



Folkhälsomyndigheten
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A gender perspective on gambling clusters in Sweden using longitudinal data

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Background

- Historically, many forms of gambling have been highly gendered
 - Aligns with social views of men as risk takers, women as caretakers
- “Feminization” of gambling a particular concern
 - Female preference for gaming machine (not in Sweden)
 - More women seeking help for gambling problems
 - In Sweden, half of the new problem gamblers between 2008/09 and 2009/2010 was women
- One key may be characteristics of some gambling venues & products
 - Flexible hours, local availability, low price to play, physical safety

Connor, 1996; Dixey, 1996

Where are the women?

- Most existing research focuses on men
- Gender comparisons are rare
 - Too few women included in study samples to determine if there are differences between men and women
 - Researchers assume that what holds true for men will also hold true for women
- If women drink, smoke and gamble as much as men, then problems should achieve parity between the genders
 - After controlling for gambling behavior, being a man is often no longer a significant predictor for problem gambling.

Bunkle, 2003; Mark & Lesieur, 1992

Sid .

Working-class female lottery players in Brit

- Dimensions of time, space & gender used to explore motives, choices & decision-making related to gambling for these women
- Lottery play provides pleasure in a temporal & spatial order that leaves little time for women's recreation
- Act of purchasing ticket (social & individual pleasure) more valuable than winning
- Moderate wins are preferred to hitting the jackpot
- Drawn from Skeggs "Formations of class and gender -becoming respectable"

Casey, 2007, 2008

Gendered spaces, leisure and motives to gamble

- Research indicates that social, cultural and environmental factors were more decisive for why people begin to gamble
 - Advertising, access to money, leisure time, alcohol and social inducements
- Stress and loneliness more important in understanding why people continue to gamble (Clarke et al 2006)
- Gendered spaces and serious leisure
 - Women who enter masculine gambling domains likely to have different motives and experiences of gambling than men
 - Female poker players as a third wave of feminism

Clarke et al., 2006; Eaves, 2009

Rationale and aim

- No study has examined whether gambling problems develop differently for men and women who engage in different patterns of gambling participation (e.g., not only among regularly gamblers).
- Study addresses this gap in the gambling research literature by describing 5 clusters of gamblers with focus on:
 - Development of gambling problems over 3 waves of data collection
 - Do gambling problems among men and women develop differently within the 5 groups?

Hypotheses

1. Gambling clusters will differ in gender composition
2. Clusters and genders will differ in demographics and health
3. Women in higher clusters will be more persistent
4. There will be no differences in the development of PG for men & women in same cluster

Methods - Swelogs

- Swedish Longitudinal Gambling Study
 - Started in 2008, two main tracks
 - Epidemiological track
 - In-depth track
 - Stratified draw of 15,000 individuals aged 16-84 from national register of total population
 - Stratified based on gender, age, risk for problems
 - Ethical approval from University of Umeå
 - Data collection by Statistics Sweden
 - Final sample of 8,165, response rate of 57%

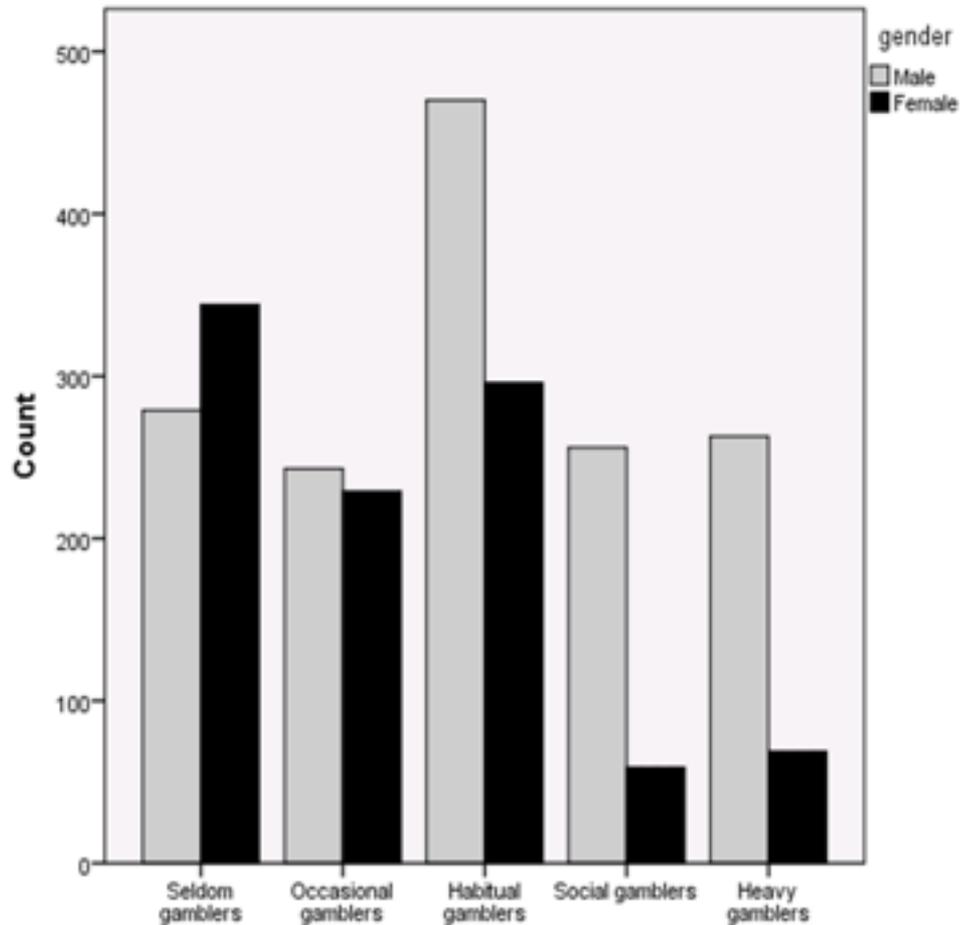
Gambling, clusters and gender

- **Seldom Gamblers** were all lottery players
 - Some also gamble on horses, bingo, casino
- **Occasional Gamblers** participated in all forms of gambling except poker
 - Women more likely to play bingo, lottery
 - Men more likely to bet on sports
- **Social Gamblers** all played poker
 - Men more likely to play casino games
- **Habitual Gamblers** participated in all types of gambling
 - More frequent horse bettors, number games compared to other groups
- **Heavy Gamblers** played more bingo, sports, gaming machines, casino games than other groups
 - Women played more bingo than other groups
 - Men more involved in sports, poker

Analysis

- Analysis
 - Used cluster analysis to identify 6 different groups of past-year gamblers based on gambling frequencies in 9 gambling modes
 - Study sample included all individuals who had gambled past year in EP1 and then participated EP2 and EP3

H1. Gambling clusters will differ in gender composition

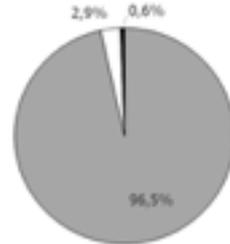


Swelogs

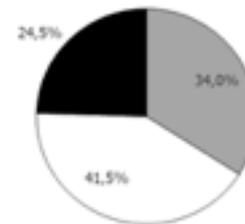
Male Seldom Gamblers



Female Seldom Gamblers



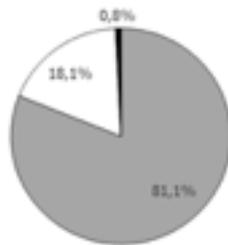
Male Habitual Gamblers



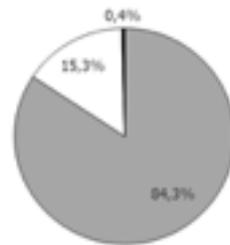
Female Habitual Gamblers



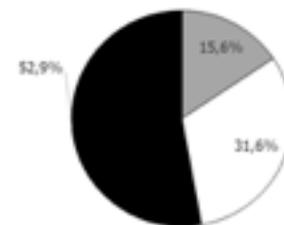
Male Occasional Gamblers



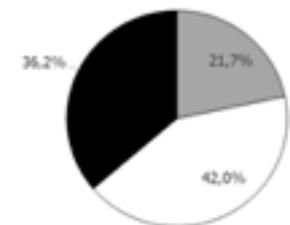
Female Occasional Gamblers



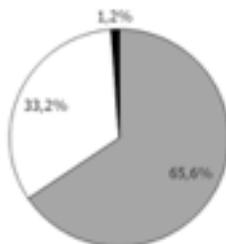
Male Heavy Gamblers



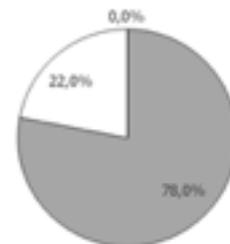
Female Heavy Gamblers



Male Social Gamblers



Female Social Gamblers



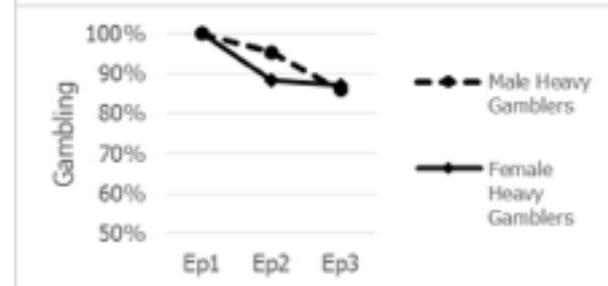
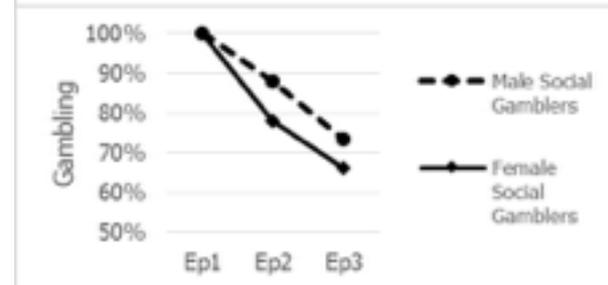
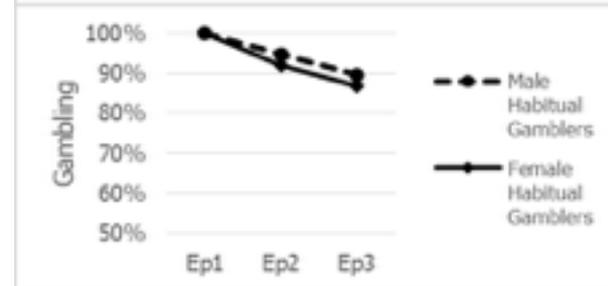
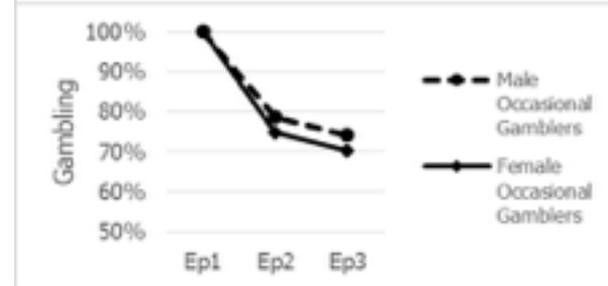
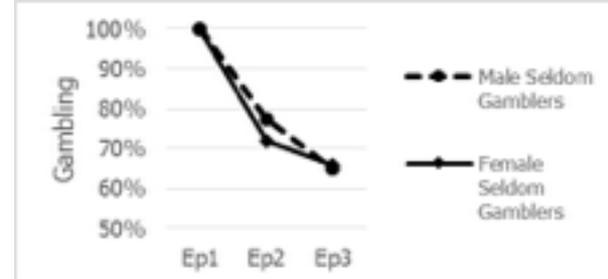
■ Low frequency □ Frequent gambling ■ High frequency

H2. Clusters and genders will differ in demographics and health

- In addition to gender, clusters differ on other demographic variables
 - Significant differences in age, born in Sweden, living in large cities, educational attainment, family situation
 - Also significant differences between men and women within clusters

H3:

Women in the gambling clusters characterized by more serious gambling may be more persistent in their gambling than men because fewer women enter these gambling scenes and their gambling may serve other functions in their lives compared with men who gamble the same way

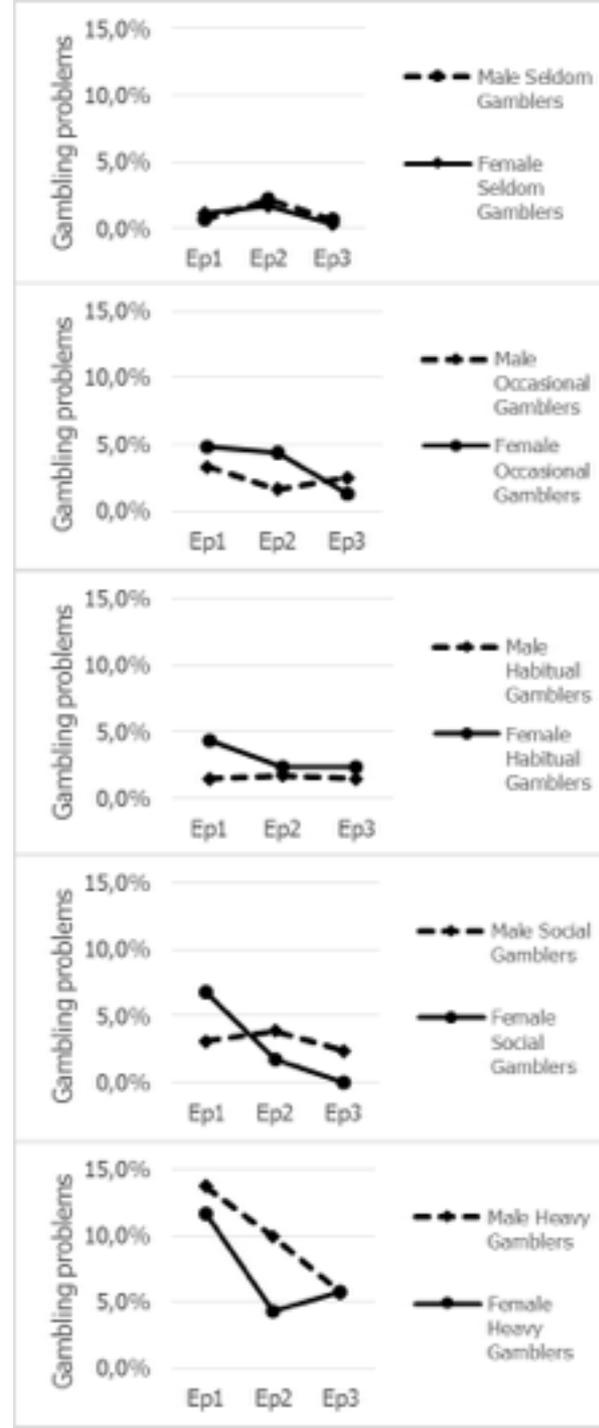


H4. There will be no differences in the development of PG for men and women in same cluster

- Across 3 waves, overall gambling decreased in all of the clusters
 - Similar pattern of reduction for men and women in all clusters except Heavy and Social Gamblers
 - In Wave 2, women Heavy and Social Gamblers less likely to gamble compared to men in same group
- Proportion of PGs differed significantly between groups but was not significantly different for men and women in same group
 - Heavy Gamblers continued to have a higher proportion of PGs in Wave 3 compared with other groups

H4.

There are no differences in the development of gambling problems for men and women within the same cluster



Conclusions

- Within gambling clusters, gambling remains heavily gendered in Sweden
 - Men more likely to gamble on horses, sports
 - Women more likely to gamble on bingo, lotteries
- Occasional and Social Gamblers are more urban and younger with fewer differences between men and women
- Risky alcohol consumption higher among Social and Heavy Gamblers
- Habitual Gamblers have more economic difficulties than other groups
 - Especially the women

Conclusions

- Even though clusters based on gambling participation, there are gender differences within same clusters by type of gambling
- Men and women may be equals in the total experience of how gambling problems develop
- Sociodemographic differences between men and women in the same clusters have implications for prevention

We still want to know...

- Have types of gambling as well as social attitudes toward gambling changed to normalize such behavior?
- Is women's gambling still stigmatized?
- A need to understand how masculinities and gambling interact
- What are the factors that explain why women begin gambling and how are these different from factors that explain why women and men continue to gamble in spite of adverse consequences?
- Do women have telescoped trajectories into gambling problem?