

## **PUTTING WOMEN ON THE AGENDA!**



***What's new in research and clinical treatment for women suffering from Gambling Disorder and other Behavioural Addictions? Join our trans-cultural network – starting from a female point of view!***

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**Share new ideas and research projects that you would like to present at upcoming ICBA conferences in our WOMEN SESSION!**

**We are at the beginning of a new exciting experience in gender-specific research with a focus on women!**

It becomes more and more obvious that a gendered approach to research, prevention and treatment is highly relevant to gain a better understanding of and be more responsive to female-specific aspects of behavioural addiction.

Literature and studies on Women and Gambling Disorder and other Behavioural Addiction are scarce, both in Europe and all over the world. Moreover, the existing data are not specific to women but inferred from mostly male samples. Nevertheless, more and more women are affected by pathological gambling and other non-substance related addictions.

Obviously, women have a crucial role in family and society, and their gambling or other addictive behaviours, which are often underestimated, may have a deep impact on their social and personal life. One key issue is that women often experience great difficulty in finding appropriate treatment services. Most health clinics are not “female friendly”, and treatment programs very rarely offer female-specific treatment approaches.

That is why it is so important to learn from your experiences as researchers and clinicians and to gather data from all over the world to enrich our shared understanding of these issues. That is our aspiration and our aim: to gather all our efforts, to compare, discuss and improve research and treatment for the women on whose behalf we are working on.

With this idea in mind, Fulvia Prever, together with many other female colleagues, started a trans-cultural network. The first product of this network is the book “Women and

Gambling Disorder. An International Female Perspective on Clinic and Research,” which was published in 2017 (for details see: <https://www.routledge.com/Gambling-Disorders-in-Women-An-International-Female-Perspective-on-Treatment/Bowden-Jones-Prever/p/book/9781138188327>).

We organized several successful "women sessions" at international conferences over the past years, and we are confident that these sessions are a fruitful opportunity to exchange knowledge.

For ICBA 2017 in Haifa, we prepared our first session dedicated to women with professionals from all over the world who face gambling problems from a female-specific perspective. In addition, we promoted the idea of having increased female representation within the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Addictions (ISSBA) board to better to deal with this delicate topic.

At ICBA 2018 in Cologne, we suggested to have a slot dedicated to women on the ISSBA website to facilitate connections, share your ideas and join this network.

At ICBA 2019 in Tokyo we had many interesting presentations about women and behavioural addictions, but it was not possible to combine them all in one symposium. This emphasized the need to have a specific meeting space at future conferences.

**Here we are, thinking about ICBA 2020 in Nottingham, at the beginning of a new exciting experience in gender-specific research with a focus on women.**

We cordially invite you to take part in the upcoming **ICBA women symposium and round table**. Moreover, we hope that this network will help you to find strong partners for further research on this topic.

Our next project involves a new book on behavioral addiction in women, which is intended as a stylistic and thematic continuation of the book “Gambling Disorders in Women: An International Female Perspective on Treatment and Research. We will continue pursuing a global perspective on female-specific aspects of behavioural addiction. In order to achieve this goal, we will need all of you, all of us, sharing our experiences and knowledge to continue on this important and adventurous path.

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*ALEA (Association of Studies on Gambling and Risky Behaviours) Board member*

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