Cultural Differences in Reasons for Gambling Between Chinese-Heritage and Euro-Canadian Students

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INTRODUCTION

- Gambling is commonly described as any activity in which something of value is risked on the outcome of an event - when the probability of winning or losing is less than certain (Korn & Shaffer, 1999).
- Pathological gambling as classified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual 5th Edition (American Psychiatric Association, 2013) refers to a condition in which an individual shows persistent and recurrent maladaptive gambling behaviour, which may result in dysfunctions in the areas of work, studies, and social and family relationships.
- Problem gambling refers to a condition in which an individual’s gambling behaviours are less severe than required by the diagnostic criteria of the DSM.
- Gambling is legal in 90 countries worldwide and prevalence studies have shown that 70-90% of adults and adolescents have gambled sometime in their lives (Raylu & Oei, 2002).
- Cross-cultural gambling research has focused on groups of Chinese heritage. From the studies completed using ethnic minorities, many of them have found greater problem gambling and pathological gambling rates among Chinese samples (Oei & Raylu, 2009).
- Recent research has shown that cultural factors such as beliefs, values, and the process of acculturation (Kim, 2012), and beliefs about luck also influence gambling behaviours (Darke & Freedman, 1997).
- A study conducted in Montreal found that Alkophone and Anglophone adolescents who had acculturation issues had higher levels of gambling problems. The results suggest that minorities who have acculturation difficulties are more prone to pathological gambling (Ellenbogen, Gupta, & Derevensky, 2007)
- In order to better understand the factors that may promote elevated gambling behaviours in Chinese-Heritage individuals, the current study examined the role of beliefs in luck and acculturation in shaping this behaviour among both Chinese-Heritage and Euro-Canadian students.

METHOD

Hypotheses:
- Chinese-Heritage students will have higher levels of gambling behaviour compared to Euro-Canadians students
- Beliefs in luck will be positively correlated with levels of gambling behaviour; and
- Mainstream acculturation will be negatively associated with gambling behaviour among Chinese-Heritage students.

Participants:
- Undergraduate students recruited from the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus (UTSC).
- Self-identified Chinese Cultural background and Euro-Canadian

RESULTS

Group Comparison on the SOGS Total Score
- A comparison of gambling behaviour based on the SOGS total score showed a significant group difference, with the Chinese-Heritage group (M=1.93, SD=2.37) reporting higher levels of gambling behaviours than the Euro-Canadians (M=0.60, SD=1.20), t(141)=4.52, p < .001

Chi-Square analysis of the SOGS Problem Gambling Score
- No Problem Gambling: 66.7% vs. 72.1%
- Some Problem with Gambling: 19.16% vs. 18.88%
- Probable Pathological Gambling: 19.3% vs. 19.9%

Group Comparisons in beliefs in luck on the BIGLS, GBQ Luck, and PLUS 12 item

DISCUSSION

- Our first two hypotheses were supported. Chinese-Heritage students reported higher levels of gambling than Euro-Canadians based on the SOGS. Chinese-Heritage students also endorsed higher beliefs in both general and personal luck.
- Chinese-Heritage students possess gambling-related beliefs that luck is a personal quality that can be utilized to influence gambling outcomes.
- Acculturation showed no significant association with gambling behaviour.
- An important limitation of the current study is the convenience sample and small sample size.
- The current findings suggest that there is a significant association between stronger beliefs in luck and elevated gambling behaviour in Chinese-Heritage students.

REFERENCES