Betting on sports is an enormously popular activity, which earns significant revenues, enhances many fans’ sense of emotional involvement with sports, and, on the downside, causes substantial welfare loss to people who gamble recklessly or addictively. For the economist interested in people’s preferences over risk, and the interaction of these preferences with their beliefs about probabilities, sports betting provides a field setting almost ideally designed for supporting rich inferences. Policy makers and regulators who have responsibilities associated with sports, leisure, and gambling can gain crucial insights into, and predictive leverage over, responses to changes in odds and incentives through observations of naturally occurring sports betting, as well as through economists’ laboratory and field experiments with punters. The CEAR workshop on Sports Betting brings together both researchers who specialize in the economics of sport, and theoretical and experimental risk specialists who use sports betting contexts as environments for establishing more general insights into risky choice.

Organizers

Glenn Harrison (CEAR, Georgia State University), and Don Ross (University College Cork, University of Cape Town, and CEAR) are the organizers of this workshop. Funding is being provided by CEAR at Georgia State (cear.gsu.edu), the Centre for Sports Economics and Law (www.sportseconomics.org/), and the Cork University Business School (www.cubsucc.com/). Standard travel and accommodation support for paper presenters will be provided. Should you have questions, please contact Professor Don Ross at don.ross931@gmail.com about the substance of the workshop, and contact Mark Schneider at cear@gsu.edu with questions about participation and logistics.

Conference Program

Monday July 23

8:55 – 9:15  Coffee
9:15 – 9:45  Launch of the UCC Centre for Sports Economics and Law
9:45 – 10:00  Workshop welcome and Background on CEAR
10:00 – 11:00  Filippos Papakonstantinou: History-dependent risk preferences: Evidence from individual choices and implications for the disposition effect
11:00 – 11:15  Tea / coffee
11:15 – 12:15  Angie Andrikogiannopoulou: Heterogeneity in risk preferences: Evidence from a real-world betting market
1:15 – 2:30  Lunch
2:30 – 3:30  Sylvan Herskowitz: Gambling, Saving, and Lumpy Liquidity Needs
3:30 – 4:30  Amit Gandhi: TBA
6:30 – onward  Dinner for invited guests
Tuesday July 24

9:30 – 10:30  Raymond Sauer: TBA
10:30 – 11:30  Rob Simmons: Betting Markets, Outcome Uncertainty and Competitive Balance in Sports: What Have We Learned?
11:30 – 11:45  Coffee/tea
11:45 – 12:45  Brad Humphreys: A Simple Test of Semi-Strong Form Market Efficiency Using US College Sports Betting Data
12:45 – 2:00  Lunch
2:00 – 3:00  Alasdair Brown: The Use of Framing Manipulations By Victorian Bookmakers
3:00 – 4:00  David Butler, Robbie Butler and Justin Doran: Turf Accountancy - A Spatial Analysis of Bookmakers

Special needs

Contact cear@gsu.edu should you have any dietary restrictions or special needs.

Location

The workshop will be held at University College Cork, in the North Wing Council Room. Presenters will be accommodated at The River Lee Hotel, https://www.doylecollection.com/hotels/the-river-lee-hotel, Cork’s 4-star hotel on the river in downtown Cork.

The Economics Department at UCC is an internationally recognized hub for sports economics research, teaching and conferences. See http://www.sportseconomics.org/

Participants

Angie Andrikogiannopoulou, King’s College London
Alasdair Brown, University of East Anglia
David Butler, University College Cork
Robbie Butler, University College Cork
Justin Doran, University College Cork
Eberhard Feess, Victoria University Wellington
Amit Gandhi, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Glenn W. Harrison, Georgia State University & University of Cape Town
Sylvan Herskowitz, International Food Policy Research Institute (Washington DC)
Brad Humphreys, West Virginia University
Declan Jordan, University College Cork
Helge Mueller, Philipps University of Marburg
Filippos Papakonstantinou, King’s College London
Don Ross, University College Cork, University of Cape Town & Georgia State University
Raymond Sauer, Clemson University
Mark Schneider, Georgia State University & University of Cape Town
Christoph Schumaker, Massey University
Rob Simmons, Lancaster University
John Thielman, Georgia State University
Frauke von Bieberstein, University of Bern
Cork is the Irish Republic’s second city, European headquarters of Apple and other major companies, and famous for traditional artisanal foods, Murphy’s and Beamish stout ales, and historic architecture. 

Travel and Expenses

For invited speakers and panel participants, CEAR will cover hotel accommodation, conference meals, local transport, and standard economy airfares to Cork, Dublin, or Shannon airports.

Cork Airport is directly served from various airports in the United Kingdom, plus Amsterdam, Paris, Munich, and Reykjavik. Iceland’s WOW airline connects Cork to various North American destinations via Reykjavik. All major airline hubs abroad are connected to Dublin Airport, from which Cork is reached in 3 hours by overland shuttle. Several North American cities are directly connected to Shannon Airport, which is closer to Cork than Dublin.