

Department of Psychology  
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities  
University of Macau

*The Differences between Gambling Counselling  
Services In Hong Kong And Macau*

**Speakers: Ms. Wong Yuk-ming & Mr. Yim Ho Yu**

Organization: Zion Social Service Yuk Lai Hin Counseling Centre for Gamblers

**17 October, 2012 (Wednesday)**

**Time:** 10:00-13:00

**Venue:** WLG103

**Language:** Cantonese

**Format:** Interactive lecture, case sharing and discussion

**Ms. Yuk-ming Wong**

Master of Social Science (Counseling)

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Social Work

Registered Social Worker (Hong Kong)

Certified TTC (Training the Trainer certificate for Gambling Counselor professional)

Certified Gambler Counselor (Canadian Council of Professional Certification)

Certified NLP (The American Board of Neuro-Linguistic Programming)

Miss Wong is the Centre-in-charge of Zion Social Service - Yuk Lai Counseling Centre for treatment of problem and pathological gamblers and their family. She has over 6 years of solid working experience in case work approach and group work approach to counsel with the problem and pathological gamblers and their family. She provides supervision and organizes school education programs for students to prevent youth problem gambling.

**Mr. Yim Ho Yu** is a senior counselor at the Yuk Lai Hin Gambling Counseling Center. He has extensive experience working with pathological gamblers. He is an expert in working with younger pathological gamblers. He holds group therapy for adolescent gamblers and he does lots of prevention work at school around Hong Kong.

**Abstract:**

Traditionally it is believed that there is no treatment to gamblers. But people also believe that gambling for fun as a social activity is no problem in most Chinese Societies. In the last century, researches and studies about how gambling affect the individual's mental health were conducted in western countries. Treatment and counseling to gamblers were devised. In Hong Kong, pathological gambling counseling service is provided only in recent decade. It changes the myth of gambling as untreatable illness. Unlike drug abuse, no obvious physical symptom can be identified with a gambler. However, the harmful consequences to family members are more serious than a drug abuser.

To quit gambling is a long process and family support is significant. Usually the family relationships between gamblers and their family members are broken. This lecture is to let students understand stop gambling is not the ultimate goal of the gambling counseling. Helping family members to face with distress, relationship repair, provide family support and life style change of gamblers are crucial for long-lasting success. In addition, the speakers will explore how to work with the gamblers and their families once relapse occurs.

We will also try to understand the differences in working with gamblers in Hong Kong and Macau. Culture plays an important role when it comes to psychological treatment. We will also look at services that are being offered in HK but not in Macau and how does that affect the gamblers.