# GAMBLING AS AN EXPRESSION OF NEEDS FOR AUTONOMY: MEN WHO ARE NOT FREE AT WORK FEEL FREE TO GAMBLE (…A LOT!)

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# A quick question

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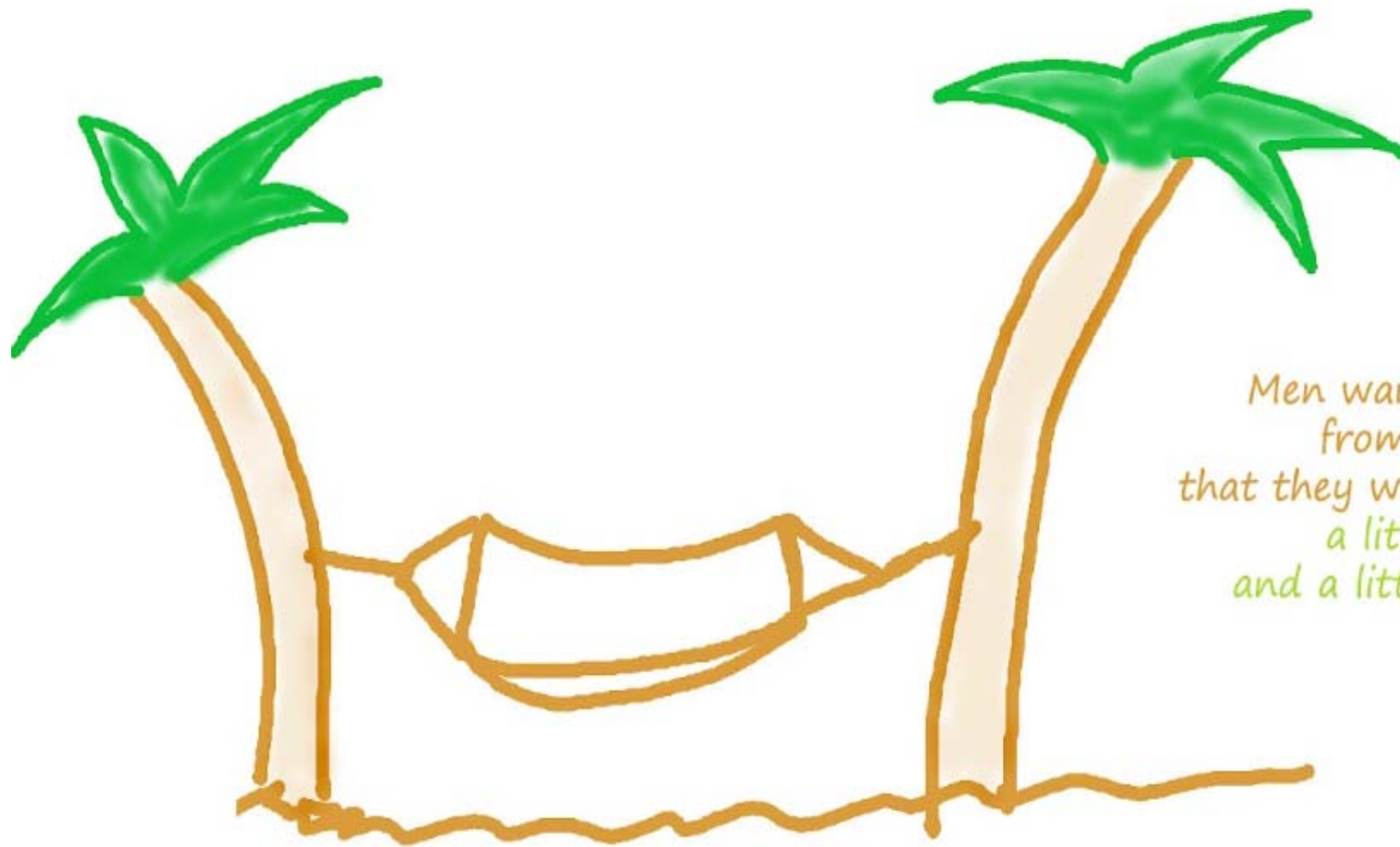
# A quick question

If John, Mike, Tom and Ed go out for lunch, what will they call each?

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If John, Mike, Tom and Ed go out for lunch, what will they call each?

**- Fat Boy, Stinky, Peanut-Head, and Useless.**

# Men love freedom!

Men want the same thing
from their underwear
that they want from women:
a little bit of support,
and a little bit of freedom.

-Jerry Seinfeld

# Inconsistent gender effects on gambling tendencies

Some research suggests that problem gambling and frequent gambling tends to be more prevalent among males than females (e.g., Hardoon, Gupta, and Derevensky 2004; Moore and Ohtsuka 1999; Volberg 1994; Volberg and Steadman 1988; Wood and Griffiths 1998).

Other studies found few gender differences in problem gambling (e.g., Ohtsuka et al. 1997) or mixed gender effects in gambling tendencies to different gambling activities (e.g., Hing and Breen 2001).

**Are there any moderating factors that might have influenced the gender effects?**

# Prediction: The Moderating Role of Work Autonomy Level

As men generally hold higher needs for autonomy than women (Zimmer-Gembeck and Collins 2003), we hypothesized that men who have low autonomy at work would be relatively more likely to seek autonomy at leisure time.

Further, as autonomy needs could fuel the activation of gambling motivation (Mitrovic and Brown 2009), **males who lack work autonomy would display higher level of involvement in gambling.**

# Main study: A Telephone Survey

A telephone survey was undertaken with a sample of 486 gamblers (232 males and 254 females) being collected across the Rockhampton, Gladstone, and Mackay regions of Central Queensland.

# Measurement

| Consumption Screen for Problem Gambling (CSPG, Rockloff 2012) | How often did you gamble in the past 12 months? |
| --- | --- |
| | How much time did you spend gambling on a typical day in which you gambled in the past 12 months? |
| | How often did you spend more than 2 hours gambling (on a single occasion) in the past 12 months? |

| The abbreviated Factual Autonomy Scale (Spector and Fox 2003) | In your present job, how often do you have to ask permission to take a rest break? |
| --- | --- |
| | In your present job, how often do you have to ask permission to leave your office or workstation |

# Measurement

| Demographic questions | What is your gender? |
|---|---|
| | What was your age on your last birthday? |
| | What is your present marital status? |
| | How many children under 18 live at your household? |
| | What is the highest level of education you have completed? |
| | What is your approximate individual gross (before tax) income per year? |

| Substance consumption questions | During the past 30 days, have you had at least one drink of any alcoholic beverage such as beer, wine, a malt beverage or liquor? |
|---|---|
| | Are you presently a smoker? |
| | Have you used any illicit drugs in the past 12 months? |

# Model 1 (basic model)

| Independent variable | Dependent variable | Significance |
|---|---|---|
| **Autonomy** | **CSPG score (Rockloff 2012)** | **p = .001** |
| Gender | CSPG score (Rockloff 2012) | p > .65 |
| **Autonomy X Gender** | **CSPG score (Rockloff 2012)** | **p < .02** |

# Model 2 (the demographic variables were added into Model 1)

| Independent variable | Dependent variable | Significance |
|---|---|---|
| **Autonomy** | **CSPG score (Rockloff 2012)** | **p = .001** |
| Gender | CSPG score (Rockloff 2012) | p > .55 |
| **Autonomy X Gender** | **CSPG score (Rockloff 2012)** | **p < .01** |
| **Age** | **CSPG score (Rockloff 2012)** | **p < .01** |
| Household child number | CSPG score (Rockloff 2012) | p > .50 |
| Education | CSPG score (Rockloff 2012) | p = .40 |
| Individual income | CSPG score (Rockloff 2012) | p > .50 |
| Marital status | CSPG score (Rockloff 2012) | p > .10 |

# Model 3 (the substance consumption variables were added into Model 2)

| Independent variable | Dependent variable | Significance |
|---|---|---|
| **Autonomy** | **CSPG score (Rockloff 2012)** | **p = .001** |
| Gender | CSPG score (Rockloff 2012) | p > .55 |
| **Autonomy X Gender** | **CSPG score (Rockloff 2012)** | **p < .01** |
| **Age** | **CSPG score (Rockloff 2012)** | **p < .01** |
| Household child number | CSPG score (Rockloff 2012) | p > .40 |
| Education | CSPG score (Rockloff 2012) | p > .45 |
| Individual income | CSPG score (Rockloff 2012) | p > .40 |
| Marital status | CSPG score (Rockloff 2012) | p > .25 |
| Alcohol | CSPG score (Rockloff 2012) | p > .70 |
| Smoking | CSPG score (Rockloff 2012) | p > .15 |
| Drug | CSPG score (Rockloff 2012) | p > .30 |

# Spotlight analysis and simple effect analysis
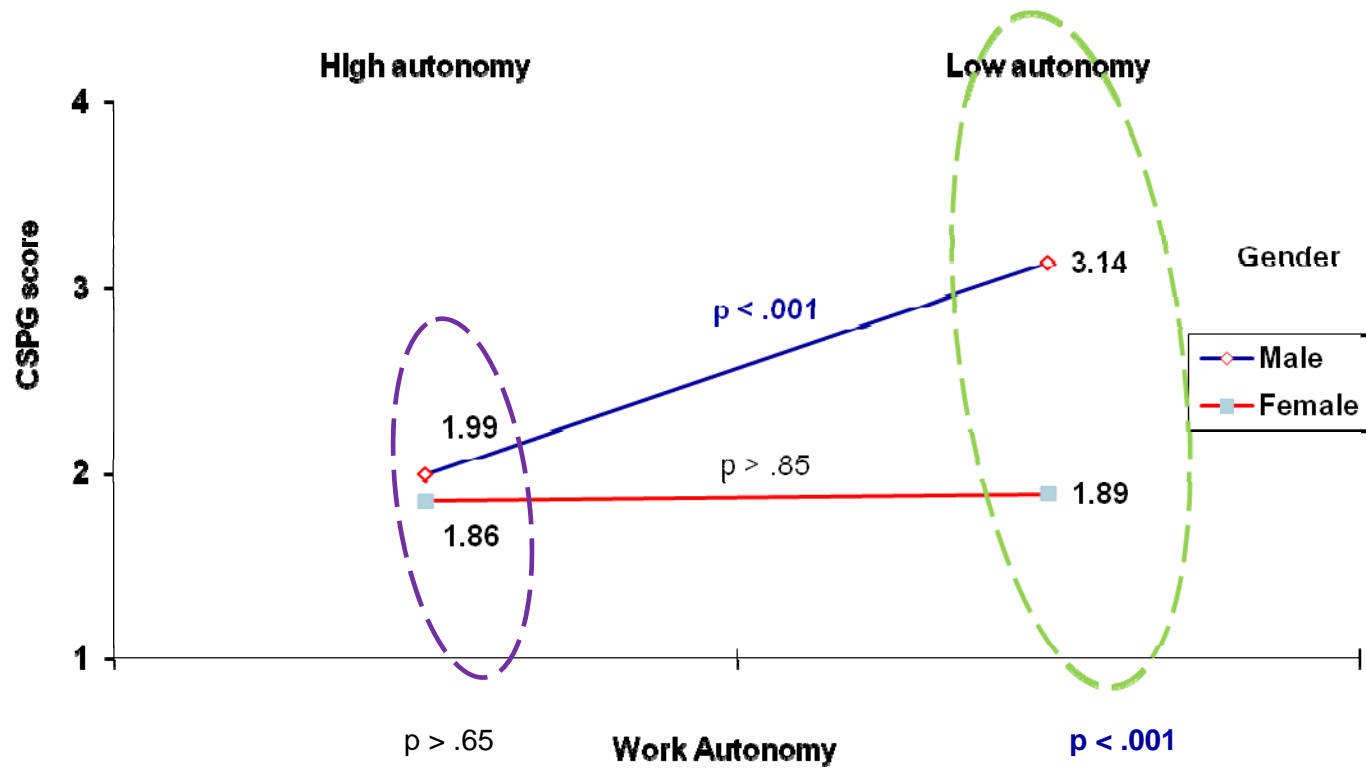
# Conclusion

Male gamblers who lack freedom at work may reclaim some freedom in leisure by gambling.

Males low in work autonomy would be more susceptible to gambling problems than females low in work autonomy, or males high in work autonomy.

These results also provide further evidence for the extant theory that males (vs. females) are more likely to gamble due to external factors such as employment related issues (Petry 2005).

# Thank you!