



# Women and Problem Gambling: The Hidden Addiction

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**9.30am-5.00pm**

**University of Lincoln**

This one-day conference is aimed at professionals interested in the gambling industry. It will be of interest to practitioners, service providers, gambling-related charities, public health and government bodies, policy and commercial gambling sectors, medical and mental health workers, those in academia and other related-fields in which work involves understanding, assessing, and treating, individuals who have problems with gambling.

COST: £70

STUDENTS: £35

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# Women and Problem Gambling: The Hidden Addiction

*Gambling today appears to be more acceptable, accessible and endemic than ever and is considerably different from a decade ago due to the accessibility of internet gambling and the added proliferation of smartphones and tablets. As a consequence, gambling has become an increasingly common pursuit among women. In previous years, problem gambling was seen as a 'male issue', with problem and pathological gambling affecting more men than women, but this is no longer the case. The gap is closing and increasing numbers of women are fulfilling the criteria for problematic gambling. The 2010 British Gambling Prevalence Survey suggested that the largest increase in gambling occurred among women, where rates have increased from 65% in 2007 to 71% in 2010; this also included a rise in problematic women gambling from 0.2 percent to 0.3 percent of the U.K. population.*

*One of the most perceived gender differences with regard to gambling is around motive. It has been suggested that men tend to gamble for the excitement, while women gamble mostly to escape. Often the forms of 'escape' gambling (mainly online) favoured by women are secluded and can escalate beyond control as a "hidden addiction", out of sight of family members and friends. Moreover, the lack of recognition that addictions affect women sometimes makes it difficult for women to communicate their fears to family and friends. Subsequently, our knowledge of problem gambling among women is incomplete and many women are unaware of treatment options. There is a paucity of research on women and gambling, especially in the UK.*

**In this one-day conference, the University of Lincoln's Forensic and Clinical Research Group, along with some of our collaborators, will present cutting-edge theory and research associated with women and problem gambling. There will be a focus on how this research can be applied in practice for those who work professionally with problem gamblers. We hope to begin answering some of the pressing questions surrounding the "hidden addiction" in women.**

Booking: To book a place at the conference and receive more info, please visit:

<https://store.lincoln.ac.uk/browse/product.asp?compid=1&modid=1&catid=314>

If you have any questions, please contact event organizers: Dr. Amanda Roberts ([aroberts@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:aroberts@lincoln.ac.uk)) or Ms Zoe Mead ([zmead@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:zmead@lincoln.ac.uk))



## SPEAKERS

### Dr. Fulvia Prever

*(Addiction Center SSN Milano & AND Association)  
Women and problem gambling in Italy*

### Dr Henrietta Bowden-Jones

*(National Problem Gambling Clinic)  
Women and problem gambling: A UK perspective*

### Ms Liz Karter

*(Level Ground Therapy)  
Women and online gambling. Mind the Gap; leaping the social divide and widening a divide between fantasy and reality*

### Ms Ruth Champion

*(Gordon Moody Association)  
Residential treatment for women problem gamblers in the UK*

### Mr Jim Rogers

*(University of Lincoln)  
Anonymous steps: Gender and GA*

### Mrs Julie Pattinson & Dr Adrian Parke

*(University of Lincoln)  
Patterns of problem gambling in older adult women*



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