

**Assessing the Efficiency of Home Electronic incarceration as an Alternative to Custodial
Confinement**

(Technical Paper)

The Players Involved within the Regulation of the Gambling Industry

(STS Paper)

A Thesis Prospectus Submitted to the Faculty of the School of Engineering and Applied Science

University of Virginia • Charlottesville, Virginia

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Degree Bachelor of Science, School of
Engineering

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Fall, 2023

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On my honor as a University Student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this
assignment as defined by the Honor Guidelines for Thesis-Related Assignments

Prospectus

General Introduction

The technical portion of this thesis will delve into the decision making strategies for placing individuals on Home Electronic Incarceration through use of ankle monitors and other related technologies. Prisons and jails alike have continually faced an overcrowding issue seen alarmingly dangerous during the COVID-19 pandemic. Superintendents then faced a crisis in minimizing the risks of both the spread of the contagion, but also the ever increasing inmate population. The objective of this research is to guide policy makers in the Charlottesville area to improve confinement strategies, and reduce the strain on prison systems.

The sociotechnical portion will divert to the subject of legalization of gambling, the proliferation of online sports betting, and the players involved within the United States. Gambling practice has existed for millennia and provides an excellent example for how civilizations attempt to thrive by developing laws to protect moral, financial, and public health values held by society. Even more so as a nation built upon democratic ideals, the United States must rapidly and repeatedly contend with the sentiments of its constituents. This paper aims to examine the aforementioned subjects through the perspective of the Social Construction of Technology(SCOT) framework, which demands the study of relevant social groups of a specific technology. The reason behind using such a framework is a result gambling's controversial place with communities throughout history. Within the United States, there have been periods of reliance on lotteries to fund state expenditures in early colonial societies, followed by periods of complete taboo and then a return to regulated practice. In some way, gambling has resembled the iterative process of technological advancement in other fields. The goal of this section is to

develop an understanding of the current affairs surrounding gambling in America, the actors and incentives alongside their relevant social groups, and the ramifications of the burgeoning new world order.

Technical Topic

Within the Systems Engineering department, there has been a longstanding relationship with Albemarle Charlottesville Regional Jail in improving incarceration, more recently as it relates to Home Electronic Incarceration(HEI). This includes the use of ankle monitoring technology to allow participants to fulfill their sentences at home in hopes of reducing the secondary effects of custodial confinement and reducing strain on jail facilities. The teams who have previously worked on this project have examined the return to custody(RTC) rates among HEI participants and those who served time in custodial confinement. They found that the HEI group, although a small sample size, had lower RTC rates than traditional confinement.

Currently, with the goal to reach another milestone at the end of the spring semester the focus has shifted once again to selection criteria of the HEI participants. As of right now, jail executives alongside some government officials share the decision making process on a subjective basis with some basic guidelines such as having a local residence to return to. The exact questions for this project have not yet been set, but the team has begun to build relationships with local mental health resource provider Region Ten Community Services(R10) along with other correctional facilities to make use of the mental health services and screeners as a predictor.

Our team hopes to examine the complexity within the screening process, especially in predicting successful HEI outcomes. Previously made biased judgment strategies may lead to unfortunate and possibly foreseeable crimes. In addition, it may bring about the premature

termination of a program that has seen much more use since the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic had placed intense pressure both financially and in terms of prisoner health on prison/jail administration to re-evaluate current containment and rehabilitation methods. This paved the way to more deeply examine the uses for such technology and whether its inclusion within the legal system fits more in line with the criminal law enforcement intentions of the United States. A more effective screening process could increase the likelihood of producing successful participants who have a lower rate of recidivism, and promote a strategy for reducing the load on the prison system throughout the country.

STS Topic

Introduction

Gambling has a complex history, one that attempts to define the difference between skill and chance, but in this paper we'll narrow the scope to the regulations of US gambling practice that has catapulted online sports betting into the mainstream. Procedurally this will be done through the SCOT framework.

History

The early colonists developed lotteries as a guise for taxation to fund necessary public projects (Encyclopedia.com). As the colonies grew so did their gambling. Generally, beyond lotteries there exists two other popular categories: table games and sports/entertainment betting which also flourished. However, after the revival of evangelical Christianity in the late 18th century, the Continental Congress passed the 1774 Articles of Association “discouraging” betting in all forms(Encyclopedia.com). Although legislation now supported the negative moral

countenance gambling now wore, it still survived in private for the socially elite and spread publicly in specific metropolises(Encyclopedia.com). Louisiana at the time led the charge developing state legislation along with its famous riverboat casinos in New Orleans. Fraud and scandals would soon become synonymous with gambling which again led to its complete restriction under President Jackson. Not too long after, the floodgates were opened to offer states an opportunity to rebuild after the Civil War ravaged the country(Encyclopedia.com). From this point on, gambling legislation within the United States would see-saw back and forth depending on popular consensus and the finances of the states. This process of restriction and freedom has continued to this day, though gradually more regulations have been added to maintain a certain quality of business practices.

Quite a lot of time could be spent pursuing the various state legislatures' opinions on gambling through time, but there are three pertinent federal laws that lay the foundation to examine the modern online sports betting phenomena . The first, the Wire Act of 1961, which effectively limited communication across state borders related to gambling odds/betts(Shirley). The second, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, which forbade banks and credit card companies from processing payments for exchange on gambling sites(Shirley). And lastly the fall of PAPSA in 2018, which allowed for the rebirth of sports betting(Shirley).

STS Framework

The SCOT framework builds upon the idea that there are relevant social groups and a complex development process that results in closure and stabilization. In gambling's history various actors with SCOT social group methodology have taken a stance to dictate the course of its position legally. Oftentimes these discussions used the fact that gambling in many respects

lacks closure(as defined in SCOT) generally, which led to many legal loopholes for companies to utilize. This was especially the case before PAPSA where companies made use of ingenious strategies such as sweepstakes to avoid the laws prohibiting the direct transfer of wagers and prizes.

SCOT describes four primary relevant social groups: producers, users, advocates, and bystanders. Producers and users are intuitive as the developers of a product and its customer base respectively. Advocates and bystanders are both indirectly linked to the product. Advocates however still act within the sphere of influence by possibly arguing on behalf of or against products. Bystanders on the other hand have an even more hands off approach as a nonspecific peanut gallery. Besides the four social groups there are two additional terms foundational to SCOT. The first is closure, the concept that a given technology has been accepted by relevant social groups as a solution. The second is stability, the idea that the prototypical design of a given technology has been agreed upon and can now be used to define other similar products(Humphreys).

The four relevant social groups have not changed much in their general constitution. Producers remain to include casino and entertainment(i.e. horse racing) betting owners and governments whose business is very often done through partnered organizations. In the case of sports betting, instead of gangs, servicers such as FanDuel partner with leagues like the MLB to access their real-time data and provide a mutually beneficial financial opportunity. Users have increased as access through the internet has created unprecedented growth. Furthermore, users have also become younger due to a multitude of factors not limited to access, media advertisements, and a true inability to limit younger customers from participation. Advocates against gambling continue to include concerned relatives, community leaders, and government

officials with morally conservative viewpoints. Advocates for gambling however have grown to include more than simply those with vested interests and who keep service alive to celebrities who earn their dividends by simply promoting the product. Bystanders as seen in users have grown tremendously with the explosion of access and most find themselves within a few connections of someone who makes use of the technology regularly. In terms of closure much remains to be seen on how successful these betting revenues are in assisting state finances and improving quality of life. Lastly, stability is one of the most important subjects related to the regulation of gambling. Because of the instability of the terminology and technology the idea of what is considered gambling is difficult to identify. This allowed for the initial allowance of fantasy league sports as a test of skill, which built a crack wide enough for recent court decisions to allow for online sports betting. In short, the relevant groups have generally changed very little, but have increased in size and continue to battle over the place of gambling in contemporary society.

Plan for Thesis

My plan for the thesis is to do a dive into gambling's history while pointing out the major figures along key moments through the SCOT framework. I would also like to describe how some laws allowed for clever techniques due to the amorphous nature of gambling even after centuries of laws related to its practice. Some questions I would like to attempt to look into: How do relevant social groups influence regulation? What are some of the effects of online sports betting? Is self regulation a pipe dream(this hails back to the idea of reduced enforcement in the technical project related to HEI)? Should a company be prevented from typical business practices because society deems it possibly unethical(i.e. Children are influenced by gambling

advertisements, but they aren't forced to spend money or watch those channels)? Is there any way to regulate such a practice, while still reaping the majority of the benefits?

The strategy for examining these subjects will be collecting online resources related to the subject and picking apart the rise of a few popular sports betting services(i.e. FanDuel, DraftKings, Stake.com). The goal of this research is to provide a brief but comprehensive overview on the relationship between legislation and gambling's presence in the United States. Additionally, by studying the meteoric rise of specific online sports betting servicers I hope to shed light on current business practices and future ramifications that may advise future reader opinion and consequently public policy.

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