



Bridge: A MindSport For All

Connects People, Challenges Minds

Building a More Inclusive Community

Gender issues and inequalities within the bridge community are widely known and acknowledged but not by everyone. In particular, difference of opinion resides in what should be done to address gender inequalities and sexism. Sexism within other sports is widely recognised and addressed, and bridge is lagging behind other competitive arenas in proactively engaging with and tackling everyday sexism and inappropriate remarks made at the bridge table (and within the wider bridge world). Other social inequalities also need to be addressed to ensure equality, inclusivity and fairness for all within the bridge community.

At the 'Bridging Academia, Policy and Practice' conference in June (hosted by *Bridge: A MindSport for All* – BAMSAs), the gender discussion panel argued that if meaningful change was to occur, it should be policy-driven. Cheating has been addressed by IBOs and NBOs with new policies and procedures recently developed. The outcome of the BAMSAs gender research and conference is that it is now time for sexism and other social inequalities to be taken seriously.

What should be done to enable bridge to be a more welcoming and safe environment for people of all social groups, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, sexuality and disability? As well as the development of an Inclusivity Policy and awareness-raising, measures may also include the possibility of unconscious bias training for TDs, NPCs, coaches, selection committees etc.

For more information see:

Gender, Sexism and Bridge session at the BAMSAs Conference:

<https://bridgemindsport.org/bridging-academia-policy-practice-conference/conference-2021-day-3-session-3b/>

Recording of gender panel discussion is at the top of the webpage, with the *Bridging Brains* video (15 mins) lower down that discusses neurosexism.

Research evidence on everyday sexism within all levels of the bridge community see:

Rogers, A., Snellgrove, M.L. & Punch, S. (2021) *Bridging Sexism: Gender Inequality at and away from the Bridge Table*, BAMSAs Working Paper 2, Stirling: University of Stirling.

<https://bridgemindsport.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/bamsa-working-paper-bridging-sexism-05.2021.pdf>

Academic publications:

Rogers, A. Snellgrove, M.L. and Punch, S. (2022) Between Equality and Discrimination: The Paradox of the Women's Game in the MindSport Bridge, *World Leisure Journal*

Punch, S. and Rogers, A. (2021) 'Building, not Burning Bridges in Research: Insider/Outsider Dilemmas and Engaging with the Bridge Community,' *Journal of Leisure Research*,

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00222216.2021.1887782>

Bridge: A MindSport for All (BAMSA) - Update

BAMSA's bridge research includes three current studies with seven academic papers published and freely available. The aim is to develop an evidence-base of the characteristics and benefits of the mindsport. A new research project *Bridging Schools* begins in 2022.

In June 2021, the University of Stirling and Bridge: A MindSport for All hosted the online international conference: *Bridging Academia, Policy and Practice*. More than 500 delegates from 62 countries attended creating a dialogue between academics, bridge players and policymakers.

The conference created a free online resource for the international bridge community in relation to a wide variety of bridge topics. Recordings of all the sessions are available on the BAMSA website along with the presentations that were prepared in advance (there is a page for each session at the conference – click on the recording button at the top):

<https://bridgemindsport.org/bridging-academia-policy-practice-conference/>

For further updates please follow *Bridge: A MindSport for All* on Facebook, twitter (@bridgemindsport) or subscribe to the BAMSA Bulletins (see **bridgemindsport.org**).

Other BAMSA Publications

The papers can be accessed at: <https://bridgemindsport.org/home/research/bridging-minds/>

Punch, S. and Russell, Z. (forthcoming 2022) 'Playing with Emotions: Emotional Complexity in the Social World of Elite Tournament Bridge', *Emotions and Society*.

Russell, Z., Punch, S. and McIntosh, I. (2022) 'Blurring the Boundaries Between Leisure and Work: Professionals as Devotees in the Mind-Sport Bridge,' *International Journal of the Sociology of Leisure*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41978-021-00099-y>

Punch, S., Russell, Z. and Graham, E. (2021) 'Serious Leisure Experience in a Dyadic Pursuit: Elite Player Motivations and Participation in Tournament Bridge,' *Leisure Studies*, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02614367.2021.1942524>

Punch, S. and Snellgrove, M. (2021) 'Playing your Life: Developing Strategies and Managing Impressions in the Game of Bridge', *Sociological Research Online*. 26(3): 601–619. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/1360780420973043>

Punch, S., Russell, Z. and Cairns, B. (2020) '(Per)forming Identity in the Mind-sport Bridge: Self, Partnership and Community', *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*. 56(6): 804-822. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/1012690220959648>

Punch, S. (2021) *Bridge at the Top: Behind the Screens*, Toronto: Master Point Press.

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