambling" together with a 1-page presentation proposal to "philosophyofgambling@gmail.com" by May 31st. Notification of acceptance will be given by June 30th. The contributions will be considered for inclusion in a special issue of the journal *Critical Gambling Studies*.

The conference language is English. Each presentation should not exceed 30 minutes to leave sufficient time for discussion. Presenters travelling from abroad may be provided with accommodation. The cost of transportation will have to be arranged by each speaker.