

## **The Emotional Child Witness Effect Survives Presentation Mode**

Annika Melinder, Lisa Victoria Burrell, Maria Olaussen Eriksen, Svein Magnussen & Ellen Wessel

*The Cognitive Developmental Research Unit (EKUP), University of Oslo*

The emotional expression of a witness and the presentation format of an interview both influence perceived credibility of witnesses, constituting a source of disturbance in court decisions. The present study investigated the effect of presentation format on the perceived credibility of a child witness disclosing abuse displaying four different emotional expressions. We expected credibility ratings to be higher in the video recorded condition compared to the audiotape and written transcript. Further, we expected the emotional witness effect to be strongest in the video version. Mock police interviews were constructed with two different female actors, role playing the victim of physical abuse by their stepfather. Both actors told the same story with four emotional expressions varying in valence. Laypersons were presented the interviews as transcripts, audiotapes or videotapes and rated the credibility of the witness. Replicating former results, the “sad” expression elicited the highest credibility rating, and female participants rated the child witness as more credible than males. Presentation mode also affected ratings of credibility, with transcripts rated highest. Emotional valence and presentation mode further influenced the perceived guilt of the stepfather in the same manner.

This abstract is for a standard oral presentation

Suspects' Verbal Counter-Interrogation Strategies:  
Towards an Integrative Model

Erik Mac Giolla<sup>1</sup> & Pär Anders Granhag<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Gothenburg

<sup>2</sup>Norwegian Police University College

<sup>3</sup>Department of Psychology, University of Oslo

We provide a review of the research on the burgeoning field of suspects' verbal counter-interrogation strategies. We argue that such research is fundamental to the development of empirically supported interview methods, with a specific focus on interview methods designed to distinguish between truth telling and lying suspects. Basic psychological differences between truth tellers and liars are illustrated (e.g., differences with regards to information management), and how these differences may result in unique counter-interrogation strategies is examined (e.g., truth tellers will generally employ forthcoming strategies, while liars will be more restrictive with providing information). Following this, a causal model is tentatively suggested indicating how suspect-related, interview-related, and crime-related factors may influence a suspect's choice of counter-interrogation strategies. The empirical research is then presented and arranged based on this model. Limitations and future directions of the research area are discussed.

## From party to nightmare: Roles of victim and participant age and victim behavior on blame attributions in rape scenarios

Are there any differences between adults' and adolescents' levels of attributed victim blame? In two experiments, a total of 563 Swedish adolescents and adults read a scenario describing a rape at a house party and thereafter rated victim and perpetrator blame. The victim's age (18 or 31 years), and behavior (voluntarily kissing the perpetrator or not before being raped), were manipulated. Across both experiments higher levels of perpetrator blame than victim blame was found and participants' levels of belief in a just world correlated positively with levels of attributed victim blame. The first experiment showed higher levels of victim blame from adolescents, regardless of victim age. The second experiment did not replicate those findings. Instead, more blame was attributed to a young victim, regardless of participant age, and men attributed more victim blame than women. Accordingly, no clear cut results were obtained. Did the victim's act of kissing the perpetrator change participants' perception of the rape situation and consequently their attribution of blame? Forthcoming experiments will continue to investigate if, and in that case why, adults and adolescents perceive rape victims and perpetrators differently.

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Kerstin Adolfsson

Ph.D. Student

UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

Department of Psychology

Box 500, 405 30 Göteborg

Haraldsgatan 1

Phone: +46 317864271

[www.psy.gu.se](http://www.psy.gu.se)

# To be precise or to be less precise, that is the question

Farhan Sarwar<sup>1</sup>, Christian Dahlman<sup>2</sup>, Sverker Sikström<sup>1</sup>, and Lena Wahlberg<sup>2</sup>,

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Lund University, Sweden, <sup>2</sup>Faculty of Law, Lund University,  
Sweden

## Abstract

Arguments play an important role in court proceedings. The level of preciseness in argumentation is important but has not been investigated in legal context. This research investigates if the lawyers prefer using precise or less precise argument (Experiment 1), and if the judges and laymen judges find the less precise argument more convincing than precise argument (Experiment 2). In Experiment 1, the law students, non-law students, and lay people were presented with a case scenario followed by a precise and a less precise argument. Later the participants were asked which one of the two arguments they would like to use in the court. Results revealed that law students prefer less precise argument over the precise argument more as compared to the other two groups. In Experiment 2, Swedish judges and laymen judges provided their agreement either with precise or with less precise argument, in the context of age of eyewitness (4 or 12 years) and wine consumed by the witness (2 or 5 glasses). Preliminary results show that imprecise arguments carry higher convincing power and both judges and laymen judges differ in their agreement with the two types of the arguments. The detail results will be presented at the meeting.

**Keywords:** *deprecization; less precise argument; precise argument; decision making; courts; decision heuristics; judges; layman judges; Stereotypes.*

Title: A survey on stalking among the general public in Iceland: A pilot study

#### Authors

Olafur O. Bragason, The Office of the National Police Commissioner, Skulagata 21, 101 Reykjavik & the University of Iceland, Suðurgata, 101 Reykjavík, ICELAND

Jon F. Sigurdsson, Reykjavik University, University of Iceland and Landspítali-The National University Hospital of Iceland Menntavegur 1, 101 Reykjavík, ICELAND

Gudrun S. Baldursdottir, The Office of the National Police Commissioner, Skulagata 21, 101 Reykjavik

#### Abstract for oral presentation

##### Introduction

Stalking and threatening behaviours are societal issues that have raised concerns for years. Specifically, stalking has been related to intimate partner violence but less is known about cases involving stalking where no such relationship exists. In many studies gender ratios are not reported as it is assumed that stalking is a form of violence towards women (feminist perspective) (e.g. FRA – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2014).

##### Aim

There were three main aims of this study: (1) to examine the prevalence of stalking among the general public over a one year period (2013), (2) to explore the relationship between the threatener and the threatened person, and (3) to explore what actions, if any, the threatened persons took to increase their safety.

##### Method

The sample consisted of 4000 members of the general public that took part in a online survey conducted by the Social Science Research Institute of the University of Iceland. A total of 2605 (65%) answered the survey, 48% males and 52% females. Participants were asked a variety of questions concerning falling victim to crimes, their attitudes towards the police and fear of crime. In addition participants were asked a set of questions regarding stalking based on a questionnaire developed by Bjelland and Bjørgo (personal communication, 2013) that was originally intended to assess stalking and other threatening behaviours towards politicians.

##### Results

Results on a one year prevalence of stalking will be presented along with an analysis on the relationship between the threatener and the threatened person. In addition actions to increase personal and situational safety will be explored. The correlation between stalking and fear of crime will also be presented.

##### Conclusions

This pilot study is the first step towards obtaining an overview of stalking and threatening behaviour in Iceland. Further studies among the general public will use sampling methods that give the results better generalizability as well as a collection of smaller studies will be conducted on different types of subgroups regarding employment, e.g. police, politicians, health care, education.

# To Prosecute or not to Prosecute: Law Students' Judicial Decisions in CSA Cases

Emelie Ernberg\* and Sara Landström

University of Gothenburg

## Abstract

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) investigations are complicated and few cases are prosecuted. The aim of the present study was to investigate judicial decisions in CSA investigations. Seventy-one law students (42 females, 29 males) read a vignette depicting a CSA investigation, assessed the complainant's and the accused's credibility, and if the case should be prosecuted or not. The participants were assigned to one of four conditions defined by a 2 (evidence: high probative value vs. low probative value) x 2 (complainant demeanour: emotional vs. neutral) factorial design. Females assigned higher credibility to the complainant than did males and males assigned higher credibility to the accused than did females. Emotionality, but not evidential value, affected credibility judgments: Females believed less in the suspect when the child behaved in an emotional manner. Most participants (94.4%) thought that the case should be prosecuted, though only 73.2% believed that prosecution could be corroborated. Corroboration of prosecution was affected by evidential value, but not emotionality. The results indicate that the behaviour of alleged crime victims might affect males and females differently, which in turn could lead to biased judicial decisions in CSA investigations.

*Keywords:* child sexual abuse, CSA, credibility judgements, prosecution

\*Presenting and corresponding author: Emelie Ernberg, Department of Psychology, University of Gothenburg, P.O. Box 500, SE 405 30 Gothenburg, Sweden, Phone: +46 – 31 7861856, E-mail: emelie.ernberg@psy.gu.se.

Alleged child sexual abuse cases:

## Serious gaming paired with feedback improves interview quality

Francesco Pompedda; Angelo Zappalà & Pekka Santtila

Abo Akademi University, Psychology and Logopedics, Turku, Finland

In a previous study (Pompedda, Zappalà, & Santtila, 2014), we found that simulated child sexual abuse (CSA) interviews with computer-generated child avatars paired with feedback improved interview quality in a group of students. The aim of the present study was to understand better which kind of feedback (or the interaction) is more involved in the process of improving quality. In this research feedback was divided into feedback on conclusions and feedback on question types, and provided separately. Twenty-four psychology students (average age  $M = 24.5$ ) interviewed four different avatars which had either been abused or not, at the end of each interview the participants received the appropriate feedback. Avatars revealed pre-defined “memories” based on algorithms, the algorithms are formulated based on previous empirical research on children’s suggestibility. Feedback on conclusions had the weakest effect on the quality of interviews instead the interaction of conclusion and question type feedback had the strongest effect in terms of founding out more relevant and less wrong details, using more open and less closed question and in drawing out more correct conclusions. Feedback on both question types and conclusions provided concurrently in simulated CSA interviews with avatars showed the highest efficacy in improving the quality of investigative interviews. The implications for training practice are discussed.

## Credibility Judgments in Context:

Effects of Emotional Expression, Presentation Mode, and Testimonial Consistency

Sara Landström\*, Karl Ask & Charlotte Sommar

Department of Psychology, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

### Abstract

In this study, we examined the effects of complainant emotionality, presentation mode, and testimonial consistency on credibility judgments in an intimate partner abuse case. Police trainees ( $N = 172$ ) assessed the credibility of a complainant who appeared either live or on video, and behaved in an emotional or a neutral manner. In addition, the consistency of the testimony with other evidence was manipulated. Results showed that live (vs. video) and consistent (vs. inconsistent) testimonies were perceived as more credible, and that the presentation mode effect was mediated by participants' felt compassion and approach/avoidance tendencies toward the complainant. As predicted, emotional (vs. neutral) demeanor increased perceived credibility through its effect on expectancy confirmation, but this effect was masked by mechanisms operating in the opposite direction. These findings highlight the need to consider multiple, sometimes conflicting, mechanisms underlying extra-legal influences on credibility judgments. Legal and policy implications are discussed.

*Keywords: credibility judgments – emotion – presentation mode – testimonial consistency*

\*presenting and corresponding author: Sara Landström, Department of Psychology, University of Gothenburg, P.O. Box 500, SE 405 30 Gothenburg, Sweden, Phone: +46 – 31 786 4291, E-mail: sara.landstrom@psy.gu.se.

# Smell and Tell: Evoking Past Memories Using a Vanilla Odor

Mikaela Magnusson, Sara Landström and Emma Roos af Hjelmsäter

University of Gothenburg

## Abstract

Odors have continuously been identified as effective memory cues to evoke past memories. The purpose of the present study was therefore to investigate if olfactory exposure during encoding and retrieval could have memory facilitating effects within a forensic context. A 2 (Encoding: odor vs. no odor) x 2 (Retrieval: odor vs. no odor) between-subjects design was employed with 75 adolescents (Experiment I) and 97 undergraduate students (Experiment II). Amount and accuracy of recalled details from a video segment functioned as dependent variables. Both experiments revealed significantly higher accuracy rates for the participants exposed to a vanilla odor during memory retrieval. However, the facilitating effects emerged independent of previous encoding context. Utilizing a pleasant odor may, thus, be beneficial in an investigative interview setting to enhance accuracy. Smelling a pleasant scent during the interview might, in addition, have other positive effects (e.g. rapport building, mood and behavioral effects) on both the interviewer and the interviewee.

### *Contact information:*

Mikaela Magnusson, Research Assistant  
Department of Psychology, University of Gothenburg  
E-mail: [mikaela.magnusson@psy.gu.se](mailto:mikaela.magnusson@psy.gu.se)  
Phone: +46766331168

*Interviewing strategically to elicit admissions from guilty suspects*

*Serra Tekin, Pär Anders Granhag & Erik Mac Giolla*

*University of Gothenburg*

Suspects can be a crucial source of admissions in cases where evidence is lacking. However one key challenge is that guilty suspects typically withhold information. By influencing the suspects' perception of the amount of evidence the interviewer holds against them, the current study aimed to shift the suspects' counter-interrogation strategies from a less to a more forthcoming strategy. The proposed tactic (SUE-CoIn) is a development of the Strategic Use of Evidence (SUE) framework and aims to affect the suspects' perception by confronting (Co) them with statement-evidence inconsistencies (In). Participants ( $N = 90$ ) were asked to perform several mock criminal tasks before being interviewed using one of three interview techniques: (1) SUE-CoIn; (2) Early Disclosure of Evidence; or (3) A Control interview (no disclosure of evidence). The SUE-CoIn interview generated more statement-evidence inconsistencies from suspects than the Early Disclosure interview. Importantly, suspects in the SUE-CoIn condition admitted more self-incriminating information and also perceived the interviewer to have had more information about the critical phase of the crime which in fact lacked evidence. The findings will be discussed with regards to future avenues for research and further developments of the SUE-CoIn tactic.

*Keywords:* strategic interviewing, admissions, statement-evidence inconsistency

## **Abstract for oral presentation**

### **Title:**

Measuring organizational culture: some initial thoughts and ideas.

### **Authors:**

Garnås, A., University of Oslo

Myklebust, T., Norwegian Police University College

Bjørkli, C.A., University of Oslo

### **Abstract:**

This work is part of an on-going collaborative project between the Norwegian Police University College and the Department of Psychology at the University of Oslo. Our project group is in the initial stages of developing a survey-instrument aimed at measuring the organizational culture of the Norwegian police.

Culture has received attention both in the Gjørsv-report and in the Police Analysis. However, neither report offers any definition of the construct. These reports advocates a change in the culture of the police organization. Research literature suggests that culture can be difficult to change, and also argues that culture itself is an important factor in explaining why some change processes succeed at reaching their objectives while others fail. Organizational culture as such, is at the same time something one wants to change and something that bears influence on that change.

In this presentation we would like to share some initial thoughts and ideas on how we plan to develop a survey-instrument to measure organizational culture. This includes thoughts on what manifestations of culture the instrument should target, how it should be fitted to the police organization, and how the survey can be based on experiences reported by members of the police organization.

### **Contact:**

[alexander.garnas@psykologi.uio.no](mailto:alexander.garnas@psykologi.uio.no)

## **Abstract for oral presentation**

**Title:** Strategic perspective on the task of investigative work within the Norwegian Police.

**Authors:**

Myklebust, T., Norwegian Police University College

Bjørkli, C.A., University of Oslo

Garnås, A., University of Oslo

**Abstract:**

The Norwegian police consist of operative forces and units with specialised tasks. This study presents a comparison between operative police forces, the central unit for investigation and prosecution of economic and environmental crime, and the Norwegian Police University College (NPUC) in terms of the strategic perspective on the task of investigative work. The study builds on content analysis of open-ended interviews of 140 police officers and university college lecturers (NPUC).

Results indicate a marked difference in the way these units reflect on investigative work. The results are discussed in relation to the concept of learning organizations.

**Contact:**

trond.myklebust@phs.no

## Abstract for oral presentation

### **Title:**

**Culture in the Norwegian police** -Development and validation of an instrument measuring organisational culture in the Norwegian police.

### **Authors:**

Victoria Hanevold Koritzinsky, University of Oslo  
Garnås, A., University of Oslo  
Bjørkli, C.A., University of Oslo  
Myklebust, T., Norwegian Police University College

### **Abstract:**

In the evaluation reports following the fatal 22.7 incident in Norway, it is stated that the police organizational culture needs to change (NOU 2012:14; NOU 2013:9). Yet, no clear definition of the Norwegian police culture exists. The aim of the present project is to develop and validate an instrument measuring organizational culture (*or* climate) in the Norwegian police. The scale development process will follow DeVellis (2007) recommendations, determining the phenomenon of interest; generating an item pool; determining the format for measurement; expert evaluation of initial item pool; consider inclusion of validation items; administering items to a development sample; evaluation of items; and produce finale scale. The starting point for scale development is determining the phenomenon of interest. Theory can be a guide to clarity here, and should be the starting point. Some studies have looked at occupational culture in the Norwegian police in relation to investigations, while others; operational culture in different countries. A resent master thesis investigated the climate in the Norwegian police by using the Organisational Climate Measure. Yet, none of these studies clearly define *police culture*, but investigates culture in the context of a police setting. This project will seek out new intellectual ways of measuring *police culture*, with a bottom-up (or data-driven) approach, supported by the general literature on culture and climate, and available data on the Norwegian police.

### **Contact:**

victorhk@student.sv.uio.no

## Abstract poster presentation

**Title:** Factors influencing the quality of the criminal investigation in ØKOKRIM

**Authors:**

Fagernæs, L., University of Oslo

Aasland, K.Aa., University of Oslo

Garnås, A., University of Oslo

Myklebust, T., Norwegian Police University College

Bjørkli, C.A., University of Oslo

**Abstract:**

The aim of this study was to carry out a thematic analysis of SWOT-based interviews of all the investigators in the Norwegian National Authority for Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime (ØKOKRIM). In the thematic analysis, five main themes and 16 categories were discovered describing factors that might influence the quality of criminal investigation; *criminal investigation, structure, work environment, strategic HR and management*. The theme criminal investigation was the largest. Criminal investigation concerns topics such as guidelines and methodology, digital tools, evaluation and experience, and case management. Since the questions in the interview deals with the quality of the criminal investigation it may be natural that this is the theme with highest frequency. Another possible explanation is that this theme has most categories and that these categories also are very extensive. Structure concerns topics such as the organisation of ØKOKRIM and their interdisciplinary teams. Work environment discuss topics such as cooperation in teams and between teams and co-workers and the employees engagement to the job. Strategic HR treats topics such as competence building among the employees and the organisations recruitment and retention. Management discuss topics such as resource management and leadership. All these elements may influence the quality of investigation in ØKOKRIM.

**Contact:**

linnea.fagernas@gmail.com

## **Child sexual abuse in Iceland: Researching cases of children referred to Icelandic Children's House from 1998 to 2012.**

Bjarki Thor Sigvardsson, University of Iceland.  
Linzi Trosh, Reykjavik University.  
Thorbjorg Sveinsdottir, Children's House, Reykjavik.  
Gisli H. Gudjonsson, King's College London.  
Jon Fridrik Sigurdsson, Reykjavik University, University of Iceland.  
In co-operation with:  
Government agency for child protection in Iceland  
Icelandic Student Innovation Fund

This is a research on cases of child sexual abuse referred to the Children's House in Iceland from when it was opened in 1998 until the end of 2012.

The aim of the research is to investigate the nature of allegations and potential age related differences in the judicial outcomes of these cases as well as differences over the years. In cases referred to the Public Prosecution Office researchers read through and recorded information from the court files. Information such as *sentence type, indictment phrased according to child's testimony, number of victims in indictment and defendant's testimony* was carefully recorded and added to a database consisting of basic information such as the *children's age and gender, relationship with the accused* etc. The main hypotheses were that cases are more likely to lead to a sentence of the perpetrator(s) when the children were older and when the victims of the abuse were more than one.

A total of 564 cases were analysed, 473 (84%) involving girls and 91 (16%) boys. Criminal charges were made in a total of 126 cases that of which 102 resulted in convictions. The presentation will be an overview of the research and it's findings including which factors affect indictments being filed and convictions.

## **Confirmation bias in legal decision making within criminal case procedures**

Confirmation bias is a non-conscious tendency to selectively search for and emphasize information supporting a predetermined conclusion and disregarding or underestimating contradicting information. This differs from impartial objective reasoning, where a decision maker searches for information for and against possible conclusions and evaluates it as objectively as possible.

The aim of the doctoral thesis is to investigate the occurrence and effects of confirmation bias within Swedish criminal case procedures and to suggest potential debiasing techniques.

The thesis consists of four studies examining the use of coercive measures as potential triggers of confirmation bias. The first study investigates whether police officers that previously apprehended a suspect carry out more guilt-presumptive interrogations. The second study looks at whether prosecutors that previously arrested a suspect are more likely to apply for a detention order. In the third study, prosecutors' decisions to either prosecute or drop charges are related to whether the court has decided to detain the suspect. The fourth study examines if judges that previously detained a suspect are more likely to convict. The research methods are quantitative and qualitative, using archive studies, analysis of legal actors' evaluation of evidence and experiments.

# Legal professionals' credibility assessments based on age and specificity of a statement

Nathalie Brackmann

University of Gothenburg, Department of Psychology, Sweden and

Maastricht University, Department of Clinical Psychological Science, The Netherlands

[Nathalie.brackmann@psy.gu.se](mailto:Nathalie.brackmann@psy.gu.se) or [n.brackmann@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:n.brackmann@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

There is an ongoing scientific debate about age differences in the quality of eyewitness statements. It was long believed and scientifically supported that children are especially prone to false memories compared to adults. On the other hand, research showing a contrary developmental trend in false memories accumulates: under specific circumstances false memories decline with age. When a detailed, spontaneous and uninfluenced account is given, children are less likely than adults to have endogenously formed false memories.

Legal professionals seem to endorse the traditional view that child witnesses' memory abilities are inferior to adults'. The aim of the present study is to assess whether professionals also act on this general belief or whether they take the specifics of a case into account when assessing the credibility of a statement. To test this, we are designing an online vignette study about a true murder case. The witness' age and the specificity (many details vs. interpretation) of the statement will be manipulated between subjects. It will be assessed whether legal practitioners' credibility assessments vary based on the information given in the vignette in order to evaluate whether scientists need to make new scientific developments more accessible. Methodological ideas will be discussed.

**Alcohol-intoxicated witnesses: A review of the current literature and new steps forward.**

Angelica Hagsand<sup>1\*</sup>, Emma Roos af Hjelmsäter<sup>1</sup>, Pär Anders Granhag<sup>1,2</sup>,  
Claudia Fahlke<sup>1</sup>, and Anna Söderpalm Gordh<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Psychology, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

<sup>2</sup> Department of Psychology, University of Oslo, Norway

<sup>3</sup> Section of Psychiatry and Neurochemistry, Institute of Neuroscience and Physiology, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Eyewitnesses often provide central investigative leads in many criminal cases, and are often the sole source of evidence. Many witnesses are under the influence of alcohol during the crime, and/or during the investigative interview and line-up. There is evidence that jurors and expert witnesses perceive intoxicated witnesses as more cognitively impaired and less credible than sober ones. The few studies that have examined the effects of alcohol on witness memory for events cast doubt on whether expert witnesses' and jurors' inferences are warranted. That is, in experimental studies, intoxicated witnesses rarely differ from sober or placebo witnesses in terms of accuracy and quantity of information recalled or in their ability to recognize a perpetrator in a lineup. At the few occasions when a detrimental effect of alcohol on witness memory has been found it resulted in small differences between alcohol and sober or placebo participants, barely of any practical significance for law enforcement personnel. The present literature review indicates that intoxicated witnesses might be better than their reputation, and that witnesses who have a low to moderate intoxication level (BAC <0.10%) can be rather reliable sources of information in criminal investigations. However, limitations in the previous studies are highlighted and new steps of further research is discussed.

## **A Bayesian Decision-Support Tool for Child Sexual Abuse Investigations**

In Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) investigations the first challenge is to understand whether the abuse happened or not. Human judgment under uncertainty usually is not based on statistical probabilities but rather on heuristic rules, which in complex tasks may lead to systematic errors. Uncertainty should be represented in terms of probabilities, which should be subsequently adjusted based on new information. Statistical predictions based on Bayes's Theorem are particularly well suited for this. Our Bayesian model will be able to assess the probability of CSA having taken place, and to give information about the most likely offender, as more observations about the CSA case are made by investigators and inserted in the model. The model takes scientific data from the biggest dataset available in the world about connection between children's life events and CSA (30.000 children and 2000 variables). Multiple indicators (e.g. child age, child gender, information about the family) can be considered simultaneously using Bayesian Network Analyses. Furthermore, the number of observations and the order in which they are inserted do not matter. This tool will be useful also during the trial, giving judges a view on the events which is not influenced by human cognitive errors.

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Alessandro Tadei, MA Criminal and Investigative Psych.

PhD student

Department of Psychology and Logopedics

Abo Akademi University

FIN-20500, Åbo, Finland

Tel. +358 2 215 4409

# Separating Genuine Threats from Bluffs: Extending the Deception Detection Paradigm to Threat Assessment

Renate Geurts, Pär Anders Granhag and Karl Ask

## **Abstract**

We will outline a study that introduces a new approach on threat assessment, an area that has been ignored by psycho-legal research thus far. Threats are statements of intent denoting harmful activities. Genuine threats reflect statements that one intend to carry out whereas bluffs reflect statements that one does not intend to carry out. Our aim is to develop an interviewing approach to separate genuine threats from bluffs, based on the assumption that bluffers will avail of different cognitive processes compared to genuine threateners.

Participants will be exposed to an unfair situation intended to trigger them to plan a threat against the person responsible for their disadvantaged position. One group decides to act upon their threat if the opponent does not meet their demand (genuine threateners) while another decides not to (bluffers). Participants will be interviewed individually after threatening but before acting. Based on past research on true and false intentions, it is hypothesized that bluffers will differ from genuine threateners in terms of planning and goal directed behavior (e.g. mentioning problems, back up plans, how related utterances). By extending the deception detection paradigm to threats, we take the first steps toward a more active risk assessment approach.

## **Children's memories of removal:**

### **The effect of repeated interviews and delayed interview**

Unni Sulutvedt\*, Gunn Astrid Baugerud, Annika Melinder

Department of Psychology, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway

#### **Abstract**

It has been suggested that repeated interviewing of children may enhance their memory. Alternatively, it may lead to higher levels of misinformation. Interview delays are known to reduce the amount of information recalled, yet, often long delays occur between experiencing or witnessing an event and being interviewed by the CPS, police or social workers. However, maltreatment may lead to improved memory for negative or stressful experiences, and therefore, an interview delay of maltreated children may not cause their memory to falter. Children were observed during forced removal from home or school by Child Protective Services due to allegations of child maltreatment. In one group, the children's memory for the removal was tested 1 week and 3 month later, and in the other group the children's memory was tested after 3 month only. Several aspects of the children's memory reports will be discussed.

## **Police change effects.**

### **Background**

International literature on policing indicates an overall discussion about effectiveness, changes, and leadership factors causing problems to police organizations in the western world. "Police orthodoxy" has been pointed out as a background factor leading to these problems.

Opposite hierarchical orthodoxy management stands participative and learning management where upcoming problems is solved by the people closest to the problem. This demands a shift of power.

If changed, will happiness and joy occur? Probably not, some will accept the changes, some will wait out and see and others will resist (openly or covertly fight the changes).

### **Aims**

Three studies 1) leadership, participation, and changes, identifying factors coursing lack of effectiveness, flexibility and participation, 2) learning climate factors effecting motivation, commitment, work engagement and emotions, and 3) leadership style changes effects, organizational structures in Coppell Police department, Texas USA.

### **Results**

Hierarchical structure factors affects motivation and effectiveness. Learning climate factors affect motivation, commitment, work engagement, and emotions. Compliance on the surface, can subsurface be something complete different. The result clearly divides employees in those: i) working with the changes, ii) awaiting changes, and iii) opposing changes.

Dr. Ann-Christine Andersson Arntén, National Police Board, Sweden:

[ann-christine.arnten@rps.police.se](mailto:ann-christine.arnten@rps.police.se); Phone: +46 722027660

# Lie detection research 2.0

## *from the lab to the web*

Bruno Verschuere

University of Amsterdam  
Ghent University  
Maastricht University

Abstract

(131 words; max 200 words)

In recent years, the cognitive view on deception has become increasingly popular. This cognitive approach has also brought about renewed attention for reaction times as a cue to deception. We have shown that – under specific conditions – reaction times can provide a fast and accurate deception index. We are currently exploring whether this accuracy holds when we move from the lab to the web. Online lie detection has tremendous potential both for research (fast and efficient collection of large datasets) and for practice (such as remote testing, and testing multiple subjects (even simultaneously)). To illustrate, I will discuss the results of our first online reaction-times studies conducted in summer of 2014. Preliminary analyses indicate that reaction times can also provide a fast and accurate deception index in the web-based lie detection tests.

# **Orienting Response versus Response Inhibition in the Concealed Information Test: Different physiological measures reflect different processes**

*N. Klein Selle<sup>1,2</sup>, B.J. Verschuere<sup>2</sup>, M. Kindt<sup>2</sup>, E.H. Meijer<sup>3</sup>, G. Ben-Shakhar<sup>1</sup>*

*1 - Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of Psychology, Jerusalem, Israel*

*2 - University of Amsterdam, Department of Clinical Psychology, Amsterdam, Netherlands*

*3 - University of Maastricht, Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience, Maastricht, Netherlands*

*nathalie.kleinselle1@mail.huji.ac.il*

## **Abstract:**

The Concealed Information Test (CIT) provides a valid tool for psychophysiological detection of concealed knowledge; however its precise theoretical underpinnings remain a matter of debate. The enhanced physiological responses were classically explained as reflecting an Orienting Response (OR). In the present study it was examined whether and to what extent response inhibition (RI) influences CIT detection efficiency with different physiological measures. One-hundred and forty-seven undergraduate students took part in a CIT, while measuring electrodermal, cardiac and respiratory responding. Half of the participants were requested to imagine that they are suspected of committing a crime and were motivated to avoid detection (presumably eliciting both OR and RI), while the other half was requested to imagine that they are witnesses of a crime and were motivated to be detected (presumably eliciting OR only). In both conditions, concealed information led to a similar increase in skin conductance. In contrast, the typically observed heart rate deceleration and respiratory suppression were only found in suspects. These data imply that different psychophysiological measures in the CIT are driven by different mechanisms: the Skin Conductance Response reflects orienting while the Respiration Line Length (RLL) and the Heart Rate reflect inhibition. This study further suggests that the RLL may differentiate between suspects and witnesses which has important implications for real-life applications of the CIT.

**Keywords:** Concealed information, Orienting response, Response inhibition

## **The Swedish Police a learning organization?**

While the world seems to change at a more rapid pace the rate of change within the police is slow and met by resistance and mistrust from its employees. By becoming a learning organization the police can meet the changes due to demands on effectivity and professionalism that is placed upon the organization. A learning organization is flexible and builds upon external as well as internal information and participation, embracing all levels within the organization. This requires changes in leadership, organizational structure, culture, participation and well planned change processes.

In documents the highest management of the Swedish Police point out that the organization shall be a learning organization. But is it? Summarizing interviews, surveys and an analysis of leadership qualities of today's leaders within the Swedish Police the answer is that there still is a long way to go.

The presentation will show problems within the organization, look at the effect those problems have on effectiveness, professionalism and its employees. It will also outline factors that have to be dealt with when starting the process of becoming a learning organization.

Dr. Ann-Christine Andersson Arntén

Rikspolisstyrelsen

Utvärderingsfunktionen

[ann-christine.arnten@rps.police.se](mailto:ann-christine.arnten@rps.police.se)

## **I was so scared, I don't remember exactly – Effects of emotional context on memory for details**

Matthias Gamer & Johann S. C. Kim

Department of Systems Neuroscience, University-Medical Center Hamburg Eppendorf, Germany

Human memory is imperfect and amenable to numerous biases and disturbances. Among these, emotional arousal is specifically relevant for forensic issues. Previous research has revealed an emotional trade-off effect with central information being remembered better when encoded under stress at the expense of memory for peripheral details. This effect was supposed to be mediated by attentional processes. In the current line of research, we sought to explore this hypothesis using well-controlled but more naturalistic experimental conditions as compared to previous laboratory studies. In two eye-tracking experiments, participants viewed complex neutral or emotionally negative picture stories and incidentally encoded central and peripheral story details. Consistent with previous research, we found an emotional trade-off effect, which, however, was not mediated by overt attention. Comparable effects were also evident when analyzing free recall data with better person-related memory for emotional stories and object-related memory for neutral ones. Neuroimaging data that was acquired in Experiment 2 indicate that these effects are related to a modulation of higher-order visual processing by emotional context. These results have important implications for the validity of eyewitness testimony as well as for polygraph techniques that rely on the detection of crime related memories.

# Children's understanding of the concept of memory

Kristjan Kask

*Tallinn University, Institute of Psychology*

Triin Liin

*University of Tartu, Institute of Psychology*

There is a large amount of research in legal psychology which have examined how people remember persons and events, and also which strategies should be used to maximize the amount of information in victims and/or witnesses accounts. Research has demonstrated that children's recollection of what has happened is accurate; the difference between children and adults are lies in the quantity of the information. In this presentation the development of children's concepts of memory is examined in three aspects: the time, the place, and the sequence of what happened. These concepts are related to crucial issues in criminal investigation, but they are also often reported inconsistently by children, which in turn decreases the credibility of child witnesses in court. The participants (N=54) were four, six and eight-year-old children who were interviewed and asked how they memorise and remember those aspects in several events. In the presentation the results of the study are discussed more in depth.

**Author:** Maciej Bożek

**Affiliation:** University of Silesia in Katowice Poland, Faculty of Clinical and Forensic Psychology.

**Key Words:** Deceit detection, facial expressions, investigative psychology

### **Abstract**

Mimic expression is one of the most significant variables in the process of interpersonal communication. Author of this research tries to establish if deception can be detected through deciphering mimic expressions. With the help of the newest technological equipment, we try to verify the claims about human face as emotional conduit and its usefulness in revealing deception. The high speed cameras involved and teaming up with researchers from the field of computer vision made it possible to not only study the sheer occurrence numbers of selected cues but also their dynamics. The experiments were designed in such way to gradually rise both stress level and immersion between the 3 devised experimental modules. First two of them were carried out in laboratory on a group of 120 students and the third was carried out on a group of 67 policemen in the process of initial training. The gathered data was later analyzed in interdisciplinary science team. Our data suggests there are in fact mimic expression aggregates that are connected to deception, however they can differ from person to person, general conclusion were also drawn – the team established that lie with confirmation as opposed to lie with negation projects substantially more facial cues of deception in majority of test subjects.

## **Can reaction time measures differentiate between truthful and deceptive responses?**

### **- A meta-analysis**

Evidence regarding the validity of reaction time (RT) measures of deception is mixed. The objective of this meta-analysis was to investigate whether RTs can differentiate between truthful and deceptive responses within participants, and to identify moderators of the RT deception effect. Results of 84 independent studies revealed a large average effect size (standardized paired difference;  $d = 0.895$ ; 95% CI [0.959, 1.030]), and a large heterogeneity between studies ( $I^2 = 83\%$ ). Studies in which motivational instructions to avoid detection or to lie as good as possible were given resulted in a smaller, yet still large, average effect size compared to studies in which no such instructions were given. Other moderators effects (type of paradigm, salience of the stimuli, absolute number of trials, and proportion of truth/lie trials) were not significant. Large confidence intervals indicated the need for more research on those variables. The large average effect size observed in the present meta-analysis suggests that it is worthwhile to further explore the potential to detect deception through RTs. Future research should investigate the external validity of RT deception measures in samples from more diverse populations, identify further moderators and explore the vulnerability of RT deception measures to countermeasures.

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Kristina Suchotzki

Ghent University

Department of Experimental Clinical & Health Psychology Henri Dunantlaan 2

B-9000 Ghent

Belgium

Tel: + 32 (0)9 264 94 46

Email: [Kristina.Suchotzki@UGent.be](mailto:Kristina.Suchotzki@UGent.be)

# **WHEN EVIDENCE IS LACKING: INTERVIEWING PRACTICE IN THE ASYLUM PROCEDURE**

*T.S. van Veldhuizen*

*University of Gothenburg, Sweden  
Maastricht University, the Netherlands*

[tanja.van.veldhuizen@psy.gu.se](mailto:tanja.van.veldhuizen@psy.gu.se) / [tanja.vanveldhuizen@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:tanja.vanveldhuizen@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

In assessing cases of seeking asylum, much weight is placed on the credibility of asylum seekers' statements. Other evidence to support the statements is often lacking. Asylum officials have to assess whether the asylum seeker is veracious about who he is, where he came from, and what he has experienced. The goal of the present study is to examine how asylum officials assess the veracity of the asylum claim in a detailed interview.

Asylum officials from the Swedish Migration Board were invited to participate in an online vignette study. Four vignettes were designed presenting the story of an asylum seeker that, if veracious about origins and flight motives, should lead to recognition as a refugee.

Participants had to make a snap judgment about the plausibility of the story and were asked to formulate five questions they would ask to assess whether the asylum seeker's statements about his origins or flight motives are veracious.

Data collection is pending. A thematic analysis will be conducted to examine for each type of claim (i.e. origins vs. flight motives) what categories of questions are usually used to assess its veracity. Preliminary results will be presented.

## **How do countermeasures influence physiological responses in the Concealed Information Test?**

Judith Peth & Matthias Gamer

Department of Systems Neuroscience, University-Medical Center Hamburg Eppendorf, Germany

The Concealed Information Test (CIT) is a forensic procedure that enables the detection of crime related knowledge by asking questions about crime details. Different answer options follow each question, and should be equally plausible for an innocent person. Only a guilty subject will show specific responses in the autonomic and the central nervous system after presentation of the crime detail. Until now, only few studies investigated the influence of countermeasures (CM) on these response patterns, even though this aspect is highly relevant for field applications.

Data from two studies are presented. In each, 60 subjects were assigned to one of three groups: guilty without CM, guilty with CM, innocent. Guilty subjects committed a mock crime prior to the CIT investigation. The CM groups were trained to manipulate their responses during the CIT by remembering a specific emotional scene. Autonomic responses in study 1 revealed a strong influence of CM usage on skin conductance responses but respiration was found to be less sensitive to this manipulation. Study 2 used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and revealed successful manipulation of neural activity by CM usage. Interestingly, CM usage itself caused increased cognitive effort that was represented in brain activity as well.

dr Bartosz W. Wojciechowski  
Department of Clinical and Forensic Psychology,  
Institute of Psychology  
Faculty of Pedagogics and Psychology  
University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland.  
Grazynskiego Street 53, 40 - 126 Katowice, Poland  
e-mail: bartosz.wojciechowski@poczta.fm

***Title:***

**Content analysis algorithms: an innovative and accurate approach  
to the statements' veracity assessment**

***Abstract:***

Udo Undeutsch has stated a hypothesis that statements derived from memory of an actual experience differ in content and quality from accounts based on invention or fantasy. Past research has shown that people are only slightly better than chance at distinguishing truths from lies and provided mixed support for the utility of the content criteria. Sometimes no differences between truthful and false statements were found indicating, that existing content analysis techniques are not reliable. There is also a known error rate for veracity assessment judgments of 30%.

A group of 43 raters - trained forensic psychology students rated adult witnesses' accounts gathered in criminal cases. Studies proved, that content analysis enables accurate veracity assessment of over 93% accounts of and some of the content criteria are excellent predictors of the testimony veracity when arranged in classification tree, but raters make decisions on the basis of inappropriate premises.