# **Cultural Daily**

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# Is Gambling a Culture or an Anomaly in a Culture?

Our Friends · Thursday, March 11th, 2021

Many people wonder if gambling can be considered a culture embedded in traditions across the world. If this was the case, a 'gambling culture' would essentially refer to the ideas and behaviours involved within the process of gambling. However, the nature of gambling has been around for hundreds of years in one way or another, and it has found itself embedded in cultures rather than forming an entire culture of its own. This poses the question as to whether gambling is rather an anomaly in culture instead. Continue reading to find out more.

## Gambling as a culture

As mentioned in the introduction of this article, if gambling is considered as a culture in itself, then this would mean that all different things associated with gambling would come under one umbrella term. This includes gambling benefits, habits, laws, customs and behaviours. Despite this, gambling has been developed over many years which has left us with different laws associated with gambling alongside different habits and behaviours amid players. When it comes to gambling, there is often no one size fits all – it differs from country to country.

Yet again, research has been conducted which shows that gambling culture refers to the new world of online and organised gambling. This relates to private casinos, lotteries and slot machines – each of which is available to people across the globe. With that being said, the notion of gambling has changed since the 1990s as we have seen the development of the iGaming industry. People can play free slot games on online casino sites and engage in live casino and poker games from the comfort of their own homes. This has developed somewhat of a gambling culture as the new forms of online gambling in society have struck hold on audiences.

#### Gamification

Over the years, media consumption behaviour has changed and therefore, so has the nature of gambling. The development of online casinos and general casino games more generally has struck gambling audiences as they have hit the nail on the head when it comes to gamification. Those interested in sports betting or other forms of gambling alike have begun to treat virtual events like real events. Additionally, gamification has turned mundane and ordinary activities into a fun, problem-solving activity. This is where gambling has become more of a culture in itself with shared experiences and shared outcomes.

### Gambling as a tradition

Despite the world of gambling as we know it, researchers believe that gambling has actually been shaped by cultures and traditions over time. This is what leads some people to think that gambling is, in fact, an anomaly in culture rather than a culture itself. Within the 1600s, those within America discouraged all forms of gambling; it was not until the time English colonists arrived that this began to change. Nowadays, gambling perspectives continuously change amid U.S states which can be valued within the different restrictions and limitations put on avid gamblers across states. This is why people believe that gambling is influenced by culture rather than representing a whole culture on its own.

Do you think gambling can be considered a culture in itself?

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