

In 2007, I had the opportunity to go to Bill Eadington's Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming as a visiting scholar to learn more about gaming. I planned to conduct research comparing junket operators in Macao with independent agents in Nevada. Within the first few days of my arrival, I was fortunate to be offered the opportunity to delve into the materials in his office. Although the office was not big, I found a treasure trove of valuable journals and books which provided so much description and detail on these independent agents in Nevada. I had to admit that I was really fortunate to be the beneficiary of Professor Eadington's years of commitment to collecting and cataloging.

This also made me want to know more about this remarkable professor.

After reading his books and journals for some time, I wanted to get more of a personal sense of Professor Eadington, so I emailed him asking whether I could sit in his class on the economic and social aspects of gaming and gambling. My request was quickly approved. The easy approach for a professor would have been to lecture for a while, ask a few perfunctory questions and then scurry back to his office. Professor Eadington had obviously engaged in thorough preparation for his class. His thoughtful classroom questioning of his students inevitably revealed the limits of my knowledge, which in

turn encouraged more study. In fact, upon observing his lecture style first hand, I doubt that any student could stand before his questions without realizing that there were deeper ways to look at a gaming issue. Moreover, Professor Eadington's questioning was never undertaken in a way that ridiculed a student's lack of knowledge. There was not an ounce of paternalism in him – quite the contrary, as the feeling in his class was “let us consider this problem together.” Hence, Professor Eadington not only has a scholar's sense of the arguments when weighing in on an issue; he also has a historian's remembrance and recollection of the relevant literature and its treatment of pertinent ideas.

Apart from reviewing the relevant literature, I also needed to interview industry people in Nevada for my research. I had experienced profound difficulties in getting it started, as I lacked the requisite social network in Nevada. Once again it was

Professor Eadington who advised me whom to contact to get the program launched. Throughout the data collection process, I experienced the widespread recognition of Dr. Eadington's reputation as the “go-to” person for everything pertaining to gaming. In our field he is, in a word, ubiquitous.

Apart from his many publications, which are stocked in libraries all over the world, it is easy to be dazzled by his service as Director of the Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming, University of Nevada (Reno), President of the National Council on Problem Gambling, Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Board on Problem Gambling, and Coordinator and Organizer of the world-renowned International Conferences on Gambling and Risk Taking.

Professor Eadington is truly an international professor with a global vision, as he cares enough to think beyond national boundaries. I have to say that I really treasure the interactions we had and continue to have. I cannot count the number of times that my

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solution to a knotty question was simply to “email Professor Eadington.” I am a constant beneficiary of the support so many have come to rely upon Professor Eadington to give. Conversely, it is not uncommon to get an email from him regarding some issue on which he requires assistance or help spreading the word. Of course, because it is Professor Eadington, you always drop whatever you are doing to lend a hand. Never resting on his laurels, Professor Eadington always pushes forward, seeks and conquers the next challenge. Perhaps that is why we never stop working for Professor Eadington – because he never stops working for all of us.

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