

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 3 — 2015

**STRESSORS, TRIGGERS AND TRAUMA: CONSIDERING DSM-5
IN THE DEBATE OVER CAMPUS TRIGGER WARNINGS**

Lorna Veraldi, J.D. and Donna M. Veraldi, Ph.D.

Requiring trigger warnings in university course syllabi seems a well intentioned exercise in symbolic politics, in which the terminology of psychology has been enlisted, but its meaning lost. The policy language proposed at some universities borrows the concept of trauma triggers from psychologists' understanding of PTSD, but would extend the meaning of trauma far beyond the criteria set out in DSM-5. Moreover, the idea that university professors can predict and warn against trauma triggers in course materials runs counter to what psychological research has shown about trauma triggers. Unlike the stressors that can cause PTSD, even seemingly neutral objects, colors and locations associated with past trauma can be triggers. Just as accommodations are made for other individuals with disabilities or medical needs, universities can accommodate the needs of individual students with PTSD without the chilling effects on academic freedom and scholarly inquiry that a general requirement for trigger warnings would inevitably create.

**USE OF THE PAULHUS DECEPTION SCALES
AND MMPI-2 WITH CUSTODY LITIGANTS**

Mark L. Goldstein, Ph.D. and Allan Posthuma, Ph.D.

Although the MMPI-2 and MMPI-2-RF have been widely used in custody evaluations, there has been no attempt to correlate the validity scales (L and K) with other measures. In this study, the MMPI-2 Lie (L) and Correction (K) scales were correlated with the Impression Management (IM) and Self-Deceptive Enhancement (SDE) scales from the Paulus Deception Scales. Mild to modest correlations were found, with the most significant correlations found for education and age. Gender and race had minimal or no positive correlations.

**MODELING THE INFLUENCE OF SITUATIONAL AND ATTITUDINAL
VARIABLES ON LAY RESPONSES TO VIOLENT SEXUAL
AND NON-SEXUAL OFFENDERS**

**Dario N. Rodriguez, Ph.D., Melissa A. Berry, Ph.D.,
and Jamee L. Gresley, M.A.**

Most studies of lay responses to crime have examined the effects of situational and attitudinal variables on one or a small number of independent affective, cognitive, or

behavioral outcomes. Affect and cognition, however, likely mediate the effects of predictors on behavioral outcomes. Participants read a scenario about a violent sexual or non-sexual assault, wherein the perpetrator's age and prior relationship to the victim were manipulated. They also reported their endorsement of rape myths, just-world beliefs, and responses to the crime. Participants desired more social distance from the perpetrator when he was older (versus younger) and when participants did not strongly endorse rape myths. Most importantly, the effects on social distance were mediated by affect (disgust) and cognitive appraisals (attributions of responsibility).