AP-LS Research Briefs
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COMMUNITY, CORRECTIONAL, & FORENSIC TREATMENT

Lobato, R. M., Rodríguez-López, Á., García-Coll, J., Moyano, M., & Sainz, M. (2022). Attitudes towards terrorist rehabilitation programs: Psychological mediating and moderating mechanisms. *Psychology, Crime & Law.* **https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2022.2137164**

Researchers examined the attitudes towards rehabilitation programs for terrorist offenders and the mediating (Study 1) and moderating mechanisms (Study 2) underlying these attitudes. In both cases, the type of offender was manipulated (criminal vs. nationalist terrorist vs. Islamist terrorist offenders) and different attitudes were assessed (general support, incapacitation, treatment effectiveness, and mandated treatment). The results showed less support for rehabilitation programs for Islamist terrorists than for other offenders.

Yasrebi-de Kom, F. M., Dirkzwager, A. J. E., van der Laan, P. H., & Nieuwbeerta, P. (2022). Antecedents of subjective severity of detention and perceived procedural justice. *Psychology, Crime & Law*. **https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2022.2126471**

Researchers examined the antecedents of subjective severity of detention (SSD) and perceived procedural justice (PPJ) with the aim to identify individual and situational characteristics that contribute to such perceptions. Using data from the Prison Project ($n = 1430$), findings showed that older age, a less elaborate criminal history, no daily drug use before arrest, not having experienced any victimization by prison staff, and the personality traits of neuroticism, conscientiousness, and agreeableness were the most relevant antecedents for 'high both' subgroup membership.

FORENSIC ASSESSMENT

Hahn, C. A., Tang, L. L., Yates, A. N. & Phillips, J. (2022). Forensic facial examiners versus super-recognizers: Evaluating behavior beyond accuracy. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 36*(6), 1209-1218. **https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.4003**

This study examined how face-matching performance abilities differed between forensic facial examiners and super-recognizers. Results indicated that examiners used an identity judgement scale and that super-recognizers judgments tended to skew toward highly confident decisions. More confident individuals tended to be more accurate.

Lee, J. & Penrod, S. D. (2022). Three-level meta-analysis of the other-race bias in facial identification. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 36*(5), 1106-1130. https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.3997

This meta-analysis investigated the other-race bias in facial identification in literature from 1969-2021. An analysis of effect size showed that for own-race faces, individuals showed higher hit rates, higher discriminability, lower false alarm rates, and more stringent criteria. The meta-analysis indicated a persistent and robust effect of the other-race bias in facial identification from 1969 to the present year.

Zabecki, J. M., Quigley-McBride, A. & Meissner, C. A. (2022). Information loss, contextual information, and distinctiveness influence how well novice analysts discriminate fingerprints. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 36*(6), 1325-1338. http://doi.org/10.1002/acp.4016

Researchers studied the ability of novices to discriminate between fingerprints. More distinctive fingerprints led to increased accuracy, and when given contextual information that indicated they may be from the same source, individuals were more biased

LAW ENFORCEMENT, CONFESSIONS, & DECEPTION

Bogaard, G., Nusbaum, M., Schlaudt, L. S., Meijer, E. H., Nahari, G. & Vrij, A. (2022). A comparable truth baseline improves truth/lie discrimination. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 36*(5), 1060-1071. https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.3990

Two experiments investigated whether or not a comparable truth baseline (CTB) can improve discrimination between truthful and deceitful statements based on coded verbal details with independent and naïve raters. Additionally, researchers investigated whether liars would adjust lies to match the detail level of the CTB. Results indicated that liars did not adjust their statements as such. Additionally, truthful statements were more detailed than deceitful ones compared to their CTBs. CTBs were not shown to improve the lie detection accuracy of judges.

Chin, J., Milne, R., & Bull, R. (2022). Fuelling an investigative mindset: The importance of pre-interview planning in police interviews with suspects. *Psychology, Crime & Law*. https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2022.2139829

With a sample of 596 police investigators in Singapore, the authors examined potential associations between pre-interview planning, interviewing behaviors and interview outcomes. Overall, rapport-based interviewing behaviors were found to mediate the relationship between pre-interview planning and positive interview outcomes, contributing empirical support to the importance of pre-interview planning.

Deeb, H., Vrij, A., Leal, S., Fallon, M. Mann, S., Luther, K. & Granhag, P. A. (2022). Sketching routes to elicit information and cues to deceit. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 36*(5), 1049-1059. https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.3989

In this study, participants were asked to sketch on a blank sheet of paper while narrating an event they experienced, either telling the truth or a lie about it. Results showed that truth-tellers provided more details accounts. Larger effect sizes were apparent for the self-generated sketch condition compared to printed map and free recall conditions, indicating that they may be more effective as deception detection tools in situations involving locational or route information.

Eskritt, M., Fraser, B., & Bosacki, S. (2022). Did you just lie to me? Deception detection in face to face versus computer mediated communication. *The Journal of Social Psychology, 162*(5), 566-579. https://doi.org/10.1080/00224545.2021.1933884

Researchers explored individuals' deception detection ability during either a face-to-face (FtF) interaction or through computer-mediated communication (CMC). Participants discussed a social issue either in a room together or by instant messaging from separate rooms. Some participants were asked to deceive their partner regarding their actual opinion on the issue. Results showed that mode of communication did not influence participants' deception detection accuracy rate, nor their truth bias. Deceivers reported experiencing higher levels of anxiety but only in the FtF condition.

Goormans, I., Mergaerts, L., & Vandeviver, C. (2022). Scanning for truth Scholars' and practitioners' perceptions on the use(fulness) of scientific content analysis in detecting deception during police interviews. *Psychology, Crime & Law*. https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2022.2139828

SCAN (Scientific Content Analysis) is a verbal credibility assessment (VCA) tool that claims to detect deception in written statements. To examine how SCAN is perceived and used, researchers collected data from 48 participants (35 practitioners and 13 scholars). Key findings illuminate (1) that practitioners apply an incomplete, personalized version of SCAN, (2) that SCAN practitioners are reluctant to abandon SCAN, and (3) that SCAN is considered incompatible with (Belgian) legislation on police questioning.

Schemmel, J., Leve, M., Maier, B. G., Ziegler, M., & Volbert, R. (2022). Only true and fabricated baseline statements combined might improve lie, but not truth, detection. *Law & Human Behavior, 46*(5), 372-384. https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000493
In a 4 x 2 within-subjects design, researchers tested the effect of true and fabricated baseline statements from the same sender on veracity judgments. Results showed that baseline statements largely did not affect judgment accuracy and, in the case of true baselines, even had a negative impact on truth detection.

Riesthuis, P., Otgaar, H., Hope, L. & Mangiulli, I. (2022). Registered report: The effects of incentivized lies on memory. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 36*(5), 1150-1161. https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.3986

This experiment investigated the effects of deception on memory. Participants were either in a strong or weak incentive to cheat condition and played a die-rolling paradigm with either a financial penalty (strong incentive) or prosocial benefit to another (weak incentive). Memory

was assessed two days afterward. Deceptive participants produced more memory errors than those who were not, despite their condition.

Watson, S. J., Luther, K., Taylor, P. J., Bracksieker, A.-L., & Jackson, J. (2022). The influence strategies of interviewees suspected of controlling or coercive behavior. *Psychology, Crime & Law*. **https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2022.2144853**

Researchers examined how suspects attempt to influence interviewers during investigative interviews. Twenty-nine interview transcripts with suspects accused of controlling or coercive behavior within intimate relationships were submitted to a thematic analysis to build a taxonomy of influence behavior. Suspects' influence behaviors were mapped along two dimensions: power and interpersonal alignment.

LEGAL DECISION-MAKING/JURY RESEARCH

Fessinger, M. B. & Kovera, M. B. (2022). From whose perspective? Differences between actors and observers in determining the voluntariness of guilty pleas. *Law & Human Behavior, 46*(5), 353-371. **https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000501**

Across two studies, researchers examined the voluntariness of guilty pleas. Participants watched video-recorded materials about a criminal case in which a defendant decided how to plead. The materials varied the participant's role (actor, observer), the defendant's guilt (innocent, guilty), and whether the defendant had a voice in the decision-making process (no voice, voice). In both studies, actors rated pleas as more voluntary than did observers. Participants rated guilty pleas as more voluntary when the defendant was guilty compared with innocent.

Given-Wilson, Z. & Memon, A. (2022). Seeing is believing? A systematic review of credibility perceptions of live and remote video-mediated communication in legal settings. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 36*(6), 1168-1176. **https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.4001**

This review examined literature across nine different papers pertaining to remote communication used in complex legal hearings, a more common phenomenon since the COVID-19 pandemic. Researchers detected four recurring themes, including decision-makers assumptions (beliefs individuals held about remote video communication), frame of the camera (head or waist-up), demeanor, and detecting truth and lies.

Gous, G., Azoui, M., Kramer, R. S. S., & Harris, A. (2022). The effects of witness mental illness and use of special measures in court on individual mock juror decision-making. *Psychology, Crime & Law*. **https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2022.2137509**

Researchers examined whether witness mental illness and special measures used with witnesses in court impact juror decision-making. Participants ($N = 204$) read a mock trial vignette where witness mental illness and the special measure used in court were manipulated. Findings showed that witnesses with depression were perceived as significantly more competent than witnesses with schizophrenia, or with no mental illness. Witnesses with depression were also perceived as significantly more competent than witnesses with schizophrenia when a screen was used in court.

Suresh, S., & Walter, N. (2022). Guilt by association, change by individuation: Examining the role of guilt and efficacy in mitigating collective risks. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology, 52*(11), 1049-1061. https://doi.org/10.1111/jasp.12911

The present research used a message-based intervention to experimentally manipulate the responsibility level of guilt (collective vs. personal) and the target level of efficacy (collective vs. self) in the context of an environmental health risk (Study 1, $N = 211$) and a socioeconomic risk (Study 2, $N = 264$). Across both studies, results indicated that pairing collective guilt appeals with self-efficacy messaging most effectively elicits risk-mitigating attitudes and intentions for shared problems.

Redlich, A. D., Domagalski, K., Woestehoff, S. A., Dezember, A., & Quas, J. A. (2022). Guilty plea hearings in juvenile and criminal court. *Law & Human Behavior, 46*(5), 337-352. https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000495

Trained coders systematically observed more than 800 guilty plea hearings in juvenile and criminal courts. Coders documented hearing length, whether the defendant was in pretrial custody, whether the evidence was reviewed, details on defendant participation, and judicial attention to plea validity. These findings provide insight into how components necessary for plea admissibility—knowingness, voluntariness, and intelligence—are discussed with defendants and, in doing so, raise concerns about the degree to which plea validity is actively assessed in plea hearings.

Ruva, C. L., Sykes, E. C., Smith, K. D., Deaton, L. R., Erdem, S., & Jones, A. M. (2022). Battling bias: Can two implicit bias remedies reduce juror racial bias? *Psychology, Crime & Law*. https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2022.2115494

Two studies examined the effectiveness of the Unconscious Bias Juror (UBJ) video and instructions at reducing racial bias in Black and White mock-jurors' decisions in a murder (Study 1; $N = 554$) and battery (Study 2; $N = 539$) trial. In Study 1, White, but not Black, jurors demonstrated greater leniency toward Black defendants for verdicts, culpability, and credibility. In Study 2, White jurors were more lenient regardless of defendant race. The video only influenced Black jurors' credibility ratings.

VICTIMIZATION

Khan, S. & Haque, S. (2022). Autobiographical memory and future episodic thinking among trauma-exposed Rohingya refugee people. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 36*(6), 1300-1311. https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.4014

In this study, researchers tested the autobiographical memory specificity and emotional valence among trauma-exposed refugee people. Results indicate that of the autobiographical memories generated, most were overgeneral, and an equal amount also contained traumatic elements. When participants generated future memories, most showed positivity bias and were overgeneral. Higher levels of PTSD and depression predicted overgeneral future episodes.

Winks, K. M. H., Lundon, G. M., Henderson, H. M., & Quas, J. A. (2022). Laypersons' recognition of and attribution of blame in situations involving domestic minor sex trafficking. *Psychology, Crime & Law*. **https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2022.2139377**

Researchers examined laypersons' perceptions of situations highly suggestive of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST). Participants (*N* = 320) read a vignette describing a highly suspicious situation involving a minor and adult in a hotel room with cash on the minor's person. The vignette systematically varied the age (13, 15, 17 years) and gender (boy, girl) of the victim. Overall, just over half (61%) of participants recognized that a crime occurred, more often with younger (70%) than older (55%) minors.

WITNESS ISSUES

Dietze, P., Olderbak, S., Hildebrandt, A., Kaltwasser, L., & Knowles, E. D. (2022). A Lower-Class Advantage in Face Memory. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. **https://doi.org/10.1177/01461672221125599**

In line with research suggesting that lower-class (vs. higher class) individuals spontaneously appraise other people as more relevant, researchers show that social class is associated with the habitual use of face memory. In their study most relevant to psych/law research (Study 3), lower-class (vs. higher-class) participants' eyewitness accuracy is less impacted by the explicit relevance of a target (clearly relevant thief vs. incidental bystander).

Dilevski, N., Cullen, H. J., Marsh, A., Paterson, H. M., & van Golde, C. (2022). 'tell me what just happened': The effect of immediate recall on adult memory for instances of a repeated event. *Psychology, Crime & Law*. **https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2022.2117808**

Researchers examined the effect of immediate recall on adult memory for a repeated event (i.e., four workplace bullying videos). Findings showed that immediate recall enhanced memory accuracy across instances, but did not impact recall of source memory errors nor misinformation acceptance. The findings suggest that it may be beneficial for victims/witnesses of repeated offenses, such as domestic abuse, to document their memories soon after experiencing an incident.

Eisen, M. L., Williams, T., Jones, J. & Ying, R. (2022). Variations in the encoding conditions can affect eyewitnesses' vulnerability to suggestive influence. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 36*(6), 1188-1199. **https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.4000**

This study investigated whether viewing conditions affected eyewitnesses' vulnerability to suggestive influence. Participants watched a simulated crime from different viewing distances and were then asked to identify the culprit from a photo lineup at two time points. Those who were in the close-viewing condition were less likely to change their identification decision than those in the far-viewing condition. When identifications shifted based on confirming feedback, there was an associated higher confidence rating.

Gonzalves, L., Chae, Y., Wang, Y., Widaman, K. F., Bederian-Gardner, D., Goodman-Wilson, M., Thompson, R. A., Shaver, P. R. & Goodman, G. S. (2022). Children's memory

and suggestibility years later: Age, distress, and attachment. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 36*(5), 1034-1048. https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.3988

This longitudinal study investigated 3- to 5-year-olds' memory for a mildly distressing event after one hour, then again 6-7 years later. Children's memories were more accurate after one hour than at 6-7 years. Children who reported being more distressed after the initial event recalled more correct information at 6-7 years later if they were older or had lower attachment anxiety. Older children were less suggestible. Finally, misinformation from the first study did not affect recall in the subsequent one.

Grabman, J. H., Cash, D. K., Slane, C. R., & Dodson, C. S. (2022). Improving the interpretation of verbal eyewitness confidence statements by distinguishing perceptions of certainty from those of accuracy. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied, 28*(3), 589-605. https://doi.org/10.1037/xap0000362

Across three studies, researchers examined how eyewitness identification evaluator's interpretations of eyewitness confidence can be biased by accompanying contextual information (i.e., featural justification and prior knowledge). Evaluators conflate their own beliefs about the accuracy of an identification with the witness's intended level of confidence. A simple warning that highlights the differences between confidence and accuracy eliminates the featural justification effect, but is less effective for mitigating the influence of prior knowledge.

Otgaar, H., Mangiulli, I., Riesthuis, P., Dodler, O. & Patihis, L. (2022). Changing beliefs in repressed memory and dissociative amnesia. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 36*(6), 1234-1250. https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.4005

Researchers tested whether beliefs about repressed memories and dissociative amnesia could be modified after attending a university course that discussed the topics. Results indicate that those who received the information via the course were less likely to endorse repressed memory and dissociative amnesia beliefs.

Sharman, S. J., & Danby, M. C. (2022). Suggestive questions reduce the accuracy of adults' reports about one episode of a repeated event. *Psychology, Crime & Law*. https://doi.org/1068316X.2022.2132247

Researchers examined the effects of suggestive questions on adults' reports of one episode of a repeated event. Over two weeks, participants completed four activity sessions containing variable and new details. One week later, they were interviewed and described one (self-nominated) target episode. Next, participants were asked four suggestive questions. Findings showed that participants may easily accept interviewer-suggested details when reporting on an episode of a repeated event.

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OTHER

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Bago, B., Rand, D. G. & Pennycook, G. (2022). Does deliberation decrease belief in conspiracies? *Journal of Experimental Psychology, 103,* 104395. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jesp.2022.104395

Whereas prior research indicates that deliberation helps individuals to make more accurate decisions and decreases conspiratorial beliefs, evidence in favor of this may not be accurate and is predominately correlational in nature. Researchers asked participants to judge the strength of various conspiratorial explanations for events after deliberation. For events that involved lesser-known conspiracy theories, deliberation increased belief accuracy only among those with strongly anti- or pro-conspiratorial mindsets.

Eskreis-Winkler, L., & Fishbach, A. (2022). Surprised elaboration: When White men get longer sentences. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 123*(5), 941–956. https://doi.org/10.1037/pspa0000297

People say more about events that violate common stereotypes than those that confirm them, a phenomenon the authors dub *surprised elaboration*. Government officials wrote longer reports when negative events befell White people than Black or Hispanic people (Study 1). Communicators found stereotype-inconsistent events more surprising and this prompted them to elaborate (Studies 2-3). Observers preferred to funnel government and media resources toward White victims, since their case reports were longer, even when longer reports were not more informative (Studies 4-6).

Frenken, M. & Imhoff, R. (2022). Malevolent intentions and secret coordination. Dissecting cognitive processes in conspiracy beliefs via diffusion modeling. *Journal of Experimental Psychology, 103,* 104383. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jesp.2022.104383

This study investigates how individuals' conspiracy mentalities can affect their interpretation of mundane and societal events across four experiments. Results showed that conspiracy mentality is positively associated with the likelihood of perceiving secrecy and negative intent in societal and mundane events.

Greene, C. M., de Saint Laurent, C., Hegarty, K. & Murphy, G. (2022). False memories for true and false vaccination information form in line with pre-existing vaccine opinions. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 36*(6), 1200-1208. https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.4002

Researchers investigate the role of false memories stemming from misinformation in vaccine-related contexts. After exposing participants to either pro- or anti- vaccine news results showed that news items were more often remembered when in alignment with the individuals' prior vaccine-related beliefs, and a stronger effect existed for pro-vaccine information.

Huete-Pérez, D., Morales-Vives, F., Gavilán, J. M., Boada, R. & Haro, J. (2022). Popular epistemically unwarranted beliefs (PEUBI): A psychometric instrument for assessing paranormal, pseudoscientific, and conspiracy beliefs. *Applied Cognitive Psychology, 36*(6), 1260-1276. https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.4010

Researchers sought to develop a scale measuring epistemically unwarranted beliefs (EUB) in Spain. Using exploratory factor analyses, researchers created a 36-item inventory measuring superstitions, occultism, and pseudoscience.

Leshin, R. A., Yudkin, D. A., Rhodes, M., Kunkel, L. & Rhodes, M. (2022). Parents' political ideology predicts how their children punish. *Psychological Science, 33*(11), 1894-1908.* https://doi.org/10.1177/09567976221117154*

Prior research indicates that children are willing to punish others for violations that do not directly affect them but in a way that costs them. In this experiment, researchers investigate whether the form of punishment chosen by children is dependent on their parents' political ideology. Conservatism in parents was associated with children's punishment of out-group members, and liberalism with the punishment of in-group members.

Sternisko, A., Delouvée, S. & van Bavel, J. J. (2022). Clarifying the relationship between randomness dismissal and conspiracist ideation: A preregistered replication and meta-analysis. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 102,* 104357. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jesp.2022.104357

Researchers sought to elucidate the connection between dismissal of randomness as a cause for events and conspiracist ideation. By replicating a study and conducting a meta-analysis of relevant literature, they found a small but positive relationship between randomness dismissal and conspiracist ideation.