

Gambling and the Risk Society: Theoretical Challenges.

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Theoretical Challenges

1. Why theory matters.
2. Risk as metaphor and as consequence.
3. The logic versus the dynamic of risk.
4. Domain conversions of risk.
5. Continuity and change.
6. Paradoxes of risk.

Theory matters:

- The interpretation of ‘facts’.
- The generalisation of knowledge.
- The cumulation of knowledge.

Risk Society Theory

- Risk as Metaphor: the virtual representation of our condition of life.
- Risk as Consequence: the virtual dangers of addiction and crime

The Role of the Actor

- The logic of risk
- The dynamic of risk

Domain conversions of risk

- Economic risks: the case of Dutch slot machines
- Cultural risks: the case of Holland Casinos
- Political risks: the case of Dutch scratch cards

Continuity and Change

- The “legitimation crisis” of Dutch gambling policies
- Market liberalisation as a serious option.

Paradoxes of risk

- Illusions of control?
- Liberalisation leads to risk assessments leads to liberalisation leads to ... etc.