General Information

Gambling behavior incorporates a range of attitudes towards risk, and perceptions of risk. It fundamentally challenges the methodologies of several traditional academic disciplines, particularly in its manifestations as ‘problem’ or ‘addictive’ gambling. But even in its most controlled forms, it raises puzzles. As Milton Friedman asked decades ago, how are we to understand the fact that many people pay for gambles with miniscule expected values, while simultaneously paying for insurance policies that could not possibly optimize utility for a person as risk loving as their gambling behavior implies?

The longer-term objective of this workshop is to get together a group of academics with clear interests in the topic of gambling from a range of disciplines, ideally to help develop a multi-institution, multi-year research agenda. There are large, unexploited gains from having serious academic researchers get together more or less annually around this specific topic, and develop a tight network of researchers over a number of years. This year we, capitalizing on our discussions at the 2013 workshop held in Atlanta, we again focus mainly on gambling work by economists, but now with added emphasis on regulatory policy towards gambling.

We do not intend this network to be exclusionary, and expect it to evolve over the years naturally. Although there will be a strong contingent of economists participating, we are committed to involving other disciplines.

Organizer

Don Ross (Professor of Economics and Dean of Commerce, University of Cape Town and CEAR Program Director for Methodology) is the organizer of this workshop. Funding is being provided by the Center for the Economic Analysis of Risk (CEAR) at Georgia State University. See cear.gsu.edu for more information on CEAR. Should you have questions, please contact Dr. Ross at don.ross@uct.ac.za about the substance of the workshop, and contact Mark Schneider at cear@gsu.edu with questions about participation and logistics.

Location

This year’s workshop will be held the University of Cape Town in South Africa. Our local hosts will be the Research Unit for Behavioral Economics and Neuroeconomics (RUBEN), a partner of CEAR on several current research projects. (See http://www.ruben.uct.ac.za/Default.aspx for more information on RUBEN.)

UCT is spectacularly perched halfway up the north slope of the famous Table Mountain, from which both the Atlantic and Indian oceans can be seen at the same time. Workshop participants are encouraged to reserve some time during their visit to see some of the region’s unique attractions, which include beaches, tasting tours of wine estates, and, just a few hours’ trip away by car or plane, the large wild animals of Africa.

In January, it will be summer in Cape Town – typically hot, but dry and with steady breezes.
The following air routes are available to Cape Town:

Direct from North America:

Delta via Atlanta and Johannesburg
South African Airways via Washington (Dulles) or New York (JFK) and Johannesburg
Emirates via multiple North American cities and Dubai
Turkish Airways via multiple North American cities and Istanbul

From Europe

British Airways direct from Heathrow
Virgin Atlantic direct from Heathrow
South African Airways via Heathrow, Frankfurt or Munich and Johannesburg
KLM direct from Amsterdam
Lufthansa via Frankfurt or Munich and Johannesburg
Air France via Paris and Johannesburg
Emirates via multiple European cities and Dubai
Turkish Airways via multiple European cities and Istanbul

Dates & Times

Monday 1/27 – 9 am to 5 pm. Refreshments and lunch will be provided by RUBEN.
Tuesday 1/28 – 10 am to 5 pm. Refreshments and lunch will be provided by RUBEN.
Wednesday 1/29 – 9 am to noon. Refreshments will be provided by RUBEN.

Contact Mark Schneider at cear@gsu.edu for special dietary needs.

Lodging

Rooms for participants have been arranged, and fully paid including breakfast, at a secure and comfortable guest house close to the UCT campus, Little Scotia: http://www.scotia.co.za

Confirmed Participants

Aaron Brown
Sebastian Ebert
Glenn Harrison
Johnnie Johnson
Harold Kincaid
Morten Lau
Joe Mazur
Don Ross
Tony Schellinck
Tracy Schrans
Vanessa Sung
Leighton Vaughan Williams
Doug Walker