Participants

Reuven BRENNER holds the Rapap Chair of Economics in the Desautels Faculty of Management at McGill University in Montreal. Recent publications include "A World of Chance. Betting on Religion, Games, Wall Street" (together with Gabrielle A. Brenner and Aaron Brown). The book examines the role of gambling and risk-taking in different societies.

Emma CASEY is a Senior lecturer in Sociology at Kingston University, London. She focuses on domestic economies and forms of consumption, including gambling, from a gender perspective. In 2008, she published "Women. pleasure and the gambling experience".

Thierry DEPALULIS is a historian and specialist in the history of games. He is the author of numerous articles and contributions, such as "A Wicked Pack of Cards: The Origins of the Occult Tarot" (together with Ronald Decker and Sir Michael Dummett). In 2009, he sat in the scientific board of the Paris exhibition "Jeux des princes, jeux de vilains" (Bibliothèque nationale de France).

Oliver M. FELDMANN is a lecturer of philosophy at the WU. He has published on Logical Empiricism and the Wiener Kreis.

Roberto GARVÍA is professor of Sociology at the University Carlos III, Madrid. He published several studies on lottery markets in a comparative perspective, such as "Loterías. Un estudio desde la nueva sociología económica".

Lothar HÜBL is professor emeritus of economics at the Leibniz University at Hannover. He specializes in casino and sports markets.

Florian KLENK is a prominent Viennese investigative journalist, author and chief editor of the city’s weekly "Falter".

Sergius KODERA is Head of the Department of Cultural Studies at the New Design University, St. Pölten, and Senior Lecturer at the University of Vienna’s Department of Philosophy. He publishes on the history of Renaissance thought.

Mark LUTTER is a sociologist at the Cologne Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies. In 2010, he published his comparative study "Markte für Träume. Die Soziologie des Lotterspiels".

Riitta MATHAIKAINEN is a graduate student of social history at the University of Helsinki, Department of Political and Economic Sciences. As a researcher she focuses on gambling in the Northern European countries.

Gherardo ORTALLI is Professor of Medieval History in Venice. He is the editor of "Ludica. Annali di storia e civiltà del gioco", the only journal worldwide for the history of ludicity. His most recent publication is "Baratterii. Il gioco d'azzardo fra economia ed etica. Secoli XIII-XV".

Willem OTTERSPREER is Professor of University History at Leiden. He is the author of, inter alia, a biography of Johan Huizinga, the eminent Dutch historian and medievalist.

Jeroen PUTTEVILS is currently a lecturer and research member of the Centre for Urban History at Antwerp University. He specializes in the economic history of the Lower Countries of the 16th century, and particularly in the activities of international merchants.

Johann August SCHÜLEIN is Professor of General and Economic Sociology at the Vienna University of Economics and Business.

Urs STÄHELI is Professor of Sociology at the University of Hamburg. In 2007, he published "Spiektualäre Spekulation. Das Populaire in der Ökonomie."

Manfred ZÖLLINGER is a historian who teaches Economic and Social History at WU. He is a prominent co-author of various exhibition catalogues on gambling, such as "Lotteries en europe" (La Tour-de-Peilz 2012) and "Spiele der Stadt" (Vienna 2013). Presently he is writing a global history of lotteries.
Gambling should be cheap, fair, frivolous and on a small scale if its evil economic results are to be reduced to a minimum, and the fun and mild excitement to be maximised.”  

J. M. Keynes

The potentials of gambling have been a concern both in pre-capitalist societies and in modern capitalism. While gambling in its various forms has developed into one of the major industries worldwide, the “gambling spirit”, “casino society” or “lottery principle” are brought into play when certain forms of capitalism are rejected.

In many aspects, gambling remains a puzzling challenge to academic research. At this conference, distinguished scholars from various countries and disciplines will contribute to the better understanding of how societies, or parts of them, deal with the competing concepts of skill and chance through games, of entertainment, leisure, and the quest for gain.

Programme

Thursday, 23 May
9:15 Welcome address by Professor Michael Meyer  
Vice-Rector of WU and Head of the Nonprofit Management Group

Sessions
9:30 Homo ludens and the Quest for Chance

Willem OTTERSPeer  
Leiden University  
Varieties of ‘Spieltrieb’

Sergius KODERA  
New Design University, St. Pölten  
Taking Chances: Girolamo Cardano (1501–76) on Gambling, and the Art of Memory, and Magic

Peter SCHNieder  
University of Neuchâtel  
Heterotopias of Chance. Gambling and Subjectivity around 1800

Commentator: Oliver M. FELDMANN WU

12:30 Lunch

16:30 Bruno Kreisky Forum  
Keynote address by Beuneu BRENNER  
McGill University  
Gambling and Speculation

Informal reception

Friday, 24 May
9:00 Morning sessions

From Ban to Business

Gherardo ORTALLI  
University Ca’Foscari, Venice  
The Ancient Roots of Modern Gambling

Thierry DEPAUWS  
Paris  
Bingo! A Material History of Modern Gaming

James RAVEN  
University of Essex  
Debating the Lottery in Britain c. 1750-1830

Riitta MATLAINEN  
University of Helsinki  
Cultural and Social Meanings of Gambling in the Nordic Countries: A Historical Perspective

Commentator: Manfred ZOLLINGER WU

11:00 Coffee break

Groups, Class, and Gender Perspectives

Roberto GARVIA  
University Carlos III, Madrid  
What Can Sociologists Say About Gambling?

Mark LUTTER  
Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne  
Why the Poor Play the Lottery. Sociological Approaches to Explaining Class-based Lottery Play

13:30 Apero

Afternoon session

14:30 Gambling and Economic Behaviour

Jeroen PUTTEVILS  
Antwerp University  
Sixteenth-century Antwerp Traders. Rational Investments and Irrational Exuberance

Urs STÄHLELI  
Hamburg University  
Contested Boundaries of the Economy: Gambling and Speculation in the USA

Hermann RAUCHENSCHWANDTNER  
University of Applied Sciences, Salzburg  
The Poker Face: Masquerade, Games and the Financial Crisis

Gerda REITH  
University of Glasgow  
‘Pathological’ Gambling in an Age of Chance

Commentator: Florian KLENK Vienna

Venues:
WU, Großer Sitzungssaal (GS) for all sessions  
Bruno Kreisky Forum  
Armbrustergasse 15, 1190 Wien for keynote speech

Emma CASEY  
Kingston University, London  
Patterns and Strategies of Risk at Home: Gambling and Households

Lothar HUBL  
University Hannover  
Casino Gambling as Part of the German Gambling Market

Commentator: Johann A. SCHUELKN WU