

PHILOSOPHY

# GAMBLING WITH THE PLANET

23.04.2011

Found at [project-syndicate.org](http://project-syndicate.org), a piece by Joseph E. Stiglitz (Professor at Columbia University and a Nobel laureate in Economics):

In the end, those gambling in Las Vegas lose more than they gain. As a society, we are gambling – with our big banks, with our nuclear power facilities, with our planet. As in Las Vegas, the lucky few – the bankers that put our economy at risk and the owners of energy companies that put our planet at risk – may walk off with a mint. But on average and almost certainly, we as a society, like all gamblers, will lose.

That, unfortunately, is a lesson of Japan's disaster that we continue to ignore at our peril.

CC-BY-NC Science Surf accessed 20.12.2025 