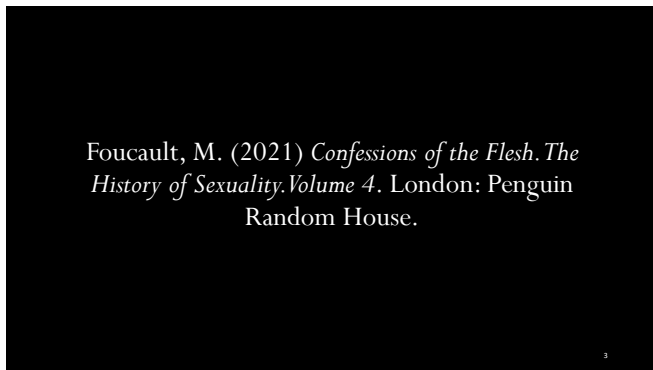


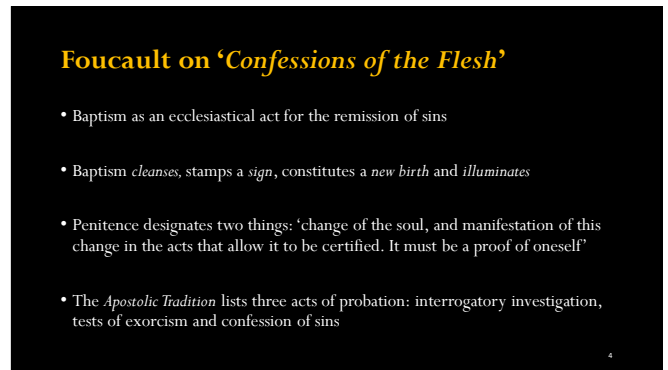
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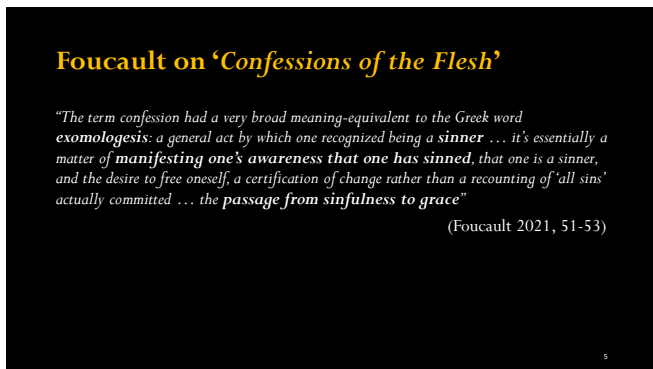
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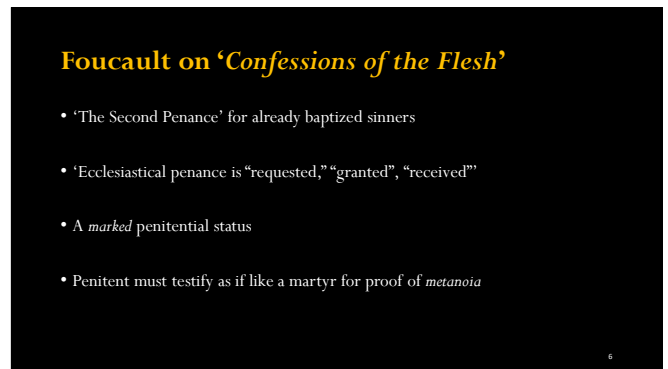
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## Method

- 'Confession of a Self Kibitzer'
- Two data sources the confession and public responses
- Thinking with Foucault - A 'concept as method' approach (St Pierre 2014) and thematic analysis of public responses



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## Findings: The confession

"No one else knew I was doing this ... When BBO contacted me yesterday, I could tell by looking at the **evidence** how obvious it was that I was **self-kibitzing** ... I guess had been hoping that I had slipped under the radar ... when I was **confronted**"

"I am **ashamed** and deeply regret my actions ... very **tempting** for me with the hand records easily available to look when I could ... this type of **cheating** ... I'm not a cheater ... I'll just see the cards sometimes ... I became **addicted** to looking ... I told myself I would just play normal ... it was almost impossible to ... when I knew I was **losing** ... very difficult for me to figure out what I would have done "**normally**" had I not seen the hands ... it was clear that cheating was exactly what I had been doing ... I hope that people can **forgive** me in time"

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## Findings: The confession

"I am going to tell the **truth** about my situation ... I would like to sincerely **apologize** to my partners, teammates and opponents ... I'm **sorry** that I ruined the integrity of the events. I'm **sorry** for cheating you. I'm **sorry** that I caused **you all** to be involved in this. I also **apologize** to all my friends and partners that I've had over the years ... I **apologize** to Bridgebase ... and I especially **apologize** to general bridge lovers and enthusiasts, for being another person who knows better tarnishing the game"

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## Theme 1: Public responses to the confession

"demonstrating that the committee is vigilant and taking online play very seriously ... **that no one is immune to falling from grace** ... dissuades some of us who are contemplating cheating ... and for the individual, I believe that **confession is an essential step on the long road to redemption**"

"did not come out and admit it. **She was caught and had to confess**". Another said, "If you wanted the first iota of sympathy from anyone, the time for your "**Confession**" was before you were busted, not after"

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## Theme 2: Public responses to punishment

"**lifetime ban playing professional**" ... "represent the US in international competition" ... "imposes **self-exile** from all bridge activity for 52 weeks" ... "**community service sentence** ... conduct a lecture once per week at a middle or high school, community or regular college, or at a local senior center ... she then submits proof of compliance and is welcomed back"

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## Theme 2: Public responses to punishment

"1. Individuals who come forward and **voluntarily confess** should receive the lightest punishments; 2. Individuals who need to be (privately) **confronted** with evidence before confessing should receive harsher punishments; 3. Individuals who need to be **tried and convicted** should face the most severe punishments"

"**Bridge Cheats Register** ... for cheats with a record of what they did, fines they paid, and any continuing involvement in bridge could achieve this. Acts of contrition (community service and voluntary payment of fines/ill-gotten gains) could also be documented on such a register. Such a register could help both the bridge-playing public and the offenders"

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## Theme 2: Public responses to punishment

"[A] three or six **month** vacation for that is way too light. It should be at least a year, and whack them for some **masterpoints** while you are at it. I agree it should be more severe for a pro level player. They should be expelled and allowed to reapply after 5 or 10 **years**"

"**Self-kibitzers** are willing to cheat if no one else knows. **Collusive cheats** are willing to cheat when at least one other person knows. So I suggest that collusive cheats are more likely to reoffend, and perhaps should receive longer bans for that reason"

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## Theme 3: Public responses to cheating

"Scarlet Letter, where, like Hester who wore an 'A' for adulteress, [The confessor] now wears a 'C' for cheater"

"What could possibly destroy the game more for fellow competitors and fans than **LOOKING AT THE HANDS** while you play?"

"I played a Swiss match against [the confessor's] team. She was at the other table. We got clobbered. The results at the other table where she played were unbelievably good. She is a very talented bridge player. It is certainly possible that she produced those results without aid of self kibitzing. The problem is, in light of her admission of cheating online, the possibility of her results being legit drop significantly"

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## Theme 3: Public responses to cheating

"breaking the rules of the game to gain advantage"

"In [the confessor's] case, I've played on teams with her and had absolutely **no doubt about her ethics**". Another said, "[t]his is somewhat on behalf of bridge players in the Washington, DC area ... We remember when [the confessor] was a newcomer to the Washington Bridge League Thursday night game, catching a ride from one of our local players. We **were** proud of her meteoric rise in bridge"

"ethical players do **NOT** cheat"

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## Theme 4: Public responses to online bridge

"I believe [the confessor] can recover from this in time and **would never cheat in real life**" ... "I don't play as well online as F2F—it **doesn't seem as real to me**"

"I also think **online bridge is 'real' bridge** for many, including me, and I don't agree with anyone who thinks cheating in online bridge should get a pass because it isn't 'real' bridge" ... "[h]ave you any idea how many families are being supported through **virtual clubs** and the **regionals**?" ... "the money I am spending is definitely real [and] if the community does not treat this as real the real money will dry up to some extent"

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## Theme 5: Public responses to COVID-19

"**pandemic of cheating**" ... "Covid is not shaping character, it is revealing it" ... "**will kill the game**" ... "pleasure [and] education to many bridge enthusiasts" ... "to see someone so young and talented representing our game ... in an **ageing game** that [now] looks like it is going off the cliff" ... "**addiction**" ... "Strange as it may seem, this pandemic may prove just the ticket for a healthy **rebirth**"

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## Concluding thoughts

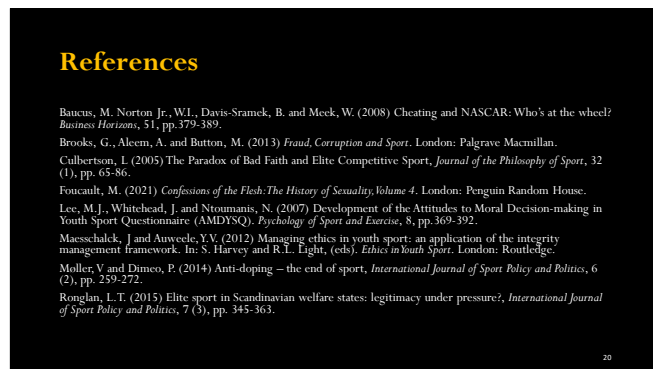
- **Prevention** (Brooks, Alcem and Button 2013; Maeschalck and Auweele 2012; Yun 2019)
- **Detection** (Lee, Whitehead and Ntousmanis 2007; Moller and Dimeo 2014; Sampol et al. 2020)
- **Calls to action** (Baucus et al. 2008; Zaksaitė and Raduševičius 2017; Wade 2019)

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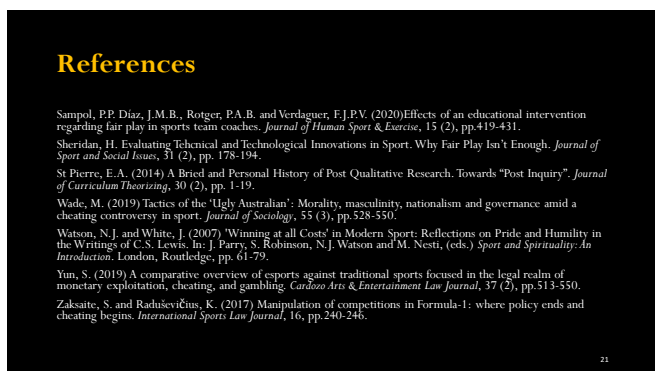
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