



BAMSA Spring Webinar, 11 March 2021, 3pm (GMT)

[More information and to register for the seminar](#)

Academic papers by Professor David Scott for discussion

The webinar will consider four bridge papers from David Scott's PhD in Leisure Studies in the early 1990s

The problematic nature of participation in contract bridge: A qualitative study of group-related constraints (1991)

Leisure Sciences, 13:4, 321-336

Abstract: Using data collected from a year-long qualitative study, this article explores the nature of group-related constraints within the social world of contract bridge. Constraints are initially discussed in terms of diminished popularity of bridge in the United States among younger generations. Next, interpersonal constraints that are linked to group processes within bridge groups are explored. These processes are described in terms of their controlling influence on individual involvement. Finally, a discussion of how constraints arise as a result of individual differences among group members is presented.

[The problematic nature of participation in contract bridge: A qualitative study of group-related constraints: Leisure Sciences: Vol 13, No 4 \(tandfonline.com\)](#)

An analysis of adult play groups: social versus serious participation in contract bridge (1992)

Leisure Sciences, Vol 14, No 1

Scott, D. and Godbey, Geoffrey, C.

Abstract: Missing from the study of leisure behavior is a research tradition expressly devoted to the study of adult play groups. This article presents a social world perspective for analyzing such groups and frames the analysis of play groups in terms of both individual interactants and the broader social world in which the groups are a part. The social world perspective provided the basis for exploring the nature of adult participation within a distinct social world — contract bridge. Results from a yearlong study of bridge groups in a town fictitiously named Glenn Valley revealed that bridge players used the terms social and serious as frames of reference in defining what constitutes legitimate bridge activity and in determining people with whom it is acceptable to play bridge. The use of these terms was pervasive enough to support the conclusion that the bridge scene in Glenn Valley is segmented into two distinct components: one composed largely of social groups and the other of serious groups. Social and serious groups are shown in this paper to differ in terms of

recruitment processes, primary group functions, types of games played, social world linkages, physical settings and management of club activities, sequencing of bridge activity, topics of conversation, stakes, formation of partnerships, characteristics of club members, impersonal relationships, and types of substitutes. Sources for activity legitimacy within both worlds are explained in terms of their intersections with gender roles.

[An analysis of adult play groups: Social versus serious participation in contract bridge: Leisure Sciences: Vol 14, No 1 \(tandfonline.com\)](#)

Recreation specialization in the social world of contract bridge (1994)

Journal of Leisure Research, 26, 275–295.

Scott, D., and Godbey, G.

Abstract: Using data from a yearlong qualitative investigation, this paper investigated the nature of recreation specialization in the social world of contract bridge. Specialization was examined in terms of players' participation within the context of two distinct subworlds: social bridge and serious bridge. Four types of players were identified: tournament players, regular duplicate players, regular social players, and occasional players. The players were differentiated in terms of intensity of identification, meaning of participation, frequency of play, game and setting preferences, orientation to competition and skill developmental, and other criteria. While tournament players were the most specialized of the four groups, the groups did not fit along a developmental sequence as generally hypothesized in recreation specialization research. In fact, many bridge players resisted becoming more specialized. Results from this study suggest that future research on recreation specialization must look more carefully at the self-defining nature of recreation participation. The process of specialization or becoming serious appears to be related to a desire to develop skills at an advanced level.

[Recreation Specialization in the Social World of Contract Bridge: Journal of Leisure Research: Vol 26, No 3 \(tandfonline.com\)](#)

A narrative analysis of a declining social world: the case of contract bridge (1991)

Play & Culture 1991 Vol.4 No.1 pp.11-23 ref.25

Abstract: The popularity of contract bridge in the USA has waxed and waned in its 75-year history. The decline of contract bridge is largely the result of the failure of younger people to adopt the game. This paper seeks to examine what was it about contract bridge that resulted in its becoming something of a national pastime, and what factors account for the decline of bridge among younger generations. Answers to these questions are provided in the form of narrative accounts from bridge players. In this paper, bridge players are treated as story-tellers replete with personal explanations for the rise and fall of bridge. Stories relevant to the decline of bridge are then examined in the light of three different theories of contemporary leisure.

[A narrative analysis of a declining social world: the case of contract bridge. \(cabdirect.org\)](#)

For a list of David Scott's papers, see the following page

www.bridgemindsport.org

David Scott papers

Scott, D. (1991a) The problematic nature of participation in contract bridge: A qualitative study of group-related constraints. *Leisure Sciences*, 13(4), pp.321-336.

Scott, D. (1991b) A narrative analysis of a declining social world: The case of contract bridge. *Play and Culture*, 4(1), pp.11-23.

Scott, D, and Godbey, G.C. (1992) An analysis of adult play groups: social versus serious participation in contract bridge. *Leisure Sciences*, 14(1), 47-67.

Scott, D., and Godbey, G. (1994) Recreation specialization in the social world of contract bridge. *Journal of Leisure Research*, 26, 275–295.

Scott, D. and Shafer, C.S. (2001) Recreational specialization: A critical look at the construct. *Journal of Leisure Research*, 33, 319–343.

Scott, D. (2012) Serious leisure and recreation specialization: an uneasy marriage. *Leisure Sciences*, 34, 366-371.

Scott, D. and Lee, S. (2013) Empirical linkages between serious leisure and recreational specialisation. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife: An International Journal*, 18(6), 450-462.

Scott, D. and Harmon, Justin (2016) Extended Leisure Experiences: A Sociological Conceptualization, *Leisure Sciences*, 38:5, 482-488

Scott, D. (2018) Rediscovering the adult play group, *Leisure* 42(2): 231-242