

Jeudi **28 novembre** de 14h à 15h

Local E241

Gambling Careers: a Longitudinal, Qualitative Study of Gambling Behaviour

Prof. Gerda Reith, (School of Social and Political Sciences, Université de Glasgow, GB)

Invitants : Joël Billieux et le laboratoire de psychopathologie expérimentale (LEP)

This paper presents findings from a longitudinal, qualitative study of 'gambling careers' designed to explore the ways that individuals move in and out of problematic behaviour over time. Semi structured interviews were used to investigate patterns of stability and change in a cohort of 50 problem and recreational gamblers over a five year period. The study found that change, rather than stability, was the norm in gambling behaviour and identified four different trajectories of behaviour: progression, reduction, consistency and non-linearity. Drawing on rich narrative accounts of respondents' gambling behaviour the study begins to suggest reasons for these different types of movement, highlighting the role of material factors such as employment, environment and social context in each. It concludes that gambling behaviour is highly variable over time, and recommends that future research focus on patterns of behaviour rather than on 'types' of gamblers. As such, it begins to question models based on bio-psychological models of addiction, and ideas about the static and immutable nature of problematic behaviour.