

## ***Possible Poker House Interview Topics List:***

### Background:

- exposure to cards, gambling, deviance of any sort
- history of participation in or exposure to cards, gambling, deviance of any sort
- development of interest, bigger gambling, movement towards running rather than just playing in the game

### Active movement into this scene:

- how first heard about this poker house
- how joined the operation
- what are the skills required to do your job and how did you learn them
- how did other people learn their skills and roles in and around the game
- relations between participants

### Operation of the house game:

- how did/do your roles in and outside of the game dovetail with everybody else's (division of labor)
- hours of operation, maintenance of facilities, care of employees
- shifting or stable job responsibilities (do people move between or among positions)
- what kinds of things are the responsibility of the boss who runs the operation
- what are the rules of the house for workers
- when have these been broken and what happened as a result
- have you ever experienced or seen any forms of apprenticeship, training, or socialization given to new employees
- is there any hierarchy among the people who run the house
  
- how is the financial cut arranged
- how much might someone in your position earn
- how do you account for your income and live
- is this a full-time or part-time job
- how do you account for/cover your illegal earnings
  
- have there ever been any times when customers and/or employees have broken house rules and how has that been dealt with?
- what kinds of things are regarded as deviant in this scene
- is there ever credit extended or debt that needs to be collected
- any difficulties there
- have there ever been any conflicts that have arisen and how these have been resolved
- relations with people in other deviant scenes that are good or bad
- violence or potential violence with people in this or other deviant scenes
- is gender a factor in this world at all

### Dealing with the law:

- what kinds of screening is done of potentially new customers
- security operations and concerns about law enforcement

- close scrapes
- how people avoid law enforcement detection and/or arrest
- how big a concern is this
- is there any policy about legal help for employees or is everyone on his or her own

Careers in this kind of gambling operation:

- how do people come into this kind of scene
- is there upward, sideways, or downward mobility
- how long do people generally stay
- what ages form the entry, peak, and declining career years
- what is the age-span of participants
- do people burn out and quit
- what makes them want to get out
- where do they go from here

Expansion of operations:

- what was involved in the decision to expand
- operational decisions and contingencies
- recruitment of personnel
- division of authority
- establishment of rules and policies
- recruitment of new customers
- problems with the law