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## Issue 3, February 2001

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### From the Editor

This issue of the *Electronic Journal of Gambling Issues: eGambling (EJGI)* offers several challenges to conventional thinking about problem gambling.

Do you accept that problem gambling is an addiction or do you question that definition? Stanton Peele's Feature article queries whether the concept of "addiction" is even appropriate for problem gambling. Another current debate concerns the accuracy of classifying problem gambling as an impulse control disorder as found in the latest 1994 edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. Both the Feature article and the first Research article by Mark W. Langewisch and G. Ron Frisch also question this disease classification. These articles raise important issues and we hope readers will offer debate and comments.

If you've ever wondered about the beginnings of Las Vegas and how it got to be the way it is, you will find new insights on how this gaming centre grew out of the Mojave desert in our second Research article by David Schwartz. And to understand some non-western views that challenge mainstream assumptions about gambling and its place in society, we've reprinted an article from Australia by Diane Gabb in our Opinion section about gambling among people who may be your neighbours. Whether you love the game of poker or hate it, you may enjoy comparing your feelings to those of author Barry Fritz in First Person Accounts.

The *EJGI* also offers a new section, Service Profile, which we hope will encourage clinicians from around the world to tell our readers about their problem gambling services.

A handful of book reviews, a movie review and a debate in Letters to the Editor round out this issue. Please tell us what you think.

– Phil Lange

**Disclaimer:** The opinions expressed in this journal do not necessarily reflect those

of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

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## Statement of Purpose

The *Electronic Journal of Gambling Issues: eGambling (EJGI)* offers an Internet-based forum for developments in gambling-related research, policy and treatment as well as personal accounts about gambling and gambling behaviour. Through publishing peer-reviewed articles about gambling as a social phenomenon and the prevention and treatment of gambling problems, it is our aim is to help make sense of how gambling affects us all.

The *EJGI* is published by the [Centre for Addiction and Mental Health](#) and is fully funded by the Ontario Substance Abuse Bureau of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. We welcome manuscripts submitted by researchers and clinicians, people involved in gambling as players, and family and friends of gamblers.

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Phil Lange

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