

# Gambling and Gender

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#BochumerGespräch |  
#BochumConference

# Mapping the Conceptualization of Gender in Gambling Literature

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**GLÜG**



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# Background of the Study

## Sex

- Anatomical and other biological attributes of human beings
- Broadly divided into males and females

## Gender

- The sociocultural constructions imposed on humans by society
- Spatial, temporal, and contextual
- Human identities are more diverse and distinct than just male/female or men/women binaries
- Both biology (sex) and society (gender) influence our well-being in distinct yet interrelated ways ([CIHR, 2018](#))
- Studies in the gambling field continue to conflate sex and gender

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- "The vast majority of (*gambling*) research has been on male subjects; gender of respondents has not been discussed; gender-related findings have not been reported; mostly male-dominated sites have been investigated" (Mark & Lesieur, 1992, p. 556)
  - "Gender-related notions and practices form part of the structural system that influences which gambling activities people take up and when" (Palmer du Preez et al., 2020)
  - "Instead of taking gender differences as a standpoint, researchers could examine what factors create gendered perspectives on gambling and what kinds of differences gambling behaviour may reveal among women and men" (Järvinen-Tassopoulos, 2016, p. 36)
  - There has been little progress with respect to integrating gender as a sociocultural factor of analysis, and research continues to be based primarily on men's experience of gambling (Kairouz et al., 2017; Morvannou et al., 2020; Nicoll, 2019; Nowatzki & Grant, 2011)



# Research Question

What is the range and nature of research focusing on gender issues in the published journal articles on gambling?





# Methods

Followed Arksey and O'Malley's (2005) scoping review framework & Levac et al. (2010) and Daudt et al. (2013)

The literature was taken from eight targeted academic databases (2000-2020)

Psychology and Behavioural Sciences Collection

Scopus

Bielefeld Academic Search Engine (BASE)

PsycINFO

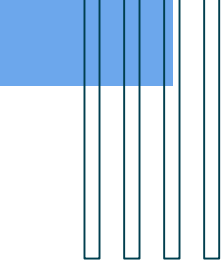
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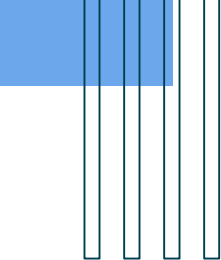
Business Source Complete

Web of Science



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- wagering, betting
  - lotteries, VLTs
  - "video lottery terminal"
  - EGMs
  - "electronic gaming machine"
  - "electronic gambling machine"
  - roulette
  - poker
  - blackjack
  - bingo
  - "card player"
  - "card game"
  - "slot machine"
  - "fantasy sport"

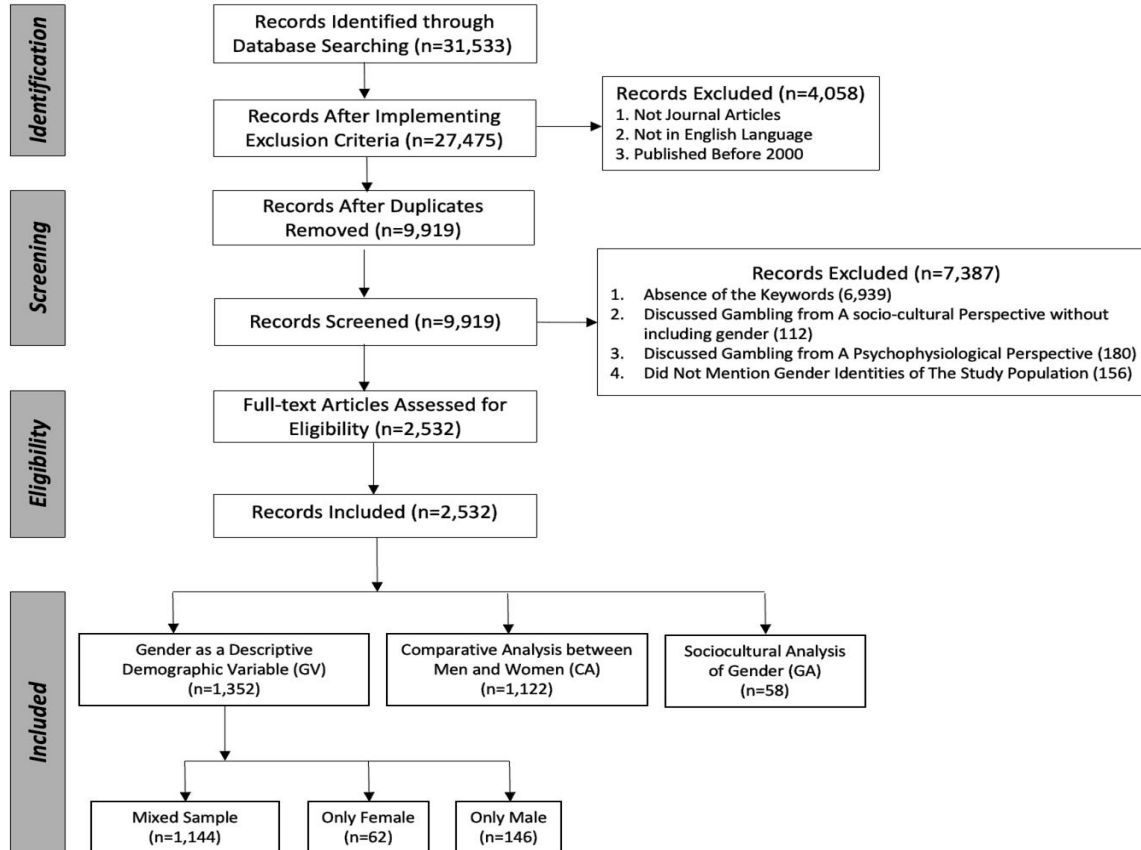


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gender, masculin, feminin, transgender, cisgender, transsex, girl, boy, male, female, man, woman, men, women

# Summary of the Articles Selected for Inclusion through PRISMA-ScR



## Article Distribution to the Thematic Areas

N = 2,532

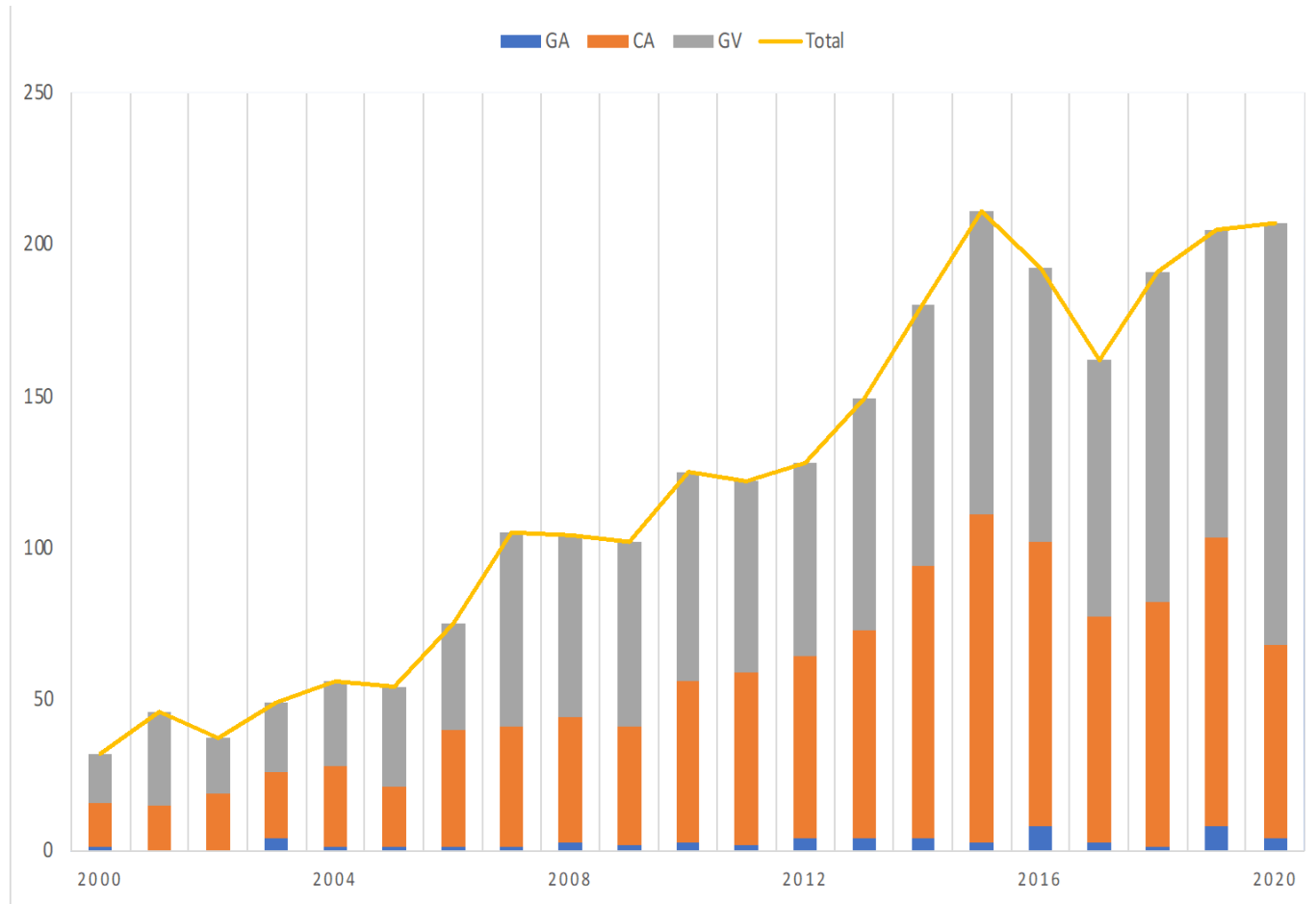
Thematic Area	Operational Definition	N	%
<b>Sociocultural analysis of gender</b>	Research focused on sociocultural aspects of gender	58	2.3%
<b>Comparative analysis between men and women</b>	Research focused on comparing female and male gamblers	1,122	44.3%
<b>Gender as a descriptive demographic variable</b>	Research focused on gender as a descriptive variable	1,352	53.4%
	Mixed samples (n=1,144)    Only female sample (n=66)    Only male sample (n=133)		

# Trend in journal publications on gender and gambling (2000-2020)

**GA** = Sociocultural Analysis of Gender

**CA** = *Comparative Analysis between Men and Women*

**GV** = *Gender as a Descriptive Demographic Variable*



## Publications on gender and gambling by discipline (N = 2,532)

Discipline	Gender as a demographic variable			Comparison between Men and Women	Sociocultural analysis of Gender	Articles	
	Mixed samples	Only female	Only male			n	%
<b>Psychology</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1949</b>	<b>77.0</b>
Medicine and Nursing	<b>71</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>50</b>	3	143	5.6
Public Health, Environmental & Occupational Health	<b>40</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>80</b>	4	128	5.1
Sociology	17	10	25	40	<b>21</b>	113	4.5
Other	48	4	1	41	5	99	3.9
Business	9	1	0	31	0	41	1.6
Social work	8	3	0	8	<b>4</b>	23	0.9
Public & Health policy	1	0	0	15	2	18	0.7
Anthropology	2	0	0	1	<b>6</b>	9	0.4
Gender Studies	0	3	0	1	<b>5</b>	9	0.4



## Publications on gender and gambling, by methodology (N = 2,532)

### **Distribution of methodologies**

- 87% Quantitative methods
- 10% Qualitative methods
- 3% Mixed methods

### **Gender as a descriptive demographic variable**

- 85.2% Mixed samples
- 9.9% Male only samples
- 4.9% Female only samples

### **Sociocultural analysis of gender**


- 98.1% relied on gender binary (1.85% included gender diversity)

### **Total articles sampled (n = 2,532)**

- 99.9% relied on gender binary (0.04% included gender diversity)
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# Discussion

- Risks of traditional androcentric theorization
  - Synonymous use of sex and gender
  - Gender is much more than just a demographic variable
  - Moving beyond the positivist theorization and essentialized binaries of sex and gender
  - Men as gendered beings
  - Interaction of gender and other intersectional identities impact individual's gambling experience
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# Discussion

- Shortage of critical analysis on sociocultural construction of gender
  - Positivist nature of the academic disciplines
  - Gender theories could explain gender differences in gambling
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# Gambling and Gender

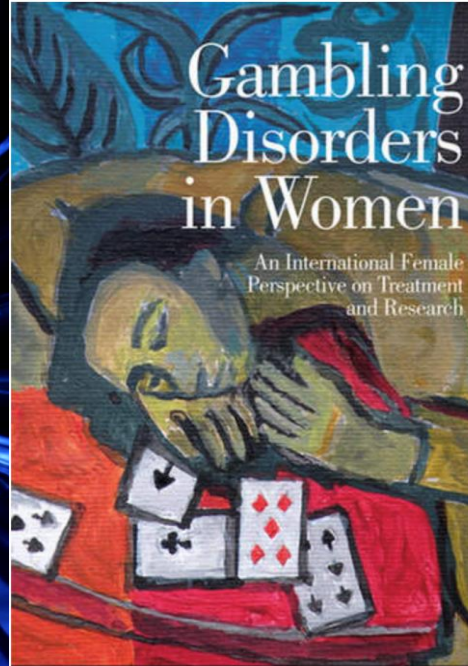


MEN AND WOMEN AT PLAY

DEBORAH K. PHILLIPS  
AND VICKI A. WILSON  
EDITORS

## Women, Pleasure and the Gambling Experience

Emma Casey



## Gambling Disorders in Women

An International Female  
Perspective on Treatment  
and Research

Edited by HENRIETTA BOWDEN-JONES  
and FULVIA PREVER



## ADDICTION BY DESIGN

Machine Gambling in Las Vegas



NATASHA DOW SCHÜLL

# Conclusion

- Sex and gender are fundamental concepts that inform gambling practices
- Integrating gender will bring light to the diversity in gendered sociocultural practices, meanings, roles and norms & power dynamics

Although women gamble to escape stress and worries, they also see gambling as a liberating experience, thus contesting traditional gender roles (Casey 2003; Casey 2008; O'Brien Cousins and Witcher 2004; Delfabbro 2000; Fiske 2015; Svensson et al. 2011).

# Conclusion

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- Integrating gender will bring light to the diversity in gendered sociocultural practices, meanings, roles and norms & power dynamics

Studies reveal the dissonance between the public and private spheres highlight how women's work and lives have been traditionally undervalued and continue to impact their choices regarding where and how they gamble (Casey 2008; Svensson et al. 2011; Svensson and Romild 2014).

# Conclusion

- Omitting gender identities can misdirect the policymaking process, service delivery and organizational efforts

Gambling is traditionally considered a male domain (Cassidy 2014; Lamont and Hing 2019) and particular games such as sports betting or poker are cast as markers of masculinities that manifest social and economic power (Lamont and Hing 2019).

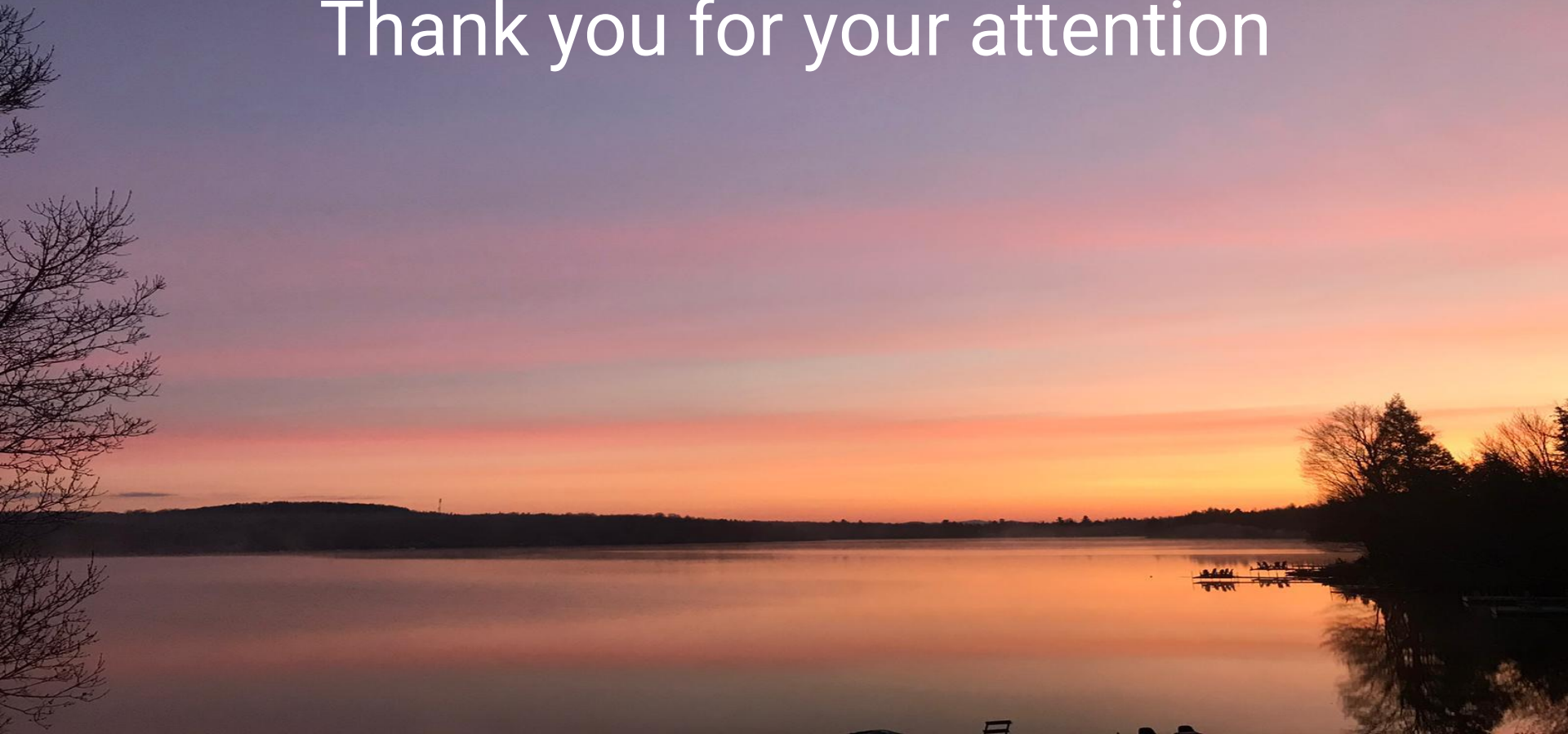


# Conclusion

- Omitting gender identities can misdirect the policymaking process, service delivery and organizational efforts

It is harder for a man because he externalizes emotions less. It is easier for you to deal with it if you externalize emotions ... A man in a therapeutic group meeting is more introverted so they teach you about emotions and such things, and probably he will go gambling because his world takes him there ([Gavriel-Fried 2022](#)).

Thank you for your attention



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