

# Family Gambling and its Connection to Intergenerational Family Relationship Building

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## INTRODUCTION

- Most research has viewed gambling as an individual activity and very little research has been devoted to the impacts of family gambling.
- Bengtson and Roberts (1991) viewed intergenerational family solidarity as a comprehensive construct consisting of six components of solidarity. Affectual, Associational, and Functional solidarities, can be adapted to a gambling context.
- The three family solidarity dimensions of affection, association, and function are the core components to family solidarity (Hogerbrugge & Komter, 2012).

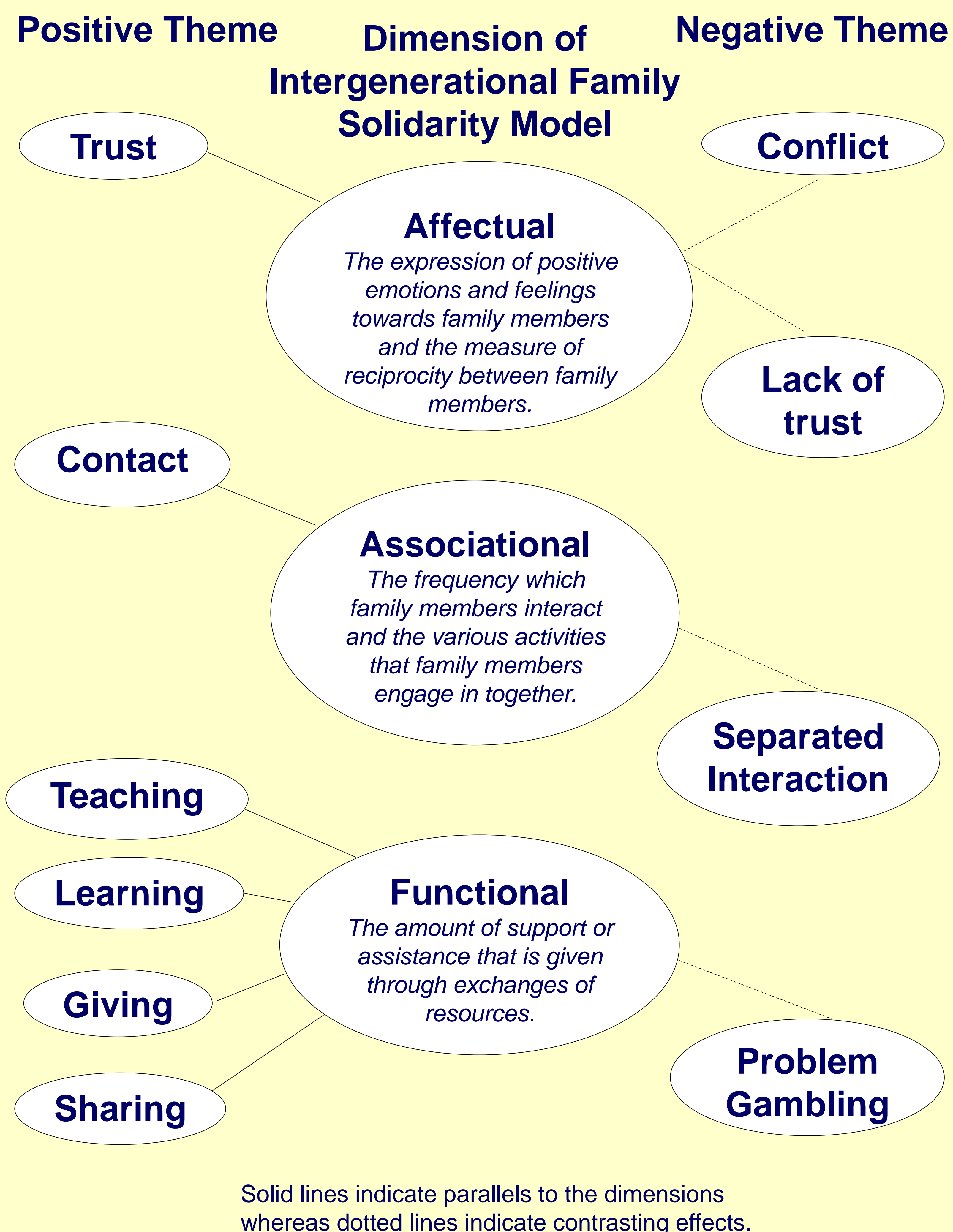
## RESEARCH QUESTION

Do family gambling activities facilitate opportunities for family relationship building?

## METHOD

- The sample is the second year data collection of a three year research project (Tindale & Norris, 2012)
- 50 parent/adult child dyads; 69 females, 31 males
- Parents were aged 40 to 75 years; adult children were aged 20 to 54 years
- In-person interviews were conducted using open-ended questions relating to family gambling experiences. Thematic analysis was performed.

## RESULTS



“I remember one time we went for my birthday, we went to the casino. It was for a fun outing. The objective wasn’t to gamble and make money; the objective was to go out and have some fun, something to do.”  
 - 40-year old daughter illustrating contact

“My advice to my kids was that you don’t gamble what you don’t have. You don’t take your bread money or your mortgage money, hoping to make money at a casino. This is recreational, recreational money only. You do not take your rent money and hope to double it. You don’t take money that you can’t afford to spend and try to gain some money to try and pay off a loan or something.”  
 - 63 year old father illustrating teaching

My mom’s philosophy is if you go with \$20 bucks and you get up \$50 and you lose it all, you lost \$20. But when you make \$50 I am like ‘take out your \$20!’ So that’s a little stressful when she doesn’t see that, but that is just a different philosophy that I have. But you have to hear my dad when he says ‘you have to take out your \$20, you have to take out your \$20’ so I don’t enjoy it as much.  
 -36 year old daughter illustrating conflict

## DISCUSSION

- As family gambling interactions may assist in the building and/or hindering of parent-adult child relationships, family gambling interactions may have implications for the quality of parent-adult child relationships.
- Older adults are often targeted in society as problem gamblers spending all their time and (family’s) money in a game of chance. It is hoped that this research and future research will help to dispel these negative generalizations of older adults and portray them generally as the fun, entertaining seeking, players that they are.