



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Application 056382

Section A: Applicant details

Date application started:

Thu 20 July 2023 at 06:58

First name:

Eliot

Last name:

Kelly-Reilly

Email:

emkelly-reilly1@sheffield.ac.uk

Programme name:

Psychological Research Methods with Data Science (MSc)

Module name:

PSY6009 Research Project in Psychological Research Methods with Data Science

Last updated:

20/07/2023

Department:

Psychology

Applying as:

Undergraduate / Postgraduate taught

Research project title:

Gambling Personality and Behaviour

Has your research project undergone academic review, in accordance with the appropriate process?

Yes

Similar applications:

- *not entered* -

Section B: Basic information

Supervisor

Name

Email

Matt Field

matt.field@sheffield.ac.uk

Proposed project duration

Start date (of data collection):

Sun 23 July 2023

Anticipated end date (of project)

Fri 1 September 2023

3: Project code (where applicable)

Project externally funded?

No

Project code
- *not entered* -

Suitability

Takes place outside UK?

No

Involves NHS?

No

Health and/or social care human-interventional study?

No

ESRC funded?

No

Likely to lead to publication in a peer-reviewed journal?

Yes

Led by another UK institution?

No

Involves human tissue?

No

Clinical trial or a medical device study?

No

Involves social care services provided by a local authority?

No

Is social care research requiring review via the University Research Ethics Procedure

No

Involves adults who lack the capacity to consent?

No

Involves research on groups that are on the Home Office list of 'Proscribed terrorist groups or organisations'?

No

Indicators of risk

Involves potentially vulnerable participants?

No

Involves potentially highly sensitive topics?

No

Section C: Summary of research

1. Aims & Objectives

The aim of this project is to assess the association between gambling severity and meaning in life via the moderation of gambling pathway classification and mediation of environmental reinforcement. Gambling severity refers to the extent to which gambling behaviour has become problematic or dysfunctional for the participant. Meaning in life refers to an individual's perception of their purpose/meaning within their life. Gambling pathways are theorised categorical routes that have been identified as precursors to problem gambling behaviour. Environmental reinforcement refers to levels of enjoyment gained from mundane non-addiction based activities. We aim to assess whether the link between gambling severity and gambling behaviour is related to alternative reinforcement and gambling pathways. These constructs have been commonly associated and linked throughout research of addiction in other areas such as substance use/prospective internet gaming disorder. This builds upon previous research assessing gambling severity and meaning in life with the inclusion of additional measures commonly utilised within other areas of addiction.

Participants will be recruited via the online Prolific platform which will identify relevant participants via the integrated screening system. The eligibility criteria are as follows: Uk based residents, who regularly gamble and have shown interest in crypto currency.

Participants will complete a self-report questionnaire containing demographic questions and 4 measures: Meaning in Life Questionnaire

(MLQ), Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI), Environmental Reinforcement Observation Study (EROS), Gambling Pathways Questionnaire (GPQ) - modified as detailed below.

2. Methodology

As described above, participants will be recruited via Prolific, to take part in this study. Prolific has identified approximately 4300 applicable participants with relevant eligibility criteria.

Eligibility criteria includes:

Age 18+

UK residence,

Regular online gambling activity,

Interest in crypto currency - this criterion has been added as crypto currency has been linked to gambling behaviour and thus is likely to represent the targeted population for this project.

This study aims to recruit 200 participants thus, only 21% participant response rate is required.

Information sheet, Consent form, Question battery, and Debrief sheet is attached. After information provision and consent has been received participants will complete 5 question blocks created via Qualtrics. Question blocks and questions within will be in fixed order with forced response requirements.

Block 1:

This will consist of demographic questions including age, sex, gender, ethnicity and gambling frequency.

Block 2:

Participants will then complete the 10 item Meaning in Life Questionnaire to provide scores for both 'presence of meaning' and 'search for meaning' via 7-point likert scale.

Block 3:

Participants will then complete the Problem Gambling Severity Index, a 9 item scale assessing severity of gambling behaviour based upon frequency of gambling related events within the previous 12 months. This measure is scored via 4-point Likert scale.

Block 4:

This block will contain the Environmental Reinforcement Observation Scale (EROS) which assesses levels of enjoyment gained from environmental experiences. This measure utilises a 4-point Likert scale.

Block 5:

This block will contain a modified version of the Gambling Pathways Questionnaire (GPQ). Whereas this scale originally consisted of 48 items, 50% of questions were excluded from each subscale based upon factor loading score (lowest scoring questions were removed). This reduced the questionnaire to 26 items, for inclusion within the question battery and reducing potential attrition. Furthermore, the original questionnaire contained sensitive questions relating to sexual risk taking and child maltreatment. In order to minimise ethical concern, those questions were removed and replaced with others related to (non-sexual) risk-taking. Post modification, this measure consists of 22 items scored via 6-point Likert scale.

3 attention checks will also be implemented into the questionnaire to enforce valid responses. Failure to comply with 2 of 3 of these checks will result in exclusion from the study. Additionally, time taken to complete this survey will be recorded. Participants with outlying completion times may be excluded from data analysis.

After completion of this survey, participants will be presented with the debrief sheet and an estimated, fixed £1.78 prolific credit reward. Whilst price will be equal for participants, regardless of individual factors, this price may be slightly altered after pilot testing survey times.

Anonymised data will be analysed using R studios. A mediation, moderation model will be utilised to assess hypotheses.

3. Personal Safety

Have you completed your departmental risk assessment procedures, if appropriate?

Not applicable

Raises personal safety issues?

No

Data will be collected via the online Prolific platform; there is no direct contact between participants and researchers.

Section D: About the participants

1. Potential Participants

Participants who meet the following criteria will be invited to complete the questionnaire

- Aged over 18
- United Kingdom as Country of Residence
- Are regular gamblers.
- Have shown interest in crypto currency.

2. Recruiting Potential Participants

Participant recruitment will be completed via Prolific. Prolific will advertise this study to eligible participants that use the Prolific website. Prolific has identified approximately 4300 eligible participants. Participants will full have access to the study information sheet (attached).

2.1. Advertising methods

Will the study be advertised using the volunteer lists for staff or students maintained by IT Services? No

- not entered -

3. Consent

Will informed consent be obtained from the participants? (i.e. the proposed process) Yes

Participants will provide consent to this study immediately after reading the information sheet. Consent will be required to continue in the study. Consent form is attached below.

4. Payment

Will financial/in kind payments be offered to participants? Yes

Yes. Participants who complete the study will receive an estimated £1.78 to their Prolific account. Such payment is standard practice for Prolific recruitment. These payments are all handled by the Prolific platform. The credited amount may be altered slightly after piloting to assess time taken to complete the survey.

5. Potential Harm to Participants

What is the potential for physical and/or psychological harm/distress to the participants?

Participants who have a gambling disorder may experience distress or discomfort when completing the questionnaires.

How will this be managed to ensure appropriate protection and well-being of the participants?

We will take the following steps to reduce the risk of harm to participants. Firstly, the participant information sheet will contain examples of the types of questions that participants will be asked, and they will be advised that, if any part of the study makes them feel uncomfortable or distressed, they should immediately withdraw from participation by closing their browser. Secondly, information will be provided about sources of support for people who are concerned about their gambling and would like professional help. This information will be provided in both the Participant consent form and the Debriefing information (both attached).

6. Potential harm to others who may be affected by the research activities

Which other people, if any, may be affected by the research activities, beyond the participants and the research team?

None

What is the potential for harm to these people?

Not Applicable

How will this be managed to ensure appropriate safeguarding of these people?

Not Applicable

7. Reporting of safeguarding concerns or incidents

What arrangements will be in place for participants, and any other people external to the University who are involved in, or affected by, the research, to enable reporting of incidents or concerns?

The following passage is included within the information and debrief sheet:

If you are unhappy at any point in the study with your treatment by researchers, or if there is a problem that occurs during / following your participation in this study, please tell the research supervisor: Professor Matt Field, Department of Psychology, University of Sheffield, matt.field@sheffield.ac.uk, 0114 2226510.

If the complaint relates to how your personal data has been handled, information about how to raise a complaint can be found in the University's Privacy Notice: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/govern/data-protection/privacy/general>.

Who will be the Designated Safeguarding Contact(s)?

The research supervisor: Professor Matt Field

How will reported incidents or concerns be handled and escalated?

See paragraph above: incidents or concerns will initially be handled by Prof Matt Field, and escalated to the Head of Department if

necessary.

Section E: Personal data

1. Use of personal data

Will any personal data be processed or accessed as part of the project?

No

Are you sure that no personal data will be processed or accessed during your project?

Yes

Section F: Supporting documentation

Information & Consent

Participant information sheets relevant to project?

Yes

[Document 1126895 \(Version 1\)](#)
Information sheet

[All versions](#)

Consent forms relevant to project?

Yes

[Document 1126896 \(Version 1\)](#)
Consent Form

[All versions](#)

Additional Documentation

[Document 1126897 \(Version 1\)](#)
Debrief Sheet

[All versions](#)

[Document 1126898 \(Version 1\)](#)
Questionnaire package

[All versions](#)

External Documentation

- not entered -

Section G: Declaration

Signed by:

Eliot Kelly-Reilly

Date signed:

Thu 20 July 2023 at 08:18

Official notes

- not entered -