Episodic chasing in pathological gamblers using the Iowa gambling task - DTU Orbit (25/07/2018)

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"Chasing ones losses" is a key symptom among pathological gamblers (PGs). This study focuses on quantitative differences in episodic chasing (i.e., sequences of disadvantageous decisions within a single gambling session) between PGs and non-pathological gamblers (NPGs). We compared 61 PGs and 39 NPGs on the Iowa Gambling Task (IGT) and the Zuckerman Sensation Seeking Scale (SSS). The PGs showed significantly more chasing and had significantly poorer decision-making strategies than NPGs, particularly among males (F = 4.52, p <0.05). Random players were significantly less sensation seeking than advantageous and disadvantageous (i.e., chasing) players, but there was no interaction with group or gender. The results suggest that quantifiable within-session gambling behavior holds important implications for detecting underlying vulnerabilities to gambling pathology.

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Department of Photonics Engineering
Authors: Linnet, J. (Ekstern), Rojskjaer, S. (Ekstern), Nygaard, J. (Intern), Maher, B. (Ekstern)
Pages: 43-49
Publication date: 2006
Main Research Area: Technical/natural sciences

Publication information
Journal: Scandinavian Journal of Psychology
Volume: 47
Issue number: 1
ISSN (Print): 0036-5564
Ratings: BFI (2018): BFI-level 1
Web of Science (2018): Indexed yes
BFI (2017): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2017): SNIP 0.778 SJR 0.635 CiteScore 1.58
Web of Science (2017): Indexed Yes
BFI (2016): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2016): SJR 0.675 SNIP 0.77 CiteScore 1.63
BFI (2015): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2015): SJR 0.618 SNIP 0.876 CiteScore 1.56
BFI (2014): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2014): SJR 0.596 SNIP 0.803 CiteScore 1.39
BFI (2013): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2013): SJR 0.533 SNIP 0.847 CiteScore 1.51
ISI indexed (2013): ISI indexed yes
BFI (2012): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2012): SJR 0.851 SNIP 1.057 CiteScore 1.8
ISI indexed (2012): ISI indexed yes
BFI (2011): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2011): SJR 0.685 SNIP 0.933 CiteScore 1.65
ISI indexed (2011): ISI indexed yes
BFI (2010): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2010): SJR 0.496 SNIP 0.673
BFI (2009): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2009): SJR 0.457 SNIP 0.767
BFI (2008): BFI-level 2
Scopus rating (2008): SJR 0.519 SNIP 0.738
Scopus rating (2007): SJR 0.367 SNIP 0.55
Scopus rating (2006): SJR 0.407 SNIP 0.642
Web of Science (2006): Indexed yes
Scopus rating (2005): SJR 0.5 SNIP 0.826
Scopus rating (2004): SJR 0.609 SNIP 0.802