UNLV’s International Center for Gaming Regulation (ICGR) is pleased to announce the grant of two part-time Academic Research Fellowships.

Following a call earlier this year for research proposals aimed at promoting excellence in gaming regulation around the world, the ICGR awarded research fellowship positions to Dr. Melissa Rorie, an Assistant Professor at UNLV’s Department of Criminal Justice, and Dr. Simon Planzer, a Lecturer in Law at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.

The research proposed by Dr. Rorie compares regulatory processes in Nevada and New Jersey to determine how regulators in these two jurisdictions have navigated the legalization of gaming. The study will focus on the “moral high wire” involved in protecting the public while promoting a revenue-generating industry for the good of the state. The study also aims to inform regulators about how external factors (e.g., economic recessions or booms, public pressures, market competition, legislative changes) have influenced regulatory strategies over time and place with a view to promoting a balanced, consistent, proportional and efficient approach to enforcement. Dr. Rorie commented: "I am grateful for the opportunity afforded by UNLV’s new International Center for Gaming Regulation to conduct research on gaming regulations, both in the United States as well as internationally. Through an increased understanding of regulatory environments, I hope to provide practical and evidence-based suggestions for regulators as they work to balance the interests of industry with those of the state."

Dr. Planzer’s research will be in the area of anti-money laundering (AML), specifically the implications of the European Union’s Fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive for regulating online gaming. The previous Directive was primarily applicable to land-based casinos and did not specifically include online gaming. Regulators of online gaming are facing the challenge of finding the right balance, therefore, identifying effective regulatory means without unnecessarily burdening the online gaming sector. This research will provide guidance to online gaming regulators around the world by fleshing out the Fourth Directive’s broad and indistinct notions. Dr. Planzer commented: "I am honored to receive this Research Fellowship from UNLV’s International Center for Gaming Regulation. The application of the new AML rules to the gaming sector has raised significant questions among online gaming regulators. I am excited that the UNLV Fellowship will allow me to establish real life guidance and thereby serve gaming regulators’ interests."
Both these studies will culminate in presentations at various international conferences, including gaming law and regulators conferences. The aim is to produce two white papers that will serve as a basis for further discussion and debate amongst regulators around the world with a view to develop best regulatory practices.

Andre Wilsenach commented: “We have received eleven high quality and very relevant proposals from researchers around the world which have been subjected to a rigorous review process involving academics and professionals in the gaming space. I am convinced that the two research projects that have been selected will contribute significantly to the Center’s objective of promoting excellence in gaming regulation around the world.”

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André Wilsenach
Executive Director
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