

THE COGNITIVE INTERVIEW FOR SUSPECTS (CIS)

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The investigative interview protocol known as the cognitive interview (CI) was modified for use with suspects to maximize the opportunity to detect deception. The CI for suspects (CIS) seeks to generate a large amount of information from a suspect while reserving any challenge to the subject's story until late in the interview. The CIS also contains two techniques for requesting information from the subject in an unexpected manner: making a drawing/sketch and re-telling the story in reverse chronological order. Trained interviewers conducted the CIS with participants who were instructed to describe a recent autobiographical event or a completely fabricated event. The interviewers rated the likelihood of the participant's truthfulness at each of six stages of the CIS protocol. The results showed that the interviewers were only slightly better than chance at assessing deception following the narrative stage, but increased accuracy systematically throughout the remainder of the CIS. This study provides an initial demonstration of the potential of the CIS for assessing the likelihood of deception during investigative interviews.

THE MMPI-2 IN HIGH CONFLICT CHILD CUSTODY CASES

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A number of previous studies have examined the MMPI-2 profiles of those involved in custody disputes. Unfortunately, the inclusion criteria used in these studies were rather loosely defined. We compared those data with a sample of MMPI-2 profiles of parents in high conflict child custody disputes using more stringent criteria. On average, our group had significantly higher scores on validity scales associated with defensiveness and under-reporting. In addition, the triad of Hy, Pd, and Pa was significantly higher in most cases, and there were significant differences on the Mf scale. We conclude that comparisons of the MMPI-2 normative sample and previous studies of custody litigants may have underestimated the differences between the custody norm group and high conflict parents.

A TYPOLOGY OF CRIMINAL CANNIBALISM

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This study analyzed data for 49 criminal cannibals. Three distinct types were identified based on the offenders' motivations to commit their crimes: lust, revenge, and delusional. Significant differences were identified between the three groups in the type of victim, the presence of necrophilia and whether the body parts were consumed raw or cooked.

JUDGING THE WITNESS: DO GENDER AND OCCUPATION TYPE MATTER FOR JUROR DECISION MAKING?

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Previous research has investigated the influence of expert witness gender on juror judgments of credibility, but there is little literature examining the influence of lay witness gender on perceptions of accuracy and credibility. The current study investigated the influence of witness gender and occupation type (traditional versus non-traditional for the witness' gender) on mock juror perceptions of witness credibility and accuracy, as well as on verdict decisions. Participants ($N = 131$) read a murder trial transcript in which the gender and occupation (stay-at-home parent, auto mechanic) of the primary witness were manipulated. Results demonstrated that witness gender and witness occupation had a combined influence on verdicts—participants assigned higher guilt ratings to defendants when the female witness had a gender-traditional occupation than when she had a non-gender-traditional occupation. No differences as a function of occupation type emerged when the witness was a man. Thus, mock jurors assign less weight to the testimony of a female witness working in a non-gender-traditional occupation. However, direct ratings of witness credibility did not differ as a result of witness gender and occupation, indicating that mock jurors weigh witness testimony differently as a function of these factors, but may not be aware that they are doing so.