

Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scales

Gisli Gudjonsson developed the GSS in order to measure, subtly yet objectively, the construct of interrogative suggestibility. Interrogative suggestibility is the extent to which an individual comes to accept messages or information communicated during formal questioning, essentially coming to believe the information presented as true. As measured by the Yield and Shift scores, information is obtained about the degree to which an individual yields to leading or misleading questions and gives in to negative feedback or pressure.

In addition to use for research, the GSS was developed for clinical use, such as assessing the psychological vulnerability of a defendant or witness to yielding to leading questions and to shifting from one response, right or wrong, to a different response, under pressure. This use has applications in providing data to the court regarding an individual's susceptibility to providing false information during police questioning, which is highly relevant when the trier of fact is assessing the validity of a confession or witness statements. The measure also has applications when a court is determining the voluntariness of a confession or Miranda rights waiver.

Mental Measurements Yearbook Review of the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scales

DESCRIPTION. The Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale (GSS1) and its parallel form (GSS2) were designed to provide professionals with a concise and self-contained test of interrogative suggestibility and verbal recall for use in research, forensic, and clinical applications. Although originally developed for use in forensic contexts, the GSS scales may be valuable tools in any interview setting. Interrogative suggestibility is defined in the GSS manual with a quote from an earlier article as: "the extent to which, within a closed social interaction, people come to accept messages communicated during formal questioning" (Gudjonsson & Clark, 1986, p. 84). Research using early measures of the GSS (Gudjonsson, 1984) has identified two critical components of suggestibility: Yield (tendency to give in to leading questions) and Shift (tendency to shift responses due to interpersonal pressure), and the GSS1 and GSS2 have been designed to measure both components. In addition to interrogative suggestibility measures, the GSS1 and GSS2 provide objective measures of response distortions and fabrications (the two components associated with confabulation), as well as measures of immediate and delayed verbal recall. To complement the information provided by the GSS1 and GSS2, the Gudjonsson Compliance Scale (GCS), a 20-item, self-report measure of compliance using a true/false format is also provided.

The GSS1 and GSS2 are designed to be presented to the test taker as a test of verbal recall. In each version of the GSS, a brief story is presented. It may be either read by the examiner or presented using the audiotape provided with the test package. Immediate and delayed (usually after 50 minutes) recall is measured verbatim, and 20 questions relating to the story are given. Following negative feedback, the 20 questions are re-administered to score for Yield and Shift measures. The test manual provides comprehensive instructions for scoring suggestibility, recall, and confabulation measures. The GCS can be administered either using the printed test sheet or read to the subject if literacy problems prevent standard administration. Scoring the GCS is done using the provided scoring key. The test author gives specific cautions concerning the use of the GCS for individuals whose IQ falls below 70 or who might have difficulty understanding the test items.

For the purpose of interpretation, normative data are provided for adult, adolescent, and forensic populations. GSS norms are also provided for use with persons suffering from intellectual disabilities. The test author specifically notes that the GSS1, GSS2, and GCS represent only one component in a comprehensive forensic assessment and cannot be used exclusively to make conclusions about witness validity.

DEVELOPMENT. Although the formats of the GSS1 and GSS2 are identical with respect to administration and scoring criteria, the nature of the narrative paragraphs and corresponding interrogative questions differ in specific content with the GSS1 story having a forensic context (a robbery) whereas the GSS2 story has a nonforensic content (a couple saving a boy from an accident). The GSS2 was developed to provide a nonforensic narrative to complement the forensic objectives of the GSS1.

The GCS was originally developed using 28 true/false items selected to measure compliance in an interrogation setting. The original 28 GCS items were administered to a sample of 164 subjects and factor-analyzed to identify 20 items with a high loading on the compliance factor (the manual presents the loadings for the final 20 GCS items). The GCS is presented in two forms: Form D as the standard administration and Form E for use as part of the interview process.

TECHNICAL. Information on the normative samples and the standardization process is provided in the GSS user's manual. Normative data were collected using samples from a variety of different clinical populations from various studies over the years. Information on the sample demographics for the normative and clinical samples are given, and statistics are provided for adults, juvenile offenders, forensic populations, and intellectually disabled offenders. Separate norms for male and female respondents are not provided. Percentile rankings are provided for most of the norms. Analyses of the role of age, forensic status, and clinical diagnosis in test responding are also described.

Interscorer reliability analyses for the GSS1 and GSS2 are provided with coefficients falling in the .95-.99 range for measures of verbal recall and suggestibility with slightly lower results for measures of confabulation (.72-.80 range). Due to the format of the scales, test-retest reliability coefficients are not provided for the GSS1 and GSS2 although "temporal consistency" involving correlations of scores for respondents who had completed both the GSS1 and GSS2 are provided. All correlations are highly significant with correlations for Shift being consistently lower for Yield 1 than Yield 2. Coefficient alpha reliabilities appear to be slightly higher for the GSS2 than the GSS1. Test-retest reliability data for the GCS are provided for a sample of hospitalized forensic patients over a 1- to 3-month time interval (.88 between the two time periods). Standard error of measurement scores for each of the GSS subscales are provided, determined by the relationship between the GSS1 and GSS2 scores when both scales are administered. Given the parallel nature of the GSS measures, the length of time between administrations of both tests has been found to impact on the variability of the scores with longer intervals between test sessions being more appropriate in forensic contexts.

The test manual provides a series of validation studies although the test author also refers readers to the author's comprehensive review of validation studies of the GSS1 and GSS2 (Gudjonsson, 1992).

Factor-analytic studies of the Yield and Shift items of both tests have found strong correspondence to the two-factor model on which the tests were based. Changes in scoring procedures have yielded stronger item loadings and have been incorporated into the current test and norms. Factor analysis of the GCS items has yielded a three-factor model reflecting avoidance of confrontation, eagerness to please, and general compliance.

Suggestibility as measured by the GSS has been linked to a number of cognitive variables in the hypothesized direction for adults, children, and adolescents. The effects of avoidant coping strategies, anxiety, and poor assertiveness have also been found to correlate significantly with Yield and Shift suggestibility scores. Other factors such as sleep deprivation, intellectual

disabilities, mental illness, and the role that they play in susceptibility to leading questions are also discussed.

Research assessing the predictive validity of the GSS1 and GSS2 has identified a strong negative correlation between measures of Shift and Yield and interrogative experience. GSS1 suggestibility measures have also been found to relate to level of accuracy in police interviews. Despite the problematic nature of research into "false confessions," research using the GSS1 has identified a linear relationship differentiating "false confessors," "resisters" (respondents denying their involvement in crimes of which they were accused), and forensic patients. False confessors were also found to score more highly on the GCS than other prisoners in a prison sample.

Although confabulation measures were found to be less reliable than suggestibility measures, validation studies have suggested that personality factors may play a greater role than psychiatric diagnosis. Overall, the studies cited and the validation process meets the psychometric standards for test validation as specified in the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (AERA, APA, & NCME, 1999).

COMMENTARY. The increasing use of psychological testimony to investigate issues of suggestibility in obtaining confessions has resulted in the Gudjonsson scales being used in research and forensic settings in countries around the world as well as becoming the focus of an impressive body of research into interrogative suggestibility and compliance.

There continues to be a need for the collection of normative data in the U.S. and in other countries to counterbalance the predominantly U.K.-based norms compiled to date. As well, further research is required to validate the confabulation measures and to investigate the role of cultural influences in interrogative suggestibility and the applicability of the GSS1 and GSS2 with pre-adolescent populations. Another line of investigation should focus on the vulnerability of the Gudjonsson scales to the effects of malingering given its increasing usage in criminal cases and the possibility of "coaching" designed to provide the appearance of suggestibility.

Despite these concerns, the Gudjonsson scales are well-designed and well-validated and can be viewed as a valuable addition to the clinical tools that forensic psychologists can draw upon.

SUMMARY. The GSS1, GSS2, and GCS are well-developed instruments based on extensive research into suggestibility, compliance, and confabulation. They are designed to provide professionals with concise measures of interrogative suggestibility, verbal recall, and compliance for use in research, forensic, and clinical applications. The parallel format provides needed flexibility to accommodate client needs and to address forensic and nonforensic applications across clinical populations. Guidelines and scoring examples are provided to enable consistent interpretation of test results. The test manual outlines the development and validation of the GSS1, GSS2, and GCS and their use to identify potential problems in witness testimony based on numerous research studies that are cited in the bibliography.

REVIEWER'S REFERENCES

- American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, & National Council on Measurement in Education. (1999). Standards for educational and psychological testing. Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association.
- Gudjonsson, G. H. (1984). A new scale of interrogative suggestibility. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 5(3), 303-314.
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Research on the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scales

Interrogative suggestibility and its relationship with personality, perceptual defensiveness and extraordinary beliefs.

Haraldsson, Erlendur. U Iceland, Reykjavik

Personality and Individual Differences, Vol 6(6), 1985. pp. 765-767.

Abstract:

14 female and 65 male undergraduates completed the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ), the Defense Mechanism Technique, an Icelandic translation of G. H. Gudjonsson's (see record 1985-11147-001) Suggestibility Scale (GSS), and a paranormal belief measure. Suggestibility was found to correlate significantly with the Lie scale of the EPQ, the degree of perceptual defensiveness, and belief in witchcraft, spiritualism, and precognition. The GSS scores were consistent with norms for the British GSS, suggesting that the GSS can be used cross-culturally.

The relationship between interrogative suggestibility and acquiescence: Empirical findings and theoretical implications.

Gudjonsson, Gisli H.. Bethlem Royal Hosp, Beckenham, England

Personality and Individual Differences, Vol 7(2), 1986. pp. 195-199.

Abstract:

Investigated the relationship between interrogative suggestibility, as measured by G. H. Gudjonsson's (see record 1985-11147-001) suggestibility scale (GSS), and acquiescence (i.e., the tendency to agree with questionnaire statements regardless of content). 30 males (mean age 22 yrs) completed the GSS and 2 tests of acquiescence. Acquiescence was found to correlate positively with suggestibility, particularly after negative feedback had been applied during the interrogation. It is suggested that uncertainty and self-concept evaluations are relevant to suggestibility and acquiescence.

One hundred alleged false confession cases: Some normative data.

Gudjonsson, Gisli H.. U London, Inst of Psychiatry, England

British Journal of Clinical Psychology, Vol 29(2), May, 1990. pp. 249-250.

Abstract:

Examined the psychological characteristics of individuals who retract self-incriminating admissions made during police interviewing by comparing 100 alleged false confessors with 104 other forensic referrals on 4 psychological variables. Measures used included the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS) and the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale. The 2 groups differed significantly on tests of intelligence, suggestibility, compliance, and acquiescence. Normative data are provided.

Interrogative suggestibility: Factor analysis of the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale (GSS 2).

Gudjonsson, Gisli H.. U London Inst of Psychiatry, England

Personality and Individual Differences, Vol 13(4), Apr, 1992. pp. 479-481.

Abstract:

Factor analyzed and rotated the 20 'Yield' and 20 'Shift' items on the parallel form (G. H. Gudjonsson; see record 1988-03213-001) of the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale for 100 forensic male patients and 29 normal male adult controls. As in the case of the original scale (Gudjonsson; see record 1985-11147-001), the 'Yield' and 'Shift' items loaded on

separate factors, supporting the view that at least 2 types of interrogative suggestibility exist. The internal consistency for the 'Yield 1,' 'Yield 2,' and 'Shift' subscales were 0.87, 0.90, and 0.79, respectively.

The inter-rater reliability of the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale.

Richardson, Graeme., Smith, Paul

Personality and Individual Differences, Vol 14(1), Jan, 1993. pp. 251-253.

Abstract:

Examined the interrater reliability of the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale(GSS1) of G. H. Gudjonsson (see record 1985-11147-001). Data from 57 young people (aged 10.9–17.6 yrs) exhibiting disturbed and disordered behavior show the interrater reliability of the GSS1 to be very high. Rater difficulties in applying GSS1 scoring criteria are identified.

The inter-rater reliability of the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale (Form 2).

Clare, Isabel C. H., Gudjonsson, Gisli H., Rutter, Susan C., Cross, Philippa

British Journal of Clinical Psychology, Vol 33(3), Sep, 1994. pp. 357-365.

Abstract:

Assessed the interrater reliability of Form 2 of the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale (G. H. Gudjonsson; see record 1988-03213-001). 101 individuals (aged 17–69 yrs) with different levels of intelligence completed Form 2 of the scale to provide data on memory, suggestibility, and confabulation. Three raters scored the data from each S independently. The intra-class correlation coefficients for all memory and suggestibility measures were both very high and highly significant, thus indicating a high level of inter-rater reliability. In contrast, the correlations for confabulation on immediate and delayed recall were much lower. Guidelines are provided to refine scoring of memory and suggestibility and to clarify the definition of confabulation.

The relationship of confabulation to the memory, intelligence, suggestibility and personality of prison inmates.

Gudjonsson, Gisli H., Sigurdsson, Jon F.

Applied Cognitive Psychology, Vol 10(1), Feb, 1996. pp. 85-92.

Abstract:

Explored the relationship of confabulation (CFB) to memory, intelligence, suggestibility, and personality, as measured by the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire and the Gough Socialisation Scale. Ss were 255 Icelandic prison inmates (mean age 30 yrs). CFB was measured from the memory narrative of the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale (GSS). The 2 components of CFB (distortions and fabrications) were scored and analyzed separately. Distortions and fabrications correlated poorly with each other, and CFB scores correlated very poorly with the other psychological variables. The only positive correlations were a positive relationship with GSS shift and a negative relationship with intelligence.

The Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale (GSS): Further data on its reliability, validity, and metacognition correlates.

Merckelbach, Harald., Muris, Peter, Wessel, Ineke, van Koppen, Peter J.

Social Behavior and Personality: An International Journal, Vol 26(2), 1998. pp. 203-210.

Abstract:

Presents 2 studies in which the psychometric properties and validity of the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale (GSS; G. H. Gudjonsson, 1984) were investigated. In study 1, 40 18–26-yr-old undergraduates completed the GSS. Results indicate that the GSS has reasonable internal consistency. Additionally, a modest, but significant test–retest stability was found

for the GSS. In study 2, 53 18–27-yr-old undergraduates saw a slide series and were then confronted with leading questions about the critical (emotional) slide. In addition, they completed the Yield scale of the GSS. A small but significant correlation was found between Ss' Yield scores on the GSS and their susceptibility to leading questions about the slide series. Findings suggest that the GSS is a promising instrument for measuring interrogative suggestibility.

Interrogative suggestibility: The role of interviewer behaviour.

Bain, Stella A., Baxter, James S.

Legal and Criminological Psychology, Vol 5(Part 1), Feb, 2000. pp. 123-133.

Abstract:

Assessed the effect of 2 interviewer styles on measures of interrogative suggestibility obtained using the first of the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scales(GSS1). It was hypothesized that a generally abrupt demeanor adopted by the interviewer would produce greater psychological distance, and therefore higher GSS1 scores, than a friendly demeanor. The study had a single factor between participants design. 55 participants (aged 17–74 yrs) were tested on the GSS1 by an interviewer whose behavior was either friendly or abrupt. Two of the GSS1 measures appeared to be biased significantly by interviewer style. Participants tested in the abrupt condition gained higher scores for Shift and Total Suggestibility than those in the friendly condition. These results are consistent with the view that the GSS1 provides measures of 2 different types of suggestibility. However, this finding may also mean that while initial responses to leading questions are mediated by more stable cognitive factors that are relatively unaffected by interviewer demeanor, post-feedback scores may be more sensitive to the social aspects of suggestibility.

Minimizing interrogative suggestibility.

Boon, Julian C. W., Baxter, James S.

Legal and Criminological Psychology, Vol 5(Part2), Sep, 2000. pp. 273-284.

Abstract:

Use of warnings about the possible presence of misinformation in questions put to witnesses can reduce the extent to which such misinformation is incorporated in witnesses' recall. Previous studies of this phenomenon, known as 'interrogative suggestibility', have not, however, attempted to establish the degree to which it can be reduced in this way. The present study used the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale 2 (GSS-2) in an attempt to make this relative judgment, based on population norms established for the scale. 60 undergraduates (aged 18–33 yrs) were allocated to 1 of 3 groups: (1) a Warned Group underwent the GSS-2 without negative feedback but also with a warning concerning the possible presence of misinformation in questions; (2) a Neutral Group underwent a variant of the GSS-2 in which negative feedback was not administered; and (3) a Standard Group underwent the normal GSS-2 procedure. The hypothesized pattern of results—that the provision of a warning would enhance the ability of participants to resist misinformation without completely eliminating its acceptance—was confirmed.

Possible false confession in a military court-martial: A case study.

Talmdage, Stephen A.. US Navy, Medical Service Corps, Twentynine Palms, CA, US

Military Psychology, Vol 13(4), 2001. pp. 235-241.

Abstract:

Presents a case study wherein a psychologist analyzes a defendant and his legal case. The evaluation in this case study included a clinical interview and an administration and interpretation of the Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory-III test, the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 test, the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale and

Compliance Scale, and the Self-Monitoring Scale. Results of the defendant's interrogation and his psychological testing profiles are presented, which suggest a situation that was not extremely coercive but in which a cooperative defendant may have confessed because of tacit pressure. In the end the accused was acquitted. Audiotaping or videotaping and more research on this subject are recommended.

Faking interrogative suggestibility: The truth machine.

Baxter, James S., Bain, Stella A.

Legal and Criminological Psychology, Vol 7(2), Sep, 2002. pp. 219-225.

Abstract:

Investigated possible indicators of malingering or 'faking bad' on the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scales (GSS). It was hypothesized that participants (Ss) who were issued with a set of instructions that primed them to appear gullible and susceptible to pressure would exhibit a unique pattern of scores on the scales that would differentiate them from both normal adults and genuinely vulnerable populations. The study had a single factor between participants design. Ss were tested in either one of two conditions: standard or faking. 42 Ss (aged 18-57 yrs) took part in the study. Ss were a mix of undergraduates, postgraduate students, and professionals. Only Yield 1 scores were found to be significantly different between the two conditions. Ss in the faking condition gained higher scores on this measure on both the GSS 1 and GSS 2. Results indicate that whilst fakers may identify the need to yield to leading questions as a strategy for faking interrogative suggestibility, they do not identify the need to make shifts in their responses. An elevated Yield 1 score in the absence of any other raised scores on the scales may therefore be indicative of faking bad on the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scales.

Suggestibility and confessions.

Trowbridge, Brett C.

American Journal of Forensic Psychology, Vol 21(1), 2003. pp. 5-23.

Abstract:

False confessions do occur and can cause people to be wrongfully convicted; various types of false confessions are discussed. Research shows trickery by interrogators can lead to large numbers of false confessions even among high-functioning subjects. The Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scales (GSS) are used to determine how suggestible subjects are in response to leading questions and/or negative feedback. Research with the GSS shows that adolescents, those with low IQs and those who are acquiescent or anxious are especially suggestible. Suggestions are made as to how to evaluate defendants who have retracted confessions, and are now claiming they made false confessions.

Interrogative suggestibility: interactions between interviewees' self-esteem and interviewer style.

Baxter, James S., Bain, Stella A.

Personality and Individual Differences, Vol 35(6), Oct, 2003. pp. 1285-1292.

Abstract:

Levels of self-esteem may interact with influences on interrogative suggestibility identified by Baxter and Boon (2000) and Bain and Baxter (2000). The aim of the present study was to assess the impact of variations in interviewer manner on scores obtained on the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scales GSS 1 (Gudjonsson, 1984) from participants with high and low levels of self-esteem. The study had a two-factor between-participants design. Equal numbers of participants with high and low self-esteem were tested on the GSS 1 by an interviewer whose behaviour was either 'Abrupt' or 'Friendly'. Results showed a main

effect for self-esteem with high levels being associated with reduced suggestibility and low levels associated with increased esteem suggestibility. No significant main effect was found for condition: overall responses were not significantly different between Friendly and Abrupt conditions. However, a significant interaction was observed. High self-esteem participants demonstrated reduced suggestibility from Friendly to Abrupt condition, whereas low self-esteem participants' scores increased from Friendly to Abrupt.

Minimizing extraneous, interviewer-based interrogative suggestibility.

Boon, Julian C. W., Baxter, James S.

Legal and Criminological Psychology, Vol 9(2), Sep, 2004. pp. 229-238.

Abstract:

Objectives: Previous work has established that interviewer demeanour can distort interviewee performance on the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scales (GSS). The present study assesses the effect of reducing interpersonal interaction in the GSS procedure. Interviewees' interrogative suggestibility (IS) scores obtained under four conditions were compared with established norms for the scales to identify the method most likely to reduce the effects of interpersonal factors when using the scales. Method: Participants were allocated at random to one of four conditions: (1) standard procedure but with questions in writing (Written Questions), (2) condition 1 procedure plus written answer (Written Questions: Written Answers), (3) condition 1 procedure but with written negative feedback (Written Questions: Written Feedback), and finally (4) condition 2 procedure but with written negative feedback (Written Questions: Written Answers: Written Feedback). Results: A key finding was that the procedure used in condition 4, in which verbal contact between interviewer and interviewee was least, produced GSS scores most closely approximating established norms for the GSS. GSS scores were higher in the other groups, although the differences between the GSS scores of conditions 4 and 2 were not significant. Conclusion: The findings suggest ways in which the effects of interviewer demeanour on IS may be reduced. The potential usefulness of adopting new procedures for administering the GSSs is discussed, as is the potential for developing a computerized format for the GSSs.

Interacting influences on interrogative suggestibility.

Bain, Stella A., Baxter, James S., Fellowes, Vivienne.

Legal and Criminological Psychology, Vol 9(2), Sep, 2004. pp. 239-252.

Abstract:

Purpose: Research using the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scales (GSS) has found interrogative suggestibility (IS) to vary as a function of the overall demeanour of the interviewer, warnings about the presence of misleading information, and the self-esteem of the interviewee, as outlined by Gudjonsson and Clark (1986). The present study attempted to assess how these factors interact. Method: The study had a three-factor between-participants design: interviewer demeanour $\times$ instructional manipulation $\times$ self-esteem. One hundred and twenty undergraduates took part in the study. Results: Participants reporting lower self-esteem scored higher on the GSS 'Shift' measure than participants reporting higher levels of self-esteem. Participants faced with a 'Friendly' interviewer scored lower on the GSS Yield 1 and Total Suggestibility measures than did those participants faced with a more 'Abrupt' interviewer. Participants warned about the presence of misleading information scored lower on Yield 1 and Total Suggestibility. A potentially key finding was that participants who received a warning demonstrated an increased number of Shifts in the Friendly condition compared with those who were not warned. In the Abrupt condition this pattern was reversed. Conclusion: The results

supported studies showing that all three variables tested affect levels of IS but further suggested that optimal interviewer support for interviewees' discrepancy detection may be provided either by a relaxed interviewer manner or by warnings alone, but not by both.

Competence to Confess: A Case of False Confession and a False Friend.

Sullivan, James P.

Forensic neuropsychology casebook. Heilbroner, Robert L., (Ed); pp. 285-304; New York, NY, US: The Guilford Press; 2005. xiv, 370 pp.

Abstract:

This chapter presents the case of a 36-year-old male defendant by the name of 'William Johnson' who had allegedly shot and killed an acquaintance while drinking. He was facing a charge of first-degree murder. Mr. Johnson reportedly had a history that included prenatal insult, special education, numerous head injuries, and chronic alcohol abuse. The defense attorney had concerns about her client's cognitive function, specifically how it may have impacted Mr. Johnson's understanding and appreciation of his Miranda rights. The author reviewed the transcript and audiotape of Johnson's statement to the police. In this tape the author noted that an acquaintance of Johnson from Alcoholic's Anonymous, who also was a member of the police team, entered the interrogation room and attempted to elicit a confession. Additionally, the author conducted collateral interviews with the defendant's mother, wife and daughter. Medical and educational records were reportedly unavailable despite documented requests. The formal assessment consisted of a structured clinical interview and cognitive and neuropsychological assessments. Results of cognitive and neuropsychological testing were consistent with impaired functions in several domains. Results of personality assessment specifically intended to evaluate his likely behavior in an interrogative setting describe Mr. Johnson as a very suggestible and compliant individual, especially with authority figures. The obtained results offered converging evidence, drawn from multiple sources, that Mr. Johnson's ability to offer a knowing and intelligent waiver was likely compromised. Similarly, his will is likely to be more easily overcome than that of the normal person. Additionally, review of the statement, as detailed earlier, raised some very significant issues about Mr. Johnson's ability to withstand interrogative pressure when the 'false friend' appeared on the scene. The judge ruled that Mr. Johnson's statement to the police was inadmissible. When it was all over, the author really felt that his efforts had been useful in helping justice to be served. In many respects, this assessment experience served to further emphasize the importance of several guidelines that the author has adopted over the years, including: the necessity to familiarize oneself with a variety of forensic instruments and an ongoing awareness of the guidelines for forensic psychologists.

False confessions in the lab: Do plausibility and consequences matter?

Horselenberg, Robert, et. al.

Psychology, Crime & Law, Vol 12(1), Jan, 2006. pp. 61-75.

Abstract:

The present paper describes three studies that examined false confessions in the laboratory. Studies 1 (N = 56) and 2 (N = 9) relied on the by now classic computer crash paradigm introduced by Kassin and Kiechel (*Psychological Science*, 7, 125-128, 1996). Study 3 (N = 12) employed a novel paradigm in which undergraduate participants were falsely accused of exam fraud. Our data indicate that false confessions do occur, even when conditions become more ecologically valid. Furthermore, we explored whether individual differences in compliance, suggestibility, fantasy proneness, dissociation, and cognitive failures are

related to false confessions. Of these, only fantasy proneness was associated with false confessions.

Interrogative pressure and responses to minimally leading questions.

Authors:

Baxter, James S., Boon, Julian C. W., Marley, Charles.

Personality and Individual Differences, Vol 40(1), Jan, 2006. pp. 87-98.

Abstract:

A firm rather than a friendly interviewer demeanour may make interviewees more likely to alter their initial responses to questions during requestioning. Conversely, warnings that an interviewer may attempt to be misleading may lower interviewees' trust, heightening their vigilance and accuracy. Participants were tested under one of four conditions: 'Friendly' or 'Firm' interviewer demeanour, with or without warnings to be vigilant under questioning. The Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale 2 (GSS 2) was adapted to include only questions which were not overtly leading, based on each scale's narrative. The standard GSS 'Shift', 'Memory Recall', and Total Confabulation' scores were calculated for each condition. Interviewees were most likely to alter their initial answers to questions when the interviewer adopted a firm demeanour, without a warning to be vigilant. These findings support the predictions of the Gudjonsson and Clark (1986) model of interrogative suggestibility which relate to the effects of interrogative pressure.

Comparison between Japanese online and standard administrations of the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale 2 and effects of post-warning.

Wachi, Taeko, et.al.

Legal and Criminological Psychology, Vol 24(1), Feb, 2019. pp. 71-86.

Abstract:

Purpose: This study aimed to develop the Japanese online version of the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale 2 (GSS2). The effects of post-warning and free recall on suggestibility were also examined. Methods: A total of 442 people aged between 20 and 59 years took the Japanese online version of the GSS2, and their scores were compared with those obtained via administration of the Japanese standard version in a previous study and those of the British normative sample. The influence of post-warning (a technique in which the participant is given an apology for the incorrect negative feedback provided on the first day) and free recall instruction on suggestibility was examined in 10 out of the 20 GSS test questions 2 days after the administration of the online GSS2. Results: There were no differences in Yield2, Shift, and Total suggestibility scored between the Japanese online and standard versions of the GSS2. The difference in Yield1 scores between the two versions was also small. However, there were significant differences between the Japanese online and British versions in all GSS scores other than Total suggestibility. Further, post-warning and free recall effectively avoided an increased number of misled responses to leading questions. Conclusions: The results obtained demonstrate the validity of the Japanese online version of the GSS2. It was also found that certain instructions could be used to prevent further response suggestibility when any misleading questions were provided.