

# APA MAGAZINE

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE POLYGRAPH PROFESSIONAL

MAY • JUN

Vol. 57.3



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**VOTE**

2024

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March 18 – 22  
July 15 – 19

## 2025

January 6 – March 14  
May 5 – July 11  
September 1 – November 7

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December 1 – 5  
(in Lafayette, IN)

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July 14 – 18

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Plethysmograph: How and Why: 8 Hour

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Accredited by APA and recognized by AAPP, what makes the PEAK Credibility Assessment Training Center truly unique is the passion and extensive knowledge by which each course is prepared. Our basic and continuing education courses, led by Director Ben Blalock, are well known for presenting and simplifying challenging real world topics in order to best prepare every student for a career in credibility assessment. PEAK is a subsidiary of Lafayette Instrument Company.

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APA

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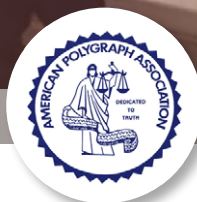
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Anonymous



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### **PCSOT Course** (40 hours)

March 18-22, 2024 : San Bernardino, CA

### **Basic Polygraph Course** (10 weeks)

April 8-June 14, 2024 : San Bernardino, CA

### **PCSOT Course** (40 hours)

June 17-21, 2024 : San Bernardino, CA

### **Basic Polygraph Course** (10 weeks)

July 8-September 13, 2024 : San Bernardino, CA

### **PCSOT Course** (40 hours)

September 16-20, 2024 : San Bernardino, CA

### **Basic Polygraph Course** (10 weeks)

October 7-December 13, 2024 : San Bernardino, CA

### **PCSOT Course** (40 hours)

December 16-20, 2024 : San Bernardino, CA

## About Marston Polygraph Academy

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United States

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Erika Thiel

## DEADLINES

Deadline for July / August  
August issue:  
July 31, 2024

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Advertising and Editorial address is  
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Subscription address is: APA, P.O. Box 8037, Chattanooga, TN 37414- 0037.

The APA Magazine is published six times per year and is available in electronic format only. Address and e-mail changes/updates should be sent to: APA, P.O. Box 8037,  
Chattanooga, TN 37414-0037,  
or manager@apapolygraph.org  
E-mail notification is sent to subscribers when the latest publication is available.

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The APA webmaster is not responsible for issues not received because of improper address information. Submission of polygraph related articles should be sent to: Mark Handler, polygrapheditor@gmail.com

# APA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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#### **Managing Editor**

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## Vitaliy Shapovalov

The Ukrainian Polygraph Collegium magazine received first place in the category “Scientific Journal on Security” in the II All-Ukrainian (national) competition of scientific and educational publications on law, security and European integration “Juridika”. For our journal and the organization itself, this award is an important

recognition from the scientific community of Ukraine. Winning this nomination would not have been possible without your support and permission to translate and publish articles. On behalf of all members of the Ukrainian Polygraph Collegium, I convey our gratitude and appreciation for your support!



The name of the journal:

“Credibility Assessment: scientific research and practice”  
(founder of the NGO “the Ukrainian Polygraph Collegium”).

The nomination: Journal on Security. 1st place.

The ceremony took place at the Odessa State University of Internal Affairs on May 18, 2024 (Science Day in Ukraine)  
Odessa, Ukraine.





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# 58<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SEMINAR/WORKSHOP

AUGUST 25 - AUGUST 30



## NEW ORLEANS, LA

# 2024



## SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

PRE-SEMINAR WORKSHOP  
CLASSROOM A (ESPAÑOL)

20  
24

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**  
**POST-CONVICTION TESTING**  
Don Grubin

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**  
**SCHOOL DIRECTOR'S MEETING**  
LOCATION:  
**NORWICH ROOM**

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**  
**HOW TO HURDLE SUCCESSFULLY**  
Sandy Dunn

**SUNDAY EVENING EVENT**  
**APA WELCOME RECEPTION**  
**6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**  
LOCATION:  
**ST. JAMES BALLROOM**





2024

## MONDAY AUGUST 26

CLASSROOM A (ESPAÑOL)

7:30 AM - 8:00 AM

BREAK SPONSORED BY:

CLASSROOM A (ESPAÑOL)

### OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER  
PRESENTATION OF COLORS  
PIPE & DRUM CORP  
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
INVOCATION  
IN MEMORIAM  
TAPS  
WELCOME TO NEW ORLEANS  
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
SEMINAR PROGRAM CHAIR  
APA AWARDS 2023

Lisa Ribacoff, Seminar Program Chair  
St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office  
New Orleans Police Department  
Det. Steven Fontenot, St. Charles Sheriff's Office  
Donnie Dutton, APA President  
Barry Cushman, EAC Program Manager  
Barry Cushman, EAC Program Manager  
Ray Nelson, APA Director  
Larry Frieman, Chief Deputy Attorney General  
Donnie Dutton, President  
Lisa Ribacoff, Seminar Program Chair  
Erika Thiel, Awards Sub-Committee Chair

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM

BREAK SPONSORED BY:

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE BASED INTERVIEWING: WHY PEOPLE SAY I DON'T KNOW

Wayne Thomas

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

TDA REVIEW AND CLASS SOLUTIONS

Chip Morgan

2:45 PM - 3:00 PM

BREAK SPONSORED BY:

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

HOW TO TESTIFY IN COURT

Gordon Vaughan Esq. Mark Zaid, Esq.







## TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

## 2024

**7:30 AM - 8:00 AM**

**BREAK SPONSORED BY:  
MARYLAND POLYGRAPH ASSOCIATION**

**CLASSROOM A (ESPAÑOL)**

**CLASSROOM B**

**CLASSROOM C**

**8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**PRE-EMPLOYMENT  
CONSIDERATIONS**

Sandy Dunn

**8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT  
TO PRIVATE SECTOR**

Nigel Lange

**8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**WHAT IS SAID WITHOUT  
THINKING?**

Chris Campbell

**9:45 AM - 10:00 AM**

**BREAK SPONSORED BY:  
LAFAYETTE INSTRUMENTS**

**APA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
CLASSROOM A**

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**

**LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)**

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**COUNTERMEASURES**

Pam Shaw  
Mark Handler

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**ADVANCED ESS-M SCORING**

Raymond Nelson

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**WHY INNOCENT PEOPLE FAIL  
EXAMS & WHY GUILTY PEOPLE  
PASS**

Russ Warner  
Don Krapohl

**2:45 PM - 3:00 PM**

**BREAK SPONSORED BY:  
COMPLETE EQUITY MARKETS**

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**TO NODE OR NOT TO NODE  
RLE VS PLE**

Kristine Smith  
Yolanda Romanec

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**PCSOT ROUNDTABLE**

Tom Morgan

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**INFIDELITY TESTING**

Jared Rockwood







## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

## 2024

**7:30 AM - 8:00 AM**

**BREAK SPONSORED BY:  
INDIANA POLYGRAPH ASSOCIATION**

**CLASSROOM A (ESPAÑOL)**

**CLASSROOM B**

**CLASSROOM C**

**8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**PHYSIOLOGY**

Pamela Shaw

**8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**CASE STUDY:  
WHEN THE CASE GOES COLD**

Chad Russell

**8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**ICAC CASE STUDY**

Anthony Santilli

**9:45 AM - 10:00 AM**

**BREAK SPONSORED BY:  
AXCITON**

**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**PRACTICAL POLYGRAPH**

Raymond Nelson

**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**THE PSYCHOLOGY BEHIND  
PROBABLE LIE COMPARISON  
QUESTIONS**

Kathryn Manning

**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**ICAC CASE STUDY**

Anthony Santilli

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**

**LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)**

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**A CONVERSATION AMONGST  
COLLEAGUES ALGORITHMS AND  
SCORING**

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS  
INVESTIGATIONS AND THE USE  
OF POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS**

Chip Morgan

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**PCSOT**

Robert Smith

**2:45 PM - 3:00 PM**

**BREAK SPONSORED BY:  
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLYGRAPH**

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**TEST QUESTION CONSTRUCTION**

Sabino Martinez

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**TEACHING THE TEAM**

Tracy Hoover

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**PCSOT**

Robert Smith





## THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

## 2024

**7:30 AM - 8:00 AM**

**BREAK SPONSORED BY:  
AXCITON**

**CLASSROOM A (ESPAÑOL)**

**CLASSROOM B**

**CLASSROOM C**

**8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**ALGORITHM COMPARISONS**

Raymond Nelson

**8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA  
AND THE IMPACT ON  
PRE-EMPLOYMENT TESTING**

Tracy Hoover

**8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**POLYGRAPH PREPARATION**

Chris Campbell

**9:45 AM - 10:00 AM**

**BREAK SPONSORED BY:  
CONVERUS**

**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**ETHICS AND MORALS**

Kelly Hendricks

**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
TESTING**

Erika Thiel

**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**CASE STUDY:  
PROTECTING NATIONAL  
SECURITY-POLYGRAPH &  
INSIDER THREAT INVESTIGATIONS**

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**

**LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)**

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**A CONVERSATION AMONGST  
COLLEAGUES  
EXAMINER CERTIFICATION**

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**FORENSIC ASSESSMENT  
INTERVIEW**

Nathan Gordon

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**PERSUASIVE INTERVIEWING**

Matthew Jacobs

**2:45 PM - 3:00 PM**

**BREAK SPONSORED BY:  
C3A**





THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

2024

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**  
**ADVOCATING FOR VICTIMS DURING  
THE POLYGRAPH PROCESS**  
Cristianne Smith

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**  
**CASE STUDY:  
TWO AND TWO**  
Ricardo Enriquez

**3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**  
**PERSUASIVE INTERVIEWING**  
Matthew Jacobs

## APA ANNUAL BANQUET & AWARDS

**6:30 PM - 7:00 PM COCKTAILS**

**7:00 PM DINNER**

**LOCATION:**

**GRANT BALLROOM**





## FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

## 2024

**7:30 AM - 8:00 AM**

**BREAK SPONSORED BY:  
DIGITAL SPEC**

.....  
**CLASSROOM A (ESPAÑOL)**  
.....

**8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**SINGLE ISSUE SCREENING TEST (SIST)**

J. Patrick O'Burke  
.....

**9:45 AM - 10:00 PM**

**BREAK - SPONSORED BY:  
CONVERUS**  
.....

**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**THE IMPACT OF DRUGS AND PHARMACOLOGY ON TESTING THE EXAMINEE**

Matthew Jacobs  
.....

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**

**LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)**  
.....

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**CONCEALED INFORMATION TEST**

Jamie McCloughan  
.....

**2:45 PM - 3:00 PM**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Chip Morgan  
**APA President**



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your success story.**

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## **Advanced Training on the Empirical Scoring System – Multinomial (ESS-M) and Algorithms**

*Presented by Raymond Nelson on behalf of the PEAK Credibility  
Assessment Training Center*

### **Dates**

September 23–25, 2024  
Provides 24 CEH

### **Location**

Indiana State Police Post – Indianapolis  
8620 East 21st St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46219

### **Cost**

\$500.00 per attendee

PEAK is conducting a three-day seminar featuring a “deep dive” into understanding the Empirical Scoring System – Multinomial (ESS-M) and other algorithms for polygraph data analysis. This course provides 24 CEH.

The American Polygraph Association (APA) board of directors recently approved a Model Policy for Algorithm Use in Evidentiary Polygraph Examinations. This model policy will affect anyone doing stipulated testing. Experience in this area will likely influence the development of policies and standards in other areas of polygraph field practice.

This three-day training will provide an in-depth (deep dive) into understanding the ESS-M, including both manual and automated versions of the scoring system. It will also include a discussion of other open-source/open-standard algorithms including the Objective Scoring System-3, (OSS-3) Probability Analysis (PA), and Ipsative-Z algorithms.

Attendees will become acquainted with each step of the ESS-M process from feature extraction, numerical transformations, statistical reference models, and decision rules. Participants will leave with a complete understanding of the ESS-M and how they contrast with other scoring algorithms including the OSS-3, Probability Analysis, and the Ipsative-Z methods.

Participants will also learn how decision rules and cutscores are selected and optimized for different scoring methods and will learn to understand how the prior probability (the strength of information before polygraph testing) alpha levels for statistical significance play a role in polygraph outcomes. Practical emphasis will address how to use and report the results from various algorithms with consideration for the APA Position Statement on Validation of Polygraph Techniques, Methods, Technologies, and Hypotheses.

Space is limited, and the class is expected to fill quickly so please register as soon as possible. Registration is available on our website:

<https://peakcatc.com/continuing-education-courses/>

*Raymond Nelson is a polygraph researcher and field examiner. He was involved in the development of both the ESS-M and OSS-3 algorithms and has studied and replicated several computer algorithms for polygraph data analysis.*



# Advanced PCSOT Training

*Presented by Clifford (Chip) Morgan on behalf of the PEAK Credibility Assessment Training Center*

## Dates

November 19–21, 2024  
Provides 24 CEH

## Location

Ada County Sheriff's Office  
7200 Barrister Drive, Boise, Idaho 83704

## Cost

\$500.00 per attendee

PEAK is excited to announce our first west coast Advanced PCSOT training course. This class is designed for examiners who are involved in PCSOT and will focus on field-related issues that can arise. The class will be about 40% lecture format with multimedia support (videos, PowerPoint). The class should be about 15% student discussion based, 15% test data analysis of actual PCSOT charts (with known outcomes) and 30% problem solving using case studies and scenarios.

## Topics

1. An overview of the PCSOT system and various roles within that framework
  - Post Conviction Examinees
  - Therapists
  - Probation/Parole supervision
  - Polygraph
2. Maintenance testing versus Monitoring testing
  - When each is appropriate
  - Diagnostic opinions
  - Understanding how prior probability (base rates) of target can affect the outcome confidence of a polygraph examination result.
3. Screening tests versus Diagnostic tests
  - How screening differs from diagnostic testing
  - Appropriate follow-up testing
4. Testing formats – Overview of various techniques that meet APA criterion.
5. Review of actual PCSOT cases
  - Supplied by the instructor
  - Test Data Analysis with known outcomes
  - Interviewing critique and discussion
  - Discussion of resolution of problems that can arise in PCSOT
6. Case scenarios for class development
  - Scenarios of various types of PCSOT testing and clientele.
  - Students responsible for developing:
    - Interviewing approach
    - Test format decision
    - Test administration and data analysis
    - Report writing
7. Interviewing – Pre and Post Test
8. An overview of recent changes to the APA PCSOT Model Policy.

**This seminar is not an introductory course, nor does it qualify an examiner as having attended an APA approved 40 hour basic PCSOT training course.** Space is limited, and the class is expected to fill quickly so please register as soon as possible. Registration is available on our website:

<https://peakcatc.com/continuing-education-courses/>

*Chip Morgan is the 2023–2024 President-Elect of the APA and a nationally recognized trainer and lecturer. Mr. Morgan has shared his training and expertise with others in government, military, law enforcement and corrections arenas.*

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## AMERICAN POLYGRAPH ASSOCIATION

APA Accredited Programs

As of 05-31-2024

For an up to date list please visit: <https://www.apapolygraph.org>

### ACADEMIA DE POLIGRAFÍA DE LA GUARDIA NACIONAL\*

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**Col. Argentina Poniente**  
**Alcaldía Miguel Hidalgo,**  
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 Phone: **no phone**  
 Email: **stephanny.galbraith@gn.gob.mx**  
 Website: **no website**

### ACADEMIA DE POLIGRAFÍA DE LA SECRETARÍA DE SEGURIDAD CIUDADANA DE LA CIUDAD DE MÉXICO\*

Director: **Julián Flores Anda**  
 Address 1: **Sur de los 100 metros s/n.**  
**Colonia Vallejo**  
**Alcaldía Gustavo A. Madero,**  
**Ciudad de México, C.P. 07870**  
 Country: **México**  
 Phone: **no phone**  
 Email: **gpecinap@ssc.cdmx.gob.mx**  
 Website: **no website**

### ACADEMY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INVESTIGATIVE TRAINING

Director: **Nathan J. Gordon**  
 Address 1: **1704 Locust St - 2nd Fl**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19103**  
 Country: **USA**  
 Phone: **215-732-3349**  
 Email: **truthdoctor@polygraph-training.com**  
 Website: **www.polygraph-training.com/**

### AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF POLYGRAPH

Director: **Johnny "Robbie" Frederick**  
 Address : **277 Hwy 74 North, Suite 312**  
**Peachtree City, GA 30269**  
 Country: **USA**  
 Phone: **770-960-1377**  
 Email: **aiipolygraph@gmail.com**  
 Website: **www.polygraphschoo.com/**

### BEHAVIORAL MEASURES POLYGRAPH TRAINING CENTRE, UK

Director: **Don Krapohl**  
 Address : **Behavioural Measures UK c/o Paul**  
**Connon Suite 24, Arms Everytne**  
**House Quay Road Blyth**  
**Northumberland England NE24 2AS**  
 Country: **United Kingdom**  
 Phone: **803-463-1096**  
 Email: **donkrapohl@C3Acorp.com**  
 Website: **https://www.bmeasures.co.uk/**

### CANADIAN CENTRE FOR CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT\*

Director: **Kristine Smith**  
 Address : **101 Colonel By Dr.**  
**Ottawa, ON K1A 0K2**  
 Country: **Canada**  
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\*Admission is limited to government or law enforcement students only.



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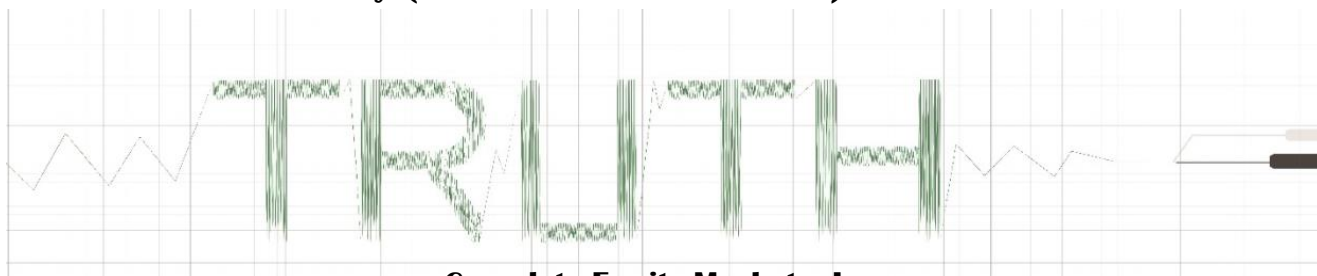


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## President's Message

Donnie W. Dutton

Greetings everyone,

I hope this message finds everyone well and in good health. I would like to remind you that, by the time you read this, we will be less than two months from our annual seminar. I am bringing this to your attention to ensure that you do not overlook the deadline for enrollment and hotel reservations. Lisa Ribacoff has been working really hard to ensure that your training needs will be met along with finding some after-hours entertainment if interested. As many of you are aware, our Sunday night event, which is always a great event, will once again feature a themed event, and this year's theme is pirate-themed, so please come prepared to join the festivities. Lisa has also worked some magic and we have a boat river cruise scheduled for Tuesday night with food and drink which I am sure will be another fun evening. Now we come to the most important aspect of the event, the schedule. Lisa has worked on this throughout the year, resulting in what I consider to be a diverse appeal, catering to various tastes and preferences. One of the topics that I am truly interested in is the panel discussions that are going to happen this is where a significant exchange of ideas occurs to our profession. Have you ever considered the implications of retiring and starting a private practice, we have that, thought about doing some domestic polygraph testing, we have that, wondered about doing preemployment screening, we have that, PCSOT testing, yes, we have that also. A case that was particularly intriguing involved the utilization of a polygraph examination. This case was presented, well, you got that too. For a full list of topics along with times, dates, and classrooms please visit [www.polygraph.org](http://www.polygraph.org) and under the training

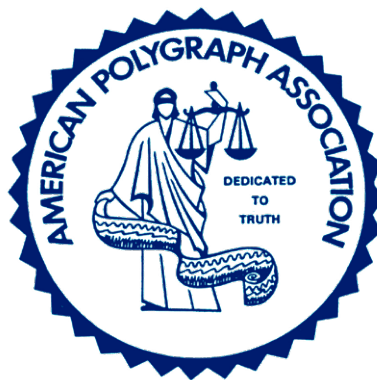


tab click on the APA annual training update and there you can download the tentative schedule and see how this year is going to offer you some great training.

In addition, your board members have also been working on their projects and I ask that you read their reports on their progress. I hope that their initiatives and my assignments are meeting with your expectations and want to encourage you to reach out to them with your thoughts, ideas, and input. We were all elected to serve you.

The awards have started coming in and that is awesome. Unfortunately, by the time you are reading this I suspect they will have closed for the year, so if you didn't nominate someone but wanted to, please put one in now for the next cycle. There are so many people in our organization who are deserving and yet, so few ever get nominated, please nominate.

Finally, this year while your current board is going to be in place again next year it was so sad to see that no one wanted to run for a board position. Our board is made up of volunteers and when new members come on so do new ideas and goals. If you have ever thought about running for a board position, please reach out to me and let's discuss it; we need you to become involved and the best way is to have you on the board. Your board makes some very important decisions that affect the association and new members help shape some of those decisions. Please consider running next year. As for this year, congratulations to all of you for your commitment.





## Board of Directors' Reports

### Chip Morgan President-Elect

The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual APA Seminar and Workshop will be taking place starting Sunday, August 25, 2024 through Friday, August 30, 2024 in New Orleans at the Hilton Riverside. The Hilton Riverside is the Crescent City's premier hotel because of the ideal location along the bank of the Mississippi, and being within walking distance to renowned dining, shopping and unique attractions such as the French Quarter and Harrah's Casino.

Please register for the seminar as soon as possible, along with making hotel reservations. All of that information is available on the APA website and you should do it now before you forget. Every year, we have people that forget to register for the seminar and/or make hotel room reservations and then have to stay at alternative hotels. Don't let that be you – do it now!

The schedule for the New Orleans Seminar has been published on the APA website. I am thrilled with the courses and instructors we have lined up for the seminar. Thanks again to Lisa Ribacoff for spearheading this training conference; she has done a tremendous amount of work setting this up.

We are receiving so many registrations for the seminar that we are surely going

to “sell out” at the hotel, so please, if you plan on attending then register today. Each year we have people that must stay at “overflow” hotels and that works, but it's not as nice as staying at the same venue as the seminar. So, register now and make a hotel reservation!

We have a unique opportunity at this conference to participate in a river cruise. Here is the info from our website:

*On Tuesday night, we will be having an APA Sponsored Event and will be having it on the Creole Queen Riverboat. We will have the river boat to ourselves. It is open to your families and spouses as well, not just to attendees of the conference. This is a great opportunity to take in the sunset views of New Orleans as well as enjoy dinner with friends, both old and new. The pier is located right outside our hotel, so there is no need to travel far to access the riverboat. Tickets are going to be sold at \$55.00 per person and include the riverboat cruise ticket plus a buffet dinner featuring salads, chicken, jambalaya, braised beef brisket, Cajun seafood pasta, assorted vegetables and potatoes, and bread pudding with bourbon sauce. Iced tea, soft drinks, water and coffee are included in the price. There will be three cash bars to purchase alcohol should you choose to do so. We will be boarding the boat from 6:00pm -7:00pm and will return to the hotel at 9:00pm. We look forward to seeing everyone there.*





Remember, if you want to go on the dinner river cruise, you must register for it separately! I don't want anyone to miss the opportunity to go on this fun cruise, so please make sure you sign up for the cruise on the APA website.

The APA elections will be held from June 16 to June 23, 2024. In addition to being our Editor, Mark Handler also coordinates the APA elections with an outside vendor and he reports all is well with the voting system. Many thanks to Mark for taking on this technical task. Please vote when the elections are open.

Speaking of the elections, we have a unique situation that will occur right after the seminar. The office of President-Elect only had one announced candidate, Jamie McCloughan, who is currently Director 3 on the Board of Directors. Jamie is half-way through a 2 year Director's term, so when he accepts office in August for the President-Elect position, it will be up to the Board of Directors to select someone to fulfill the remainder of that term.

I am asking all of you to consider applying for the 1 year Director's term. Please reach out to me, or any of the APA officers, with any questions that you may have about this position. We are actively seeking someone to be appointed for that vacant one-year term. If you ever wanted to gain a foothold" on the Board of Directors, this may be an excellent time!

The qualifications necessary to be appointed for this office are that you are a full member in good standing. Sorry, no Associate or Honorary Members may serve as an APA Director. At the end of the appointed 1 year term, if the new person

wants to continue as a Director, they will have to run for re-election for a normal 2 year term.

Remember, at the seminar in August, all positions on all committees will expire. That means that it will be a great chance to apply to be members of whatever committee is of interest to you. The APA relies on committees and committee members to help us handle the operation of the association. I truly appreciate every committee member who has served in the past and is currently serving on any committee. We could not manage such a vast organization without your help.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you in August in New Orleans,

Chip

**Lisa Ribacoff**  
Seminar Chair

The 58<sup>th</sup> APA Annual Seminar schedule has been finalized and is available to you on the APA website under the Seminar tab. I hope you will find plenty of great topics and presenters to get you excited for the time of learning, networking, and collaboration. The seminar venue is right in the heart of New Orleans, which allows us to learn during the day and explore the culture, food, and entertainment the city has to offer.

The Hilton New Orleans Riverside is located in the Central Business District, just a few blocks away from the French Quarter. The Tanger Riverwalk Outlets are connected to our hotel and overlook the Mississippi Riverfront. Caesar's Casino



is located a block away, and if you have your children or grandchildren coming, the Aquarium is also a brief walk outside the front door. The hotel has seven dining options on-site. The hotel has a state-of-the-art fitness center featuring eight tennis courts, pickleball, squash, Pilates, TRX, spin classes, a full weight room, and even trainers on site for a private or group class. We anticipate reaching full capacity as far as room reservations at the hotel perhaps as early as the end of July, so I would encourage you to book your room early and guarantee your ability to stay on-site and enjoy all the amenities the hotel has to offer. Here is a link to reserve your room for the seminar; <https://book.pass-key.com/event/50711551/owner/107/home>.

As you may have seen on the schedule, we are going to be having two general sessions titled, "A Conversation Amongst Colleagues". One topic will be on algorithms and another will be on examiner certification. We are seeking volunteers to participate in this conversation. Your opinions regarding this conversation are important to hear, whether you are in favor or against. If you are interested in participating in these conversations, please reach out to me so we can provide you squared away with more information about the sessions.

The Sunday Night Reception is always a big hit and this year we will have contests, door prizes, and a photo booth to capture memories from reconnecting with colleagues at the party. We've had themed receptions in the past and it's been great seeing participation from attendees. We've decided to continue this and are happy to announce that this year's theme

is going to be Pirates. The Port of New Orleans was the staging ground in the early 1800's for smuggling and where America's first pirate was from.

On Tuesday night, we will be having an APA Sponsored Event and will be having it on the Creole Queen River Boat, which is located right outside the back entrance of our hotel. We will have the river boat to ourselves. It is open to your families and spouses as well, not just to attendees of the conference. This is a great opportunity to take in the sunset views of New Orleans as well as enjoy dinner with friends both old and new. The pier is located right outside our hotel so there is no need to travel far to access the riverboat. Tickets are going to be sold at \$55.00 per person and include the riverboat cruise ticket plus a buffet dinner. **Registration ends on August 16, 2024.**

You can find the APA registration form, a hotel booking link, a link to book your tickets to our Tuesday night Riverboat Cruise, and a downloadable copy of the seminar schedule below.

I hope to see you in New Orleans in August, but until then, please keep a lookout via email and social media for more information regarding the seminar and feel free to continue to pass along any suggestions, recommendations or insights you may have to help make our seminar continue to be one of the greatest!

Should you have any questions or suggestions for this year's seminar, please email me at [interpointinvestigative@gmail.com](mailto:interpointinvestigative@gmail.com)

All the best,  
Lisa Ribacoff





## Desiree Hurd Director

Greetings to all APA members! Things are starting to get busy in preparation for the upcoming seminar in New Orleans. I encourage members to register for the event and to book rooms to ensure a spot. APA voting is coming up just around the corner in June so make sure you get your votes in!

The EAC has initiated on the job task analysis that the committee has been tasked with under President Dutton. Benjamin Sweeney is spearheading the research project and is getting the volunteers started. I encourage anyone who has an interest or who has done a job task analysis in the past to reach out and we can add you to this dedicated group. If you receive emails or queries from Ben, you can expect it is for this research for the APA.



## Sabino Martinez Director

Greetings to all,

Hoping everyone is making plans to attend our upcoming seminar. The hotel for





New Orleans Seminar is continues to have availability I suggest all of you who plans to attend take the opportunity to register as soon as possible before the rooms are no longer available.

This year, I will be speaking at the seminar, presenting question formulation and my plans are much more than just presenting question formulation issues. I want as many of you as possible to attend my class for many reasons. This presentation will require participation from as many attendees as possible, so that we can all learn from each other, keeping in mind that our goal will be educating each other and the general public.

I know that all of us have been asked to conduct specific issues examination whether from attorneys, supervisors, or the General. It seems that in most cases most individuals have their own ideas about what questions should be asked or how many are necessary to cover issues.

As a speaker and a director, my objective is to gather as much information as possible in order to present to the other board members either a model policy or a guide to have available for informational purposes to all that maybe requesting a test.

It is important to cover all topics and even though some topics can be controversial, there is a need to make the public aware of the best practices in question formulation. Please keep me in mind as you plan to attend the seminar and bring some ideas so we can get started on what I consider a membership project.

Once again, register soon and make arrangements to attend our seminar in New Orleans.

See you soon!

Sabino Martinez

Professional Development Chairman

**Jamie McCloughan**  
Director

I hope everyone is doing well. This year's national seminar is coming soon, and I am looking forward to reconnecting with old acquaintances and meeting new ones. In my report, I will discuss the upcoming seminar.

The seminar is always a great time to network with examiners from the United States and other countries. In any given year, we can have over 30 countries in attendance. This year's location is an iconic city with a lot to see. The food here is both unique and delicious. The APA has put together a great variety of training and events. I would highly recommend attending the Sunday reception and the boat ride. The Sunday night reception is always well-catered, and the food is amazing. The boat ride is exceptional, and the views are great. For those who like a little gambling, there is a Caesar's Casino located across the street from the hotel.

Should you have any questions or suggestions on the topic of this report, or anything else APA or polygraph-related, please feel free to contact me at my email address or call me at 989-745-1912 or [mcclougj@gmail.com](mailto:mcclougj@gmail.com). As always, may those who are fighting for our freedom against threats, both foreign and domestic, be



safe and have Godspeed in their return to their friends and loved ones.

**Tom Morgan**  
Director

As summer approaches and high school and college graduations are now behind us, I hope everyone's jobs, businesses and endeavors have been productive. In addition, I hope each of you can take some well-deserved time off or even take a family vacation.

The board continues to move forward with various projects and preparations for the upcoming conference in August. The various committees have been busy completing their respective tasks while keeping the mission of the APA in mind and moving forward. We still have work to do as we move towards the upcoming seminar in August.

As before, the PCSOT Committee continues our efforts to revise the Operational Policy and build a program that meshes well with the EAC Committee's current standards and guidelines. I am confident that we are making significant progress in aligning the two committee's goals. We are committed to continuously reviewing and revising these policies to serve the polygraph community.

Several course providers have conducted PCSOT courses to date this year. These course providers are committed to providing the best training possible. So, if you need or want to attend one of these classes, don't hesitate to check with the APA or your favorite polygraph school for upcoming dates and information.

I hope each of you will consider joining us at the upcoming seminar. The conference is rapidly approaching, so please reserve your rooms reserved and get registered as soon as possible. This year the conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 25 - 29, 2024. The Seminar Committee is putting the finishing touches on the schedule and classes. I believe they have some fun events and activities in the works. New Orleans should be a fun location with lots to do outside the classroom as well.

I also want to again thank all of the school directors and instructors who joined in the earlier commentary in the PCSOT Google group to help address some important concerns. We want to make sure that we've considered everyone's comments, suggestions, and concerns in making the program stronger and more viable. In addition, this platform has been useful in facilitating communication between some of the course providers and the PCSOT committee.

The board is committed to providing tools, streamlining processes, strengthening policies, and providing quality training to assist examiners in providing better service to their clients. As we continue to work toward these goals, we invite the membership to contribute ideas and suggestions.

I hope you each have a great summer.  
Tom Morgan

**Raymond Nelson**  
Director

Greetings APA members,





I hope this report finds you well. I apologize for its brevity; however, I've been engaged in various writing projects lately.

Spring is here, and that means growth and renewal. The Board remains committed to advancing the professional development of our members and shaping the future of the APA and the polygraph profession. We recognize the importance of evidence-based practices and pledge to continually refine our testing procedures in light of the latest scientific insights.

The Board has been diligently preparing for the conference, alongside other important projects. Last year, the Board approved a standard for polygraph instrumentation – something that was oddly missing from all APA documents and publications. That standard has been approved and is available, but has not yet reached the active/implementation date of September 1, 2024. There are no real or substantive changes expected that there will be no immediate impact on field polygraph instruments or field practices. The standard reflects the operational features and capabilities that polygraph professionals have come to expect, and also ensures that field polygraph instruments will be more future-proof and will remain more suitable for new and ongoing polygraph research. It also ensures that any new polygraph instrumentation will include features to satisfy the needs of polygraph professionals everywhere.

The Research Committee is anticipating work on a project suggested by Don Krapohl. This endeavor aligns with our commitment to staying at the forefront of scientific innovation and best practices. More on that in the future.

Finally, looking forward, it's time now to mark your calendars for the upcoming Annual Conference, set to take place in the vibrant city of New Orleans in August 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to the opportunity to connect and talk about all aspects of polygraphy.

Raymond Nelson

**Pam Shaw**  
Director

Hello fellow members,

I hope that each of you is well and that you are enjoying the start to a wonderful summer season! I'm excited to report that the Standards and Specialized Testing Committee is in the final stages of updating the APA's Model Policy for Domestic Violence Testing. Once it has been completed at the committee level, it will be presented to the APA Board in August for approval and hopeful adoption. Other work continues to be done in conducting a historical review of the APA's Standards of Practice and ensuring accuracy and robustness of our current published standards. Completion of both projects is anticipated before or at the next Board meeting in August. Although the committee doesn't anticipate tackling any additional projects until then, we hope you will reach out if you have any suggestions for improvement or inquiries regarding any of the APA's current Model Policies or Standards.

If you've been keeping up with any of the updates and social media posts, you'll know that plans continue to grow and move forward with the upcoming seminar



in New Orleans. It appears that there will be several great opportunities for all of us to get out and about, to socialize, and network throughout the week. Please remember to register with the APA and book your hotel rooms sooner rather than later so we can adequately plan and make the seminar experience as seamless as possible. It should be an exciting time of training and learning! I look forward to seeing you there.

I wish each of you a terrific summer, and as always, please feel free to reach out if I can ever be of assistance.

All the best to each of you!  
Pam Shaw

**Darryl Starks**  
Director

Greetings to my fellow APA members, credibility assessment professionals and other readers of the APA Magazine around the world. Welcome to summer! I pray this correspondence finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

Our 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Seminar at the Hilton Riverside in New Orleans, LA, to be held August 25<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, is now just months away. If you haven't already done so, please get registered and make your hotel reservations as soon as possible to secure your spot! You really don't want to miss this event. Seminar Chairman Lisa Ribacoff and the seminar planning committee have done an outstanding job in putting together what promises to be a great learning experience. Please make plans to arrive on

Sunday early enough to attend the evening welcome reception, which will feature live music, door prizes and a photobooth to capture those special moments. Please contact the APA National Office if you have any questions about registration.

As mentioned in my previous report, upon recommendation of the Board of Directors, APA members Don Imbordino, Paul Mason, and Gordon Moore will be presented for retired member status at the general membership meeting in August. Retired Members are those who are at least 65 years old, have been APA members for at least 20 years, will receive no more than nominal compensation from polygraph employment in retirement and have attended a minimum of (5) annual seminars. Please make plans to attend the general membership meeting to cast your vote for this well-deserved recognition.

Finally, electronic voting for 2024-2025 Board of Directors positions will be held from June 13<sup>th</sup> to June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Please ensure that your information is up to date with the National Office in order to participate in this year's elections.

See you all in NOLA!  
Onward and upward!

**Erika Thiel**  
Director

Happy summer everyone! 2024 seems to be flying by and our annual seminar will be here before we know it! I hope the social media updates have kept everyone informed. If you are having any issues finding the social media pages, please



do not hesitate to get in touch. However, I would like to write a reminder though that the official form of communication is through email, and the APA website. Please do not use social media as your only outlet of information!

We received an outstanding number of nominations this year for awards, and I could not be more excited about it! Thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate someone you feel is deserving. Once the winners are chosen, they will be notified prior to the conference to ensure they have time to make arrangements to attend. There are several people for several nominations to choose from. If your person is not selected this year, please submit them again next year!

Despite an insane amount of personal

tasks, Terry Hudson and I got through the Domestic Violence Model Policy updates. These will be submitted to Pam Shaw for final review and then hopefully, submitted to the board with a recommendation from Pam's committee to approve. Fingers Crossed!

I hope everyone is taking care of themselves and remembering that self-care for examiners is essential. Make sure you take the time to look after yourself!



# LINEAS OF TRUTH POLYGRAPH ACADEMY.

1ERA ACADEMIA EN MATERIA DE POLIGRAFÍA  
EN TODO EL CARIBE.  
CERTIFICADA NACIONAL E INTERNACIONAL.

DIRECTOR C/F. DIONICIO RAMOS LUGO (MA)



## LINEAS OF TRUTH | LINEAS OF TRUTH POLYGRAPH ACADEMY

Esta edificación fue concebida por **C/F DIONICIO RAMOS** Director en el contexto de poder tener una estructura orientada a la profesión del Psicofisiologista Forense (Poligrafista) en la República Dominicana que cumpliera con todos los estándares de calidad a nivel internacional y nacional., esta edificación fue inaugurada oficialmente el 18 de Junio del 2022 y la misma fue diseñada por la **Arquitecta Chaveli Nolasco de Ramos** del mismo año.

Proporcionamos a los **estudiantes de habla Hispana** una educación profesional de calidad, utilizando tecnología y equipos de última generación con el objetivo de crear un entorno institucional y una sociedad de confianza e integridad.

**DISTRIBUIDOR EXCLUSIVO  
DE LA MARCA STOELTING**



## Calendario de Entrenamiento 2024

### CURSO BÁSICO DE POLIGRAFÍA

30/9/24 duración 12 semanas Santo Domingo DR.

### AVANZADO DE ENTREVISTAS E INTERROGATORIOS PARA POLIGRAFISTAS

21/10/24 duración una semana Santo Domingo DR.

### CURSO AVANZADO PARA DETECTAR CONTRAMEDIDAS

02/12/24 duración una semana Santo Domingo DR.







## CHART SCORING PRACTICE

Kristine Smith<sup>1</sup>

Polygraph examiners play a critical role in assessing the truthfulness of individuals in high-stakes situations such as criminal investigations, pre-employment and security clearance screenings. While we evaluate examinees' suitability for testing as part of our standardized procedures, an important question arises: do we also regularly assess our own fitness for testing?

Examiners experience a wide range of occupational stressors. They operate under intense scrutiny and pressure, making critical judgments with significant consequences. They are often exposed to sensitive topics like crime, abuse, mental health issues, and trauma.

A stressful work environment can cause headaches, stomachaches, sleep disturbances, short tempers, and difficulty concentrating. Chronic stress can result in anxiety, insomnia, high blood pressure, and a weakened immune system. It can also contribute to depression, obesity, and heart disease (American Psychological Association, 2018).

Repeated exposure to such stressors can also lead to burnout, negatively impacting job satisfaction and performance (Bullock, 2021). Burnout can lead to professional impairment, and reductions in attention to detail, empathy, and creative thinking. Self-care strategies should be utilized to avoid burnout. John Norcross, PhD, suggests that self-care should be viewed as a professional imperative

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The author would like to thank Raymond Nelson and Benjamin Blalock for their contribution.



(Abramson, 2021). While the latter article specifically pertains to mental health professionals, we can reasonably infer that chronic stress could have similar effects on polygraph practitioners, making self-care a professional imperative for them as well.

Self-care strategies against burnout include regular mental health check-ins, physical activity, quality sleep, access to employee assistance services, and peer support systems (Abramson, 2021). Research also indicates that organizations promoting awareness and wellness can significantly reduce stress among forensic science professionals (Levin et al., 2021). Therefore, employers play a crucial role in managing occupational stressors too (American Psychological Association, 2023).

In instances where an examiner feels unfit to administer a test, perhaps rescheduling might be an option. Alternatively, another qualified colleague could possibly step in or observe remotely to provide support. While some tests are time-sensitive, others may not be, and it is worth considering these options.

Of course, the optimal approach is to avoid burnout in the first place! The

polygraph profession is both demanding and stressful. Let's look after ourselves and each other.

For this issue, we have selected a DLST using a Lafayette System. The DLST is a mixed issue screening test, with two relevant questions, and two comparison questions. It is one chart examination where two relevant questions are bracketed by the comparison questions. Relevant questions are assessed against the comparison questions immediately to the left and right of the relevant questions. We have included a compressed view of the chart so that scorers can evaluate trends and overall chart quality. The next three images are the chart segments that scorers should use for assigning scores. The school solution for this exercise can be found on page 72.

The APA magazine is published in PDF format. To change the size of the charts you can click on the symbols +/- at the top of the Adobe screen, or at the menu bar click on View -> Zoom -> Zoom To and then choose the level of magnification you prefer. To rotate the charts, click on View -> Rotate View and then choose either clockwise or counterclockwise.



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Figure 1

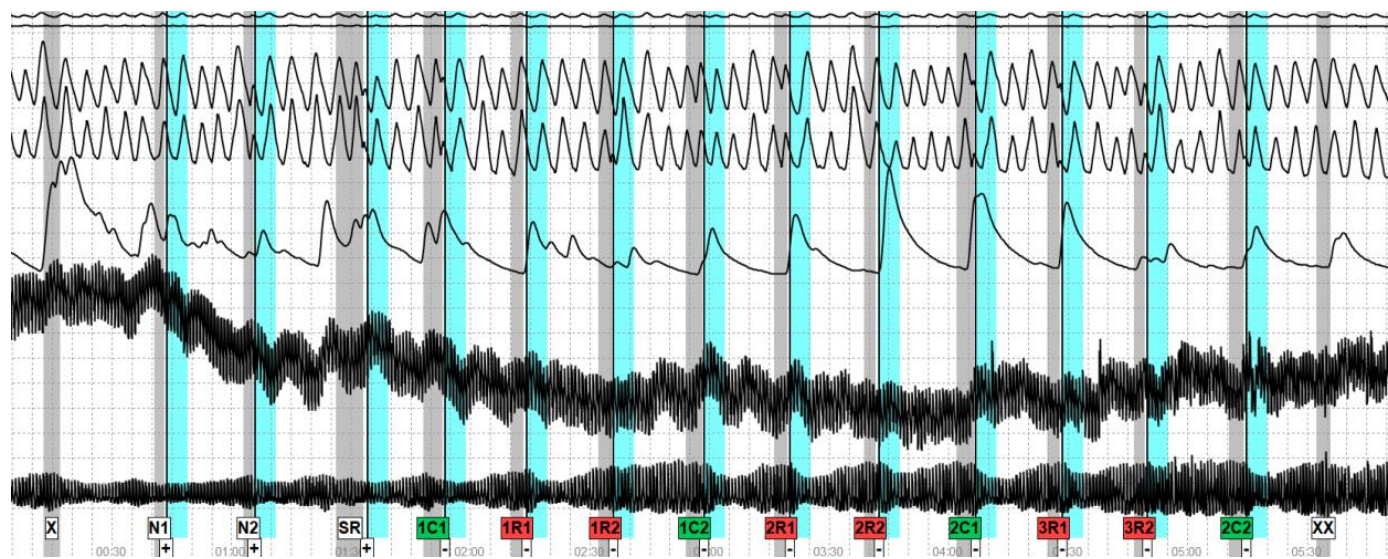


Chart 1

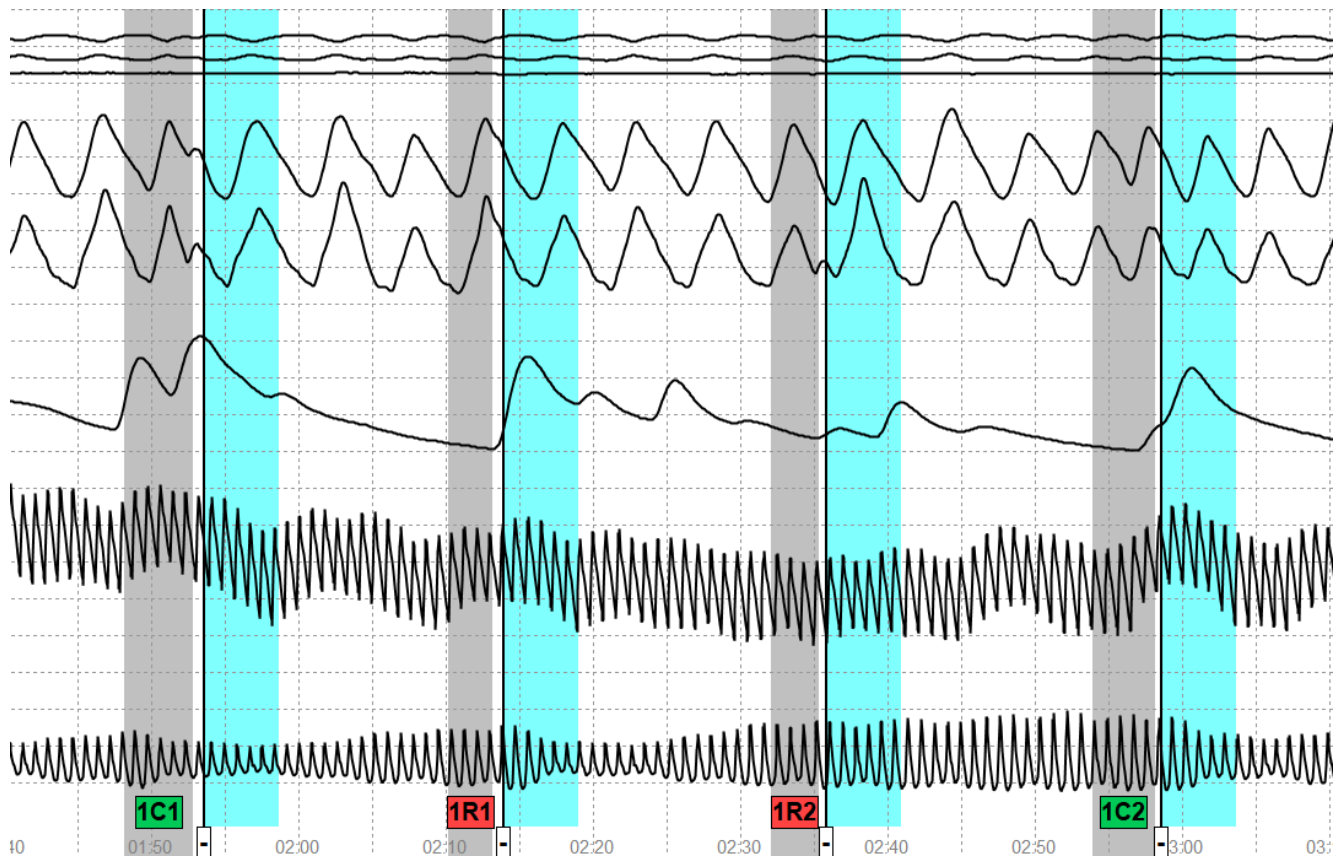


Chart 2

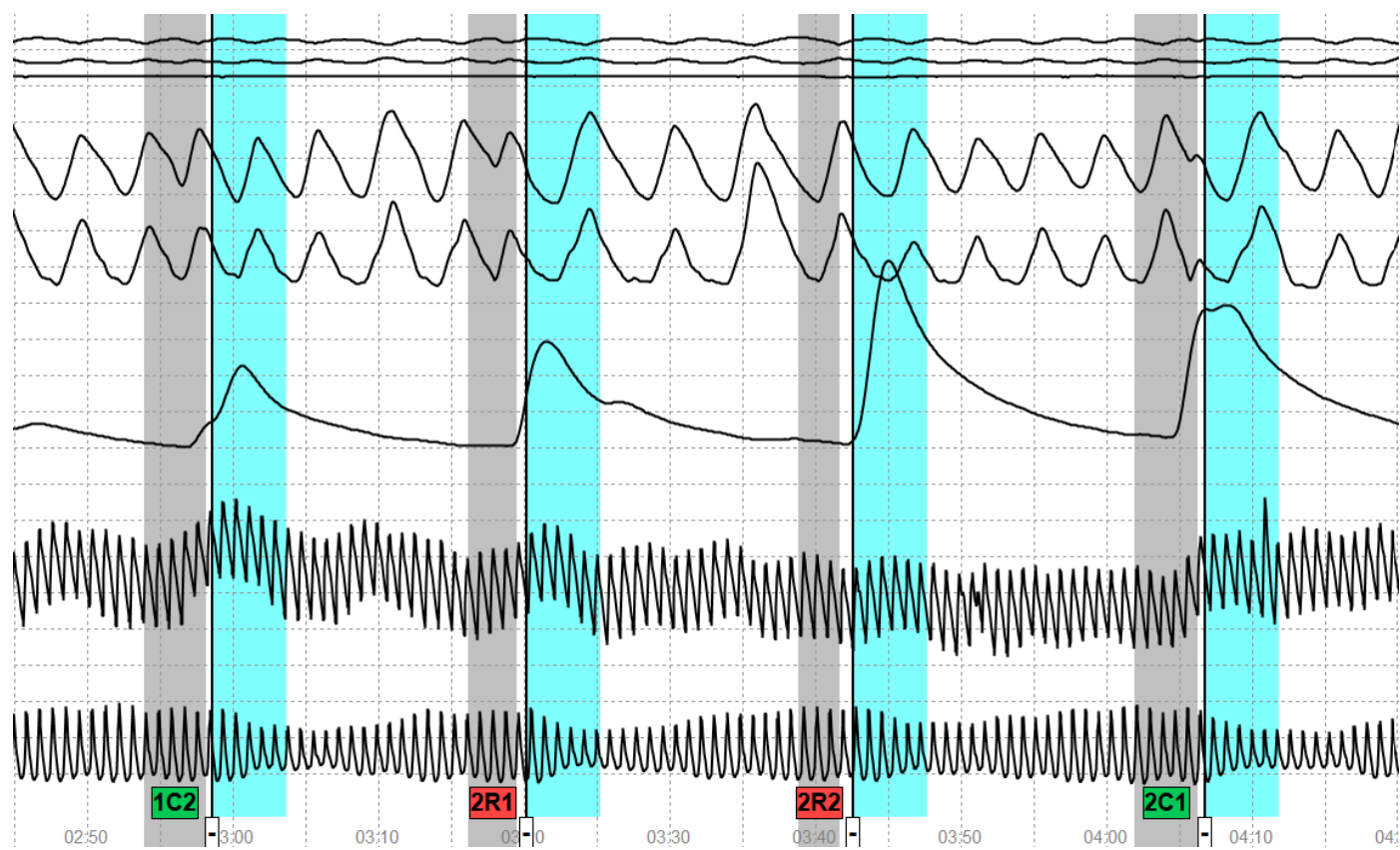
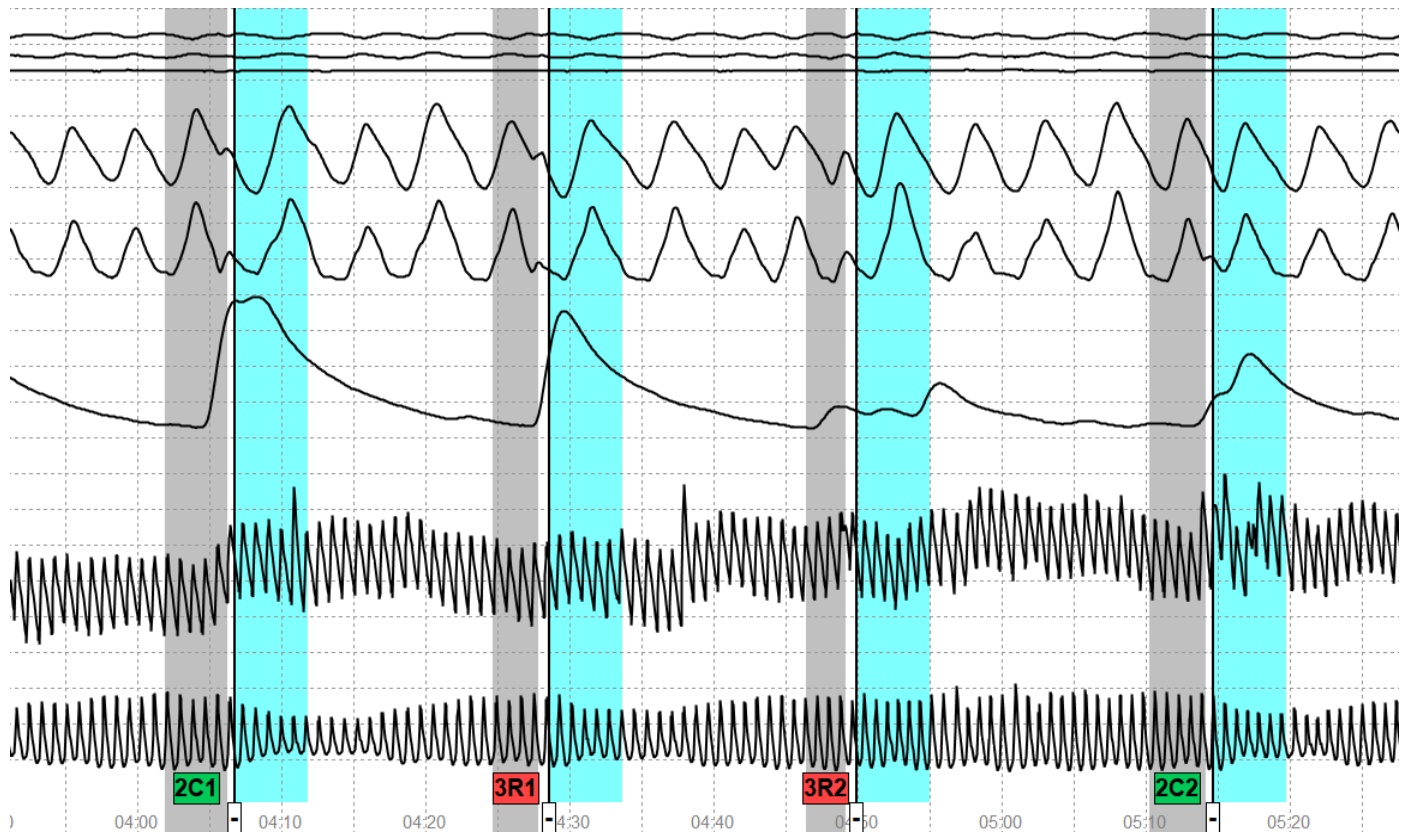




Chart 3





### AN ESSAY: MISATTRIBUTIONS ABOUT POLYGRAPH RESULTS ARE SOMETIMES ROOTED IN MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE TEST

Raymond Nelson<sup>1,2</sup>

*Psychophysiological detection of deception* (PDD) testing, commonly known as the polygraph or lie detection test, is frequently misunderstood by the public, media, individuals undergoing testing, and even by some professionals who refer people for testing. The physiological basis for PDD testing is often oversimplified to describe basic autonomic nervous system functions such as sweating, deep breathing, and rapid heart rate. In reality, sweating is a convenient and intuitive metaphor for a complex physiological phenomenon known as *electrodermal activity*. However, sweating is not, of itself, synonymous with changes electrodermal activity during PDD testing, which is most

often recorded in the absence of observable sweating. Importantly, neither deep breathing nor rapid heart rate are scored criteria during PDD data analysis.

Misunderstandings about the psychological basis for testing can be even more profound. Psychological factors are inherently abstract, referring to personal and internal experiences that may correlate with physiological activity but most often do not have a direct linear relationship with any physical or physiological phenomena. Traditional discussions of the psychophysiological basis for polygraph testing heavily emphasized the role of the fight-or-flight response, suggesting

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<sup>2</sup> The views and opinions expressed in this work are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the APA or LIC.



that differences in responses to different test stimuli might result from the varying threat levels these stimuli pose to an individual's survival and well-being. This perspective can inadvertently suggest that polygraph testing is inherently dangerous (in fact PDD testing is not inherently dangerous).

Concerns about PDD testing are often expressed in overly simplistic terms, commonly focusing on three main issues. Firstly, there is no physiological response or activity uniquely associated with deception – there is no “Pinocchio's nose.” Secondly, there is no linear relationship between any form of physiological activity and deception that would allow for direct physical measurement of deception. Finally, concern is often expressed that PDD testing is not infallible.

These common arguments overlook the realities of scientific testing, beginning with the fact that, no form of physiological activity is uniquely associated with any human behavior or activity. The purpose of many scientific tests, including PDD, is to quantify phenomena that cannot be directly measured or observed with deterministic perfection. Deterministic perfection implies an ideal state where a process or observation occurs without any random variation or error, yielding the exact same results under the same conditions every time. This concept is uncommon in the natural world because most phenomena are influenced by multiple variables and a level of complexity that is often characterized as randomness.

Scientific tests achieve their objectives by using proxy signals correlated with the phenomena of interest, and which can

be combined in statistical and structural models to achieve greater precision than any single index. Scientific tests rely on probabilistic models to interpret data. This means that virtually all scientific test results, including those that are simplified to categorical terms, are expressed in terms of probabilities and statistical likelihoods rather than certainties.

Because scientific tests are inherently statistical and probabilistic, and therefore not infallible, over any significant period or volume of testing, errors and unexpected results are possible. One obvious reason for unexpected test results is that lie-detection based on human intuition – the effectiveness of unassisted, non-instrumental lie-detection – has not been well-supported by scientific studies. This fact has led to long-standing interest in the value of instrumental lie detection, in which subtle correlates of deception can be recorded and analyzed for their numerical and statistical effectiveness at classifying deception and truth-telling. The effectiveness of instrumental classification of deception has truth-telling has been supported as significantly greater than chance by academic, government, and industry scientists. Nevertheless, unexpected and erroneous results may be observed, and when this occurs – when the classification of a person as either deceptive or truthful conflicts with the intuition of the examiner or referring professional, or when a PDD test result is inconsistent with other evidence – people often seek to understand the reason why.

This combination of factors – the occasional occurrence of unexpected test results, the subtlety of physiological responses, the inherently abstract nature of

psychological constructs, and the human impulse to understand and explain – can easily lead to discussions based on misunderstanding and misattribution.

### **Common Misattributions and Questions about PDD Test Results**

The desire to explain testing errors and unexpected results is strong, and these discussions are frequent enough to be systematically categorized and analyzed. For example, since the beginning of the current calendar year, the following inquiries have arisen:

- *A person is facing a potential criminal indictment and arrest has failed a polygraph test. They continue to claim innocence and the attorney has suggested that they failed simply because they were nervous or stressed? Could general anxiety cause an innocent person to fail a polygraph test?*
- *A person has been arrested on charges of selling illegal drugs after being reported to police for theft. They were referred for polygraph testing by an attorney who has asked what happens if a person is specifically nervous about certain test questions? For example, questions about drugs and stealing could induce high levels of nervousness, or stress, potentially leading to physiological increases in blood pressure or electrodermal activity. Would this cause an innocent person to fail?*
- *A person in sex offense specific treatment is referred for polygraph testing, and has failed several previous polygraphs. They are described by the therapist as negativistic, pessimistic, passive-aggressive, and with serious trust issues. Would characterological or personality problems such as these things cause an innocent and truthful person to fail a polygraph test? What would happen if a person, who claims to be truthful, simply does not trust the polygraph test or expresses grave doubts about ever passing? Would they produce reactions that appear to be indicative of deception but are actually due to nervousness about the potential consequences associated with a particular question even if they are innocent and truthful?*
- *Two suspects have been arrested for a recent burglary and murder, and it is known that both suspects committed the burglary, but it is unknown which suspect caused the death of the victim. One suspect, with a lengthy and varied criminal history that includes a prior conviction for violent acts, has denied committing the murder and was referred for polygraph testing by the attorney. The prosecutor and the other suspect's attorney both questioned whether a high level of psychopathy would enable the person to appear truthful and pass a polygraph test while actually lying.*
- *A pre-sentence investigation was conducted on a person convicted of sexual assault. The investigation includes a*





*review of the criminal history, a psychological evaluation, testing sexual arousal/deviancy, a polygraph test, and risk assessment based on both static and dynamic factors. The investigator has suggested that the person is a “pathological liar” who lies so persistently they seem to believe themselves, and might pass a polygraph test while lying. They note that it has been suggested in entertainment and popular media that believing ones’ lies can be a way to beat a polygraph test. What would happen if a person is a pathological liar and believes their lies to be true? Would this enable a person to produce truthful polygraph results while lying?*

- *A person convicted of a sexual offense fails a polygraph question about a restriction from viewing/using pornography. The therapy group speculates whether they failed not because of using pornography but because of fantasizing about it. Is this reasonable?*
- *An experienced polygraph examiner has suggested that one of the reasons for conducting an acquaintance test is to convince the examinee to believe in the polygraph test. However, a particular examinee has had numerous previous polygraph tests over several years, and claims to have observed both false-positive and false-negative results. What if a person simply does not believe in the polygraph test? Would this cause an innocent person*

*to fail when they are telling the truth? Would this enable a person to pass a polygraph test when they are lying?*

These questions illustrate some of the complexities surrounding PDD testing. They often make attributions that delve into areas of misconception about how the test works, which can lead to further issues, including potential administrative and action errors. Some of these inquiries reflect a need for more accurate information about psychology and psychological diagnoses. Correctly understanding some of the nuances and detailed understanding of PDD testing can contribute to more effective use of PDD test results and reduce the occurrence of misguided attributions about unexpected and erroneous PDD results.

### **Nervousness, Stress and Anxiety**

Among the most straightforward things to clarify is that words such as *nervousness*, *stress*, and *anxiety* are not completely synonymous terms, though they may often be used interchangeably in common usage. These terms have been used as metaphors to allude to the psychological basis of reactions to PDD test stimuli. Metaphors are extremely useful because they permit us to begin to understand new and complex or abstract phenomena by borrowing knowledge and experience from more familiar phenomena. A common mistake, when dealing with metaphors, is to take them literally –limiting one’s understanding of a new phenomenon to the details or form of a specific metaphor. The effect is a constrained and limited, and to that extent inaccurate, understanding of the new phenomena. Importantly, PDD testing is not intended





to evaluate, quantify or classify stress, nervousness or anxiety. However, it may be useful to achieve some clarity on the details and nuances of these terms.

**Nervousness and Stress.** *Nervousness* is sometimes thought of as associated with specific temporary and short-term events, and is associated with physical symptoms such as shaking, dry mouth, increased cardiac activity and sweating. Some of these effects do parallel the recorded parameters used in PDD testing, but the PDD data analysis will be focused on brief and momentary changes that occur in response to each stimulus question. In contrast, *stress* is a concept that is associated with external factors involving lifestyle and ongoing situations. Although stress is often thought to be of longer, though still temporary, duration. Both stress and nervous symptoms often subside when circumstances and situations change.

**Anxiety Disorders.** In the clinical mental health context, *anxiety* differs from both stress and nervousness because it is a diagnostic term from DSM-V, with defined criteria for diagnosis. Anxiety symptoms can include restlessness, fatigue, difficulty concentrating, irritability, muscle tension, sleep disturbances, and other problems that disrupt functioning for a duration of time. Whereas nervousness and stress are somewhat normal experiences, which can sometimes improve performance and facilitate adaptation, anxiety disorders, by definition, are disruptive to a person's functioning.

A number of different types of anxiety disorder exist, including *social anxiety*, *phobic anxiety*, and others. Discussions

of anxiety in the context of PDD testing commonly refer to the more common notions of stress or nervousness. When these discussions refer to clinical anxiety, a mental health disorder, it most commonly involves a diagnosis of *Generalized Anxiety Disorder* (GAD). Unlike social anxiety (associated with social contact and activities) and phobic anxiety (associated with particular stimuli), Generalized Anxiety Disorder is not necessarily associated with a single situation or stimuli. Fortunately, today many different treatment options exist for persons diagnosed with anxiety disorders, and the selection of treatment strategies may be as varied as the individuals themselves.

Although the effects of anxiety on PDD testing have not been completely studied, there is no theoretical rationale or compelling evidence to suggest that generalized anxiety will induce reactions differentially to different PDD test stimuli. Instead, it is more likely that the physiological correlates of generalized anxiety will influence the entire array of test stimuli. As with most mental health concerns, the greatest risk may not be for PDD testing error but for inconclusive results.

From a practical perspective, the most important consideration, at the time of PDD testing, may be the severity of an examinee's generalized anxiety along with the effectiveness of the current treatment strategies at reducing and managing the person's symptoms. It may be advisable to postpone PDD testing for persons who have severe mental health problems, prioritizing instead the reduction of their mental health symptoms.



## Nervousness About Particular Topics or Questions

The suggestion that nervousness about particular topics or questions would cause an innocent person to fail a PDD test is premised on misunderstanding. While it is correct that polygraph tests record physiological responses such as electrodermal activity, blood pressure, and respiration, these signals are recorded and interpreted in the context of a structured and standardized procedure designed to differentiate between responses to relevant questions and comparison questions.

**‘Nervousness’ as a metaphor.** Applied to the PDD testing context, and the notion that a person may exhibit specific nervousness about a particular relevant topic or question, becomes potentially problematic because it assumes first that nervousness is a primary driver of reactions to PDD test stimuli. This problem can be somewhat rectified by accepting the notion of nervousness in this usage as a convenient metaphor for the changes in physiological activity of interest during PDD test data analysis. This may or may not be nervousness *per se* but the term ‘nervousness’ can serve as a placeholder to denote the observance of generally greater changes in physiological activity that occur in response to different PDD stimuli.

**PDD Theory.** PDD testing uses different types of questions as a basis for numerical and statistical analysis. *Comparison Questions* (which can be either probable lie comparison questions or directed lie comparison questions) are designed to elicit a response that can be compared

to the physiological responses elicited by *Relevant Questions* (which describe the examinee’s possible involvement in the behavior issue under investigation). The underlying principle is that while nervousness or stress might elevate physiological responses generally, the comparative analysis focuses on the relative difference in responses to these different types of questions. The basic theory of the test is that greater changes in physiological activity are loaded (that is, they occur with greater frequency) at different types of test stimuli as a function of deception or truth-telling in response to relevant target stimuli.

**Behavioral Learning Theory.** The argument is not that general stress or nervousness would disrupt the PDD test, but that specific nervousness, focused on a particular topic or question would do so. This notion of nervousness – in which the physiological signals of interest to the polygraph switched on and off in response to momentary test stimuli, though not due to deception – is best examined in the context of *behavioral learning theory*, which focuses on how people adapt and learn through interaction with their environment. *Learning* itself is defined as a change in behavior/functioning that occurs as a result of experience.

Learning theory is a well-studied area of psychological theory, and includes a number of constructs including associative learning, non-associative learning, reinforcement, modeling, shaping, and other constructs. The theory holds all behaviors are learned from experience (which can include observation, language, and behavioral experience) – with the exception of *reflexes* (innate behaviors that



which seem to exist as a function of the nervous system, and which occur without learning from prior experience). It is not likely that nervous responses to PDD stimuli response exist as reflexes, and it is likely that any such pattern of activity would exist as a learned or conditioned response.

**Behavioral Conditioning.** *Conditioning theory* can be a useful way to begin to understand PDD testing. *Conditioning* is an *associative learning* process in which the nervous system begins to recognize a relationship between a *neutral stimulus* and an *unconditioned stimulus*, resulting in a *conditioned response*. This was famously illustrated by Ivan Pavlov who described his experiments with dogs, in which a bell (a neutral stimulus) was paired with food (an unconditioned stimulus) until the bell alone could elicit salivation (a conditioned response). Through repeated trials, a neutral stimulus can become a conditioned stimulus, capable of eliciting a *conditioned response* on its own.

In the context of PDD testing, each PDD topic or question acts as a conditioned stimulus, based on the notion of single-trial conditioning that can result from behavioral involvement in serious acts of transgression. In this way, the physiological reactions of interest during PDD testing can be thought of as conditioned responses. In this theoretical model, innocent individuals who truthfully deny involvement in the behavioral issue under investigation do not have conditioning experiences, or conditioned responses, associated with the relevant target questions. Consequently, they are expected to exhibit generally smaller physiological

changes in response to relevant questions than to comparison questions.

Conditioning theory does not easily support the explanation or attribution that an innocent person may exhibit specific ‘nervousness’, and generally greater changes in physiological activity, associated with a particular relevant target question. This is because a prior learning process may not exist for the innocent person. However, conditioning theory does not preclude the possibility that responses to PDD test questions can be conditioned by mechanisms other than behavioral involvement in the issue under investigation. For example, a person who was subject to a threatening interrogation prior to testing may develop a conditioned response to a particular topic. Ultimately, it is the role and responsibility of the field polygraph examiner to ensure that each individual is suitable for PDD testing, and to conduct the PDD interview in a manner that establishes a clear and coherent rapport and understanding of the behavioral topic and details of the examination.

**Sensitization and Habituation.** Behavioral learning theory also includes *sensitization theory*. Sensitization refers to an increased response to a stimulus – often as a result of previous or repeated exposure to that stimulus. Unlike associative learning, sensitization does not require the association between different stimuli; it relies solely on the nervous system’s ability to recognize and increase its reaction to a single stimulus. For example, if a person hears a loud and uncomfortable noise repeatedly, they may become more easily startled by the noise over time, even if the noise itself does not change in



intensity. Their nervous system may become more reactive to the stimulus.

Sensitization theory, a *non-associative* learning process, does not easily support the notion that an innocent person may exhibit specific nervousness and generally greater changes in physiological activity associated with a particular relevant target question. However, it is possible that an improper interview approach could contribute to sensitized reactions during PDD testing. For example, an examinee may begin to exhibit sensitized responses if the PDD interview or test is conducted in a threatening, confusing, or abrasive manner. Importantly, reactions stemming from experiences prior to PDD testing would be an example of associative or conditioned learning, not sensitization.

In addition to sensitization, behavioral learning theory also includes the construct of *habituation*, wherein responses to a repeated benign stimulus decrease over time. Habituation can be understood as gradually becoming accustomed to a stimulus, leading the nervous system to stop responding to it. For example, moving to a house with a large traditional clock that chimes hourly might initially be distracting and even keep someone awake at night. However, after repeated exposure to the noise without any negative consequences, most people become less aware of the clock and are no longer distracted or awakened by the chimes.

Habituation theory does not easily support the argument that specific nervousness drives responses to particular PDD questions. However, it does highlight the importance of the PDD interview in

reducing responses that may occur due to novelty or orienting (another theoretical construct) to a new and unfamiliar stimulus. In simple terms, both habituation and sensitization may play a role in the PDD interview. Innocent individuals who intend to be truthful in response to the investigation topic or target issue may become habituated to relevant questions and sensitized to comparison questions. Conversely, guilty individuals who intend to lie may become habituated to the comparison questions.

Sensitization of responses to relevant questions is not an objective of the PDD interview, as it is usually unknown whether an examinee is actually truthful or deceptive. Instead, responses to relevant questions are more accurately understood as a function of associated learning and past behavior. Achieving a correct understanding of the principles and constructs of behavioral psychology helps to clarify the need for a carefully structured PDD interview to ensure accurate interpretation of physiological responses.

Returning briefly to the metaphor of ‘nervousness’ as a basis for reactions to PDD stimuli, field examiners will be wise to remember that that scientific studies have not established a usable correlation between nervousness and deception. Some people may be nervous simply because they are nervous, and some people may be nervous because they are being deceptive. But some of more dangerous and deceptive individuals may present with more confidence than nervousness. The polygraph is not a test of nervousness. It is also worth remembering that nervousness is a normal experience for many people, especially when taking a test.





## Personality Disorders and PDD Testing

*Personality*, in clinical psychology, refers to the characteristic patterns of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that make an individual unique and influence their interactions with the environment and others. Personality disorders are a type of mental health disorder characterized by enduring, inflexible, and maladaptive patterns of behavior, cognition, and inner experience that deviate markedly from cultural and social expectations and which cause significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other areas of functioning. Various personality disorders are described in the DSM-5, but negativistic and passive-aggressive disorders, which were included in previous editions, have been removed from the current array of personality diagnoses.

Among the more commonly recognized personality disorders are the following: *Narcissistic Personality Disorder* (characterized by a grandiose self-image, need for admiration, and lack of empathy), *Histrionic Personality Disorder* (involving excessive attention-seeking behavior and emotionality), *Borderline Personality Disorder* (characterized by instability in relationships, self-image, and emotions, along with intense fear of abandonment and impulsive behaviors), *Antisocial Personality Disorder* (a characteristic disregard for and violation of the rights of others, deceitfulness, impulsivity, and lack of remorse).

While *psychopathy* is not included in the DSM-5, it is used in forensic contexts to describe traits such as superficial charm, high manipulateness, deceitfulness, and versatile criminal behavior, which are

not fully covered by the criteria for antisocial personality disorder.

## Pathological Liars

The notion of a “*pathological liar*” is often misunderstood and misrepresented in popular culture and even among some professionals. While the term is frequently used to describe individuals who lie compulsively or persistently without apparent reason, it lacks a clear scientific definition and is not recognized as a formal diagnosis in the DSM-5. Lying behavior, especially when pervasive and detrimental, is typically a symptom of broader psychological issues. Scientific studies have not substantiated the notion of pathological lying as a standalone condition that explains perplexing deceitfulness.

Lying is most often a goal-directed behavior. For example, individuals with antisocial personality disorder may lie to manipulate others or gain personal advantage, while those with narcissistic personality disorder may lie to maintain a grandiose self-image. In these cases, lying is a behavior rooted in the broader context of the individual's personality structure and psychological needs. In a broader sense, many people lie simply to avoid consequences, shame, or embarrassment.

**Deception does not equate to a loss of contact with reality.** The suggestion that someone can lie so frequently that they start to believe their own lies is not grounded in scientific evidence. Believing one's lies would seem to imply a conscious or semi-conscious process where the liar knows the truth but convinces themselves otherwise, which lacks the clear,





disorienting break from reality seen in psychosis – a serious mental health condition characterized by a loss of contact with reality, leading to symptoms such as hallucinations, delusions, and disorganized thinking. Lying and deception, even when habitual, are often strategic and goal-directed (even where the goal is not readily understood by others) but do not inherently alter a person's grasp on reality. In contrast, psychosis involves profound cognitive disruptions that affect an individual's entire perception of the world and their capacity to function effectively within it.

Despite the distinction between psychosis and pathological lying, the unscientific notion of believing one's lies is still sometimes introduced in discussions of potential PDD test outcomes. The idea that pathological liars can lie so convincingly that they pass polygraph tests is not supported by empirical evidence. PDD testing relies on the recording and measurement of physiological responses such as changes in cardiovascular activity, respiration, electrodermal activity and vasomotor activity, all of which are associated with the autonomic nervous system. The notion that pathological liars can systematically bypass or manipulate these physiological responses is unfounded. Autonomic responses associated with deception are not easily controlled or suppressed, even by individuals who lie frequently.

### Testing Behavior vs. Fantasy

At the center of this concern is the desire to know the truth about an examinee's past behavior. Empirical studies have supported the effectiveness of PDD testing

in detecting deception regarding past behaviors, but they have not addressed the notion of deception related to thoughts, fantasies, or beliefs. PDD testing is not a mind-reading device, nor has it ever been intended as such. It is also not a tool for predicting future behavior.

The key question is whether fantasizing or thinking about a behavior, without actually engaging in it, could produce physiological changes similar to those of a person who is deceptive about actual involvement in that behavior. Unpacking this suggestion requires a discussion of both the underlying psychological and physiological processes, as well as intriguing philosophical and epistemological questions about what types of things can be considered 'true,' and what it means to say that something is 'true' or that a person's statements are 'true.'

**Epistemology and Truth.** For centuries, and indeed millennia, philosophers and scholars have discussed and debated concepts such as reality, knowledge, and truth, among other topics. A number of different philosophical theories of truth have been proposed over time. While many of these theories are interesting and useful, each also exhibits notable shortcomings.

In some philosophical and epistemological discussions, the notion of 'truth' is defined as the correspondence between statements about things or events (physical things and physical events) and the actual physical things or events themselves. According to this view, 'truth' exists when this correspondence is both correct and complete in all detail. In this paradigm, 'truth' does not apply to



amorphous phenomena such as beliefs, opinions, or feelings. Although this definition is appealing for many reasons, it is also challenging because there is always more detail that could be discussed regarding physical things and events, extending even to the molecular or subatomic level. Thus, statements are virtually never actually complete, making the attainment of a 'true' statement elusive and difficult within a correspondence paradigm.

In contrast, another definition of truth more readily regards beliefs and other amorphous phenomena as 'true' or possessing the quality of 'truth.' This perspective is appealing because it honors and validates individual experiences and differences. However, the difficulty with this paradigm is that truth can become a matter of culture, socialization, or personal choice. Different individuals and groups might each hold different 'truths,' which is difficult to reconcile with the practical convenience of the traditional/rational/modern philosophical perspective. This rational view holds that reality exists in only one way (a notion itself subject to some debate) and that our task is to try to understand it.

**Probabilistic and Pragmatic Truth.** Deception, although often simplistically regarded as the mirror opposite or binary alternative of 'truth,' may be easier to define adequately. Deception is the act of deliberately causing someone to believe something is 'true' when one knows it to be factually inconsistent with reality. This may be accomplished non-verbally, but for humans, it often involves verbal statements and interactions.

Field polygraph professionals can be said to employ a pragmatic paradigm of truth, where individuals are classified as truthful when the test data indicate patterns of physiological activity that are consistent with the reference model for truthful classifications, and where the statistical likelihood of deception is sufficiently low. Here, 'pattern' refers not to the curvilinear shape of the tracings but to the distribution of physiological responses to different types of test stimuli. However, this approach does not eliminate the need for a coherent discussion about what types of things can be said to be 'true.'

Classifications of deception and truth-telling in PDD field testing are based on data and reproducible mathematical/statistical analysis. This paradigm for 'truth' seeks concordance and corroboration with other forms of evidence from reality. This pragmatic notion of 'true' is difficult to apply to future events—for which evidence does not yet exist (assuming a rational philosophical paradigm in which the metaphorical arrow of time goes only one way). It is equally difficult to apply to subjective or internal experiences that are not associated with evidence other than individual assertion.

Importantly, a pragmatic notion of 'true' can be applied to verbal responses to PDD test questions about past behavior, for which some extra-polygraphic evidence might ideally be found to corroborate the test result. Psychological theories help explain, albeit very generally, the occurrence of recordable changes in physiological activity during PDD testing. Perhaps most importantly, the already complex notion of 'truth' becomes somewhat more complex when attempting to apply it to



thoughts or fantasies in the absence of behavior. For this reason, standard practice in PDD field testing is to emphasize the use of behaviorally descriptive test questions.

**Behavioral Experience vs Thoughts and Fantasy.** Polygraph studies over the past century have demonstrated the effectiveness of PDD testing methods when the test questions describe the examinee's involvement in past behavior. However, studies have not studied or investigated effect sizes for PDD test questions about thoughts, fantasies, emotions, opinions, motivation, intention or and other subjective experiences. Nor have discussions explored the extent to which engagement in thoughts or fantasies, without actual behavior, may or may not fully mimic the changes in physiology that are characteristic of individuals who have engaged in specific behaviors.

One exception to this is that PDD test questions have been shown to be ineffective and correctly classifying an examinee's intent to answer truthfully to the relevant target questions. PDD field examiners will recognize these questions as the '*sacrifice questions*' used to introduce the relevant topic or target of a test, and will note that these questions are not subject to numerical or statistical analysis are used only absorb an examinees' physiological reaction upon hearing the relevant target issue for the first-time during data acquisition within each recording of the series of PDD test questions.

The argument here is that changes in physiology due to thoughts and fantasies, in the absence of actual behavior, will cause an innocent and truthful person

to convincingly replicate the changes in physiology of a person who is actually deceptive and lying about involvement in a behavior. Theoretical discussions have not explored or described the possible psychological reasons why a person might respond physiologically to thoughts or fantasies about specific behaviors in which they have not actually engaged – though it may be implicit that similar psychological factors are expected for actual vs fantasy involvement in a behavioral concern.

One notable difference between thoughts/fantasy and behavior is that the absence of actual behavioral history will mean that thoughts and fantasies of this type are not associated with specific episodic memories. Thoughts and fantasies without actual behavioral experience will rely more heavily on creative activity vs memory, and this may invoke differences in cortical activity that may or may not induce differences in recorded changes in physiological activity.

Discussion of Directed Lie Comparison (DLC) questions provide only limited insight here because these questions are used with the examinee's endorsement and acknowledgment of some behavioral history – though the details are not elicited. The fact that DLC questions, and other questions, can elicit notable changes in physiological activity suggest an important linkage or mechanism connecting cortical activity and the autonomic nervous system.

It is known that mental imagery can be a useful form of learning and practice in some contexts and may contribute to some changes in physiological activity.



For example, a gymnast might use mental imagery to visualize themselves performing a complex routine. This involves vividly imagining each movement, the feel of the apparatus, and the sequence of actions required to execute the routine flawlessly. By repeatedly visualizing the routine, the gymnast can mentally rehearse the steps and movements, which helps to improve muscle memory and coordination, reduce anxiety, and enhance overall performance. Compared to the PDD testing context, athletic training via mental imagery is paired carefully with actual behavior.

Ultimately, PDD field examiners must conduct the PDD interview in a manner that ensures the examinee understands that the matter of interest to the test involves actual behavior, not merely thinking about it. Although little is known with any reasonable certainty, PDD responses that appear to accurately mimic the loading of changes in physiology that are expected from persons who are actually deceptive to questions about actually engaging in a particular behavior may be more likely to occur when an examinee has previous engaged in that behavior (though somehow outside the scope of the PDD test) and when the thought or fantasy activity occurs during PDD testing.

### **Disbelief in PDD testing**

Many years ago, traditional polygraph training and field practices were based on the assumption that it was necessary to convince each examinee that the polygraph test is infallible. This involved both verbal promotion of the polygraph test and the skill and experience of the polygraph examiner. Additionally, an acquaintance

test (practice test) was conducted apart from the main question sequence addressing the matter under investigation. The practice test served to familiarize the examinee with the recording sensors, instructions, and testing process. It also provided the examiner with an opportunity to adjust the recording gain levels and rectify any sensor problems before commencing the actual test.

It was believed that there was an increased risk of error associated with examinees who were not convinced of the test's infallibility. It was also assumed that the examinee should ideally know nothing about the polygraph test and that the examiner should provide all necessary information about the instrument and testing procedure, including the types of sensors, associated physiology, psychological basis, and accuracy effects. Indeed, many years ago, it was difficult to obtain information about the polygraph.

However, the internet has changed this dynamic, and today, virtually anyone anywhere in the world can access information on PDD testing. While some sources of information are undoubtedly more reliable than others, it is relatively easy to become familiar with reasonable estimates of polygraph accuracy effects, as well as some introductory knowledge of the recording sensors and physiological basis.

Virtually no examinee today will be convinced of the infallibility of the polygraph test. Most are already aware that there is some potential for testing error. And it has been suggested that guilty individuals who intent on lying will only submit to





PDD testing because they are convinced it is not infallible – that they may have a chance to pass the test, or may at least have a chance to question or disregard the accuracy of the test result if they do not pass.

Most importantly, there is no actual known or assumed reduction of PDD accuracy effect sizes as a result of the availability of information about the polygraph test on the internet. And there is no known or assumed reduction of accuracy associated with increased requirements for informed consent, wherein examinees may be entitled to accurate and correct information about how a test will be conducted, how it works, expected accuracy and potential error rates, and how all of these may or may not affect themselves.

If the assumption were correct that belief in the infallibility of PDD testing is necessary to ensure the test's effectiveness, we should expect to observe a large-scale reduction in PDD effectiveness among examiners, agencies, and communities who use the test. However, no such reduction has been described. This is actually not surprising and is to be expected of most scientific tests. Knowledge about how a test works rarely has any substantial detrimental effect on its outcomes. As Niels Bohr famously said, "It works even if you don't believe in it." Although he was humorously referring to the use of a superstitious decoration (an upside-down horseshoe over the doorway of his home), this anecdote underscores the robustness of well-founded scientific methods, including PDD testing, which rely on

empirical evidence and reproducible results rather than belief in their infallibility.

## Conclusion

Empirical studies from independent/academic, government, and industry research groups have consistently demonstrated that PDD testing produces effect sizes significantly greater than chance, validating its effectiveness in detecting deception regarding past behaviors. However, several misconceptions persist, often complicating professional perspectives on its use and interpretation.

A common misunderstanding is that PDD testing measures general stress, nervousness, or anxiety, potentially causing innocent individuals to fail. In reality, these terms are used largely metaphorically to discuss the psychological basis of responses. In practice, the polygraph test differentiates between responses to relevant and comparison questions through structured, standardized procedures. It is the relative difference in physiological responses, not the absolute level of activity or response, that is important to PDD test data analysis.

Another misconception is that strong personality traits or behavioral patterns involving pathological lying can enable individuals to defeat the polygraph. PDD testing relies on physiological responses that are difficult to control or suppress, even by habitual liars. Scientific evidence does not support the notion that frequent lying or specific personality traits can undermine the test's accuracy.

There is also a concern that fantasizing about a behavior could produce





physiological changes similar to those of actual deception. However, PDD tests are designed to detect responses associated with past behaviors, and there is no evidence suggesting that mere thoughts or fantasies, not associated with actual behavior can mimic these responses sufficient to cause an innocent person to fail a polygraph test.

Early polygraph practices emphasized convincing examinees of the test's infallibility, but modern approaches recognize that knowledge about the test does not significantly affect its outcomes. PDD testing relies on empirical evidence and reproducible results, not on the examinee's belief in its infallibility.

Unexpected results can occur, and it is important for professionals of all types to

understand that these outcomes do not necessarily invalidate the test. When test results conflict with other evidence or the intuition of the examiner or referring professional, it is important to consider the broader context and potential sources of error. Professionals must approach these situations with a clear understanding of the statistical nature of PDD testing and be prepared to investigate further, rather than relying on simplistic explanations.

In conclusion, the effectiveness of polygraph testing hinges on a combination of careful administration, proper interpretation of physiological responses, and an informed understanding of its limitations. By addressing misconceptions and managing unexpected results professionally, PDD testing can remain a valuable tool in the detection of deception.





## POLYGRAPH PIECES FROM THE PAST

Donald J. Krapohl  
Donnie W. Dutton

In an early draft of a 1938 article called “The Detection of Deception”, Leonarde Keeler made reference to a story most examiners have heard, the story of the “Sacred Ass”. Indeed, many or most polygraph schools that have existed more than 20 years have probably included the story in their instruction block on polygraph history. The story also appears in a number of publications by non-polygraph writers as well, though the citation trail always leads back to Keeler.

While the various polygraph schools may have their own version of the “Sacred Ass” story, here is what Keeler wrote:

“Another test attributed to the Hindus depended on the superstitious beliefs of the natives. The suspects were told that a sacred ass would bray when a guilty subject grasped its tail. The crafty Hindu investigator had dusted the animal’s tail with lamp-black previous to the test. Because of the belief in the animal’s

supernatural powers the guilty suspect, when sent alone into the chamber with the guilt-detecting ass, passed it by without grasping the tail, whereas the innocent subject grasped the tail according to instructions, thereby covering the palm of his hand with the soot. The guilty subject, therefore, came from the chamber with clean hands.”

Sadly, Mr. Keeler failed to report his source of the story. The present authors have looked extensively for a version that predated Mr. Keeler’s telling of the story, including exhaustive searches through the large collection of books in the NCCA library donated by the Keeler estate. The hope was to determine where Mr. Keeler, who was not known to be an expert in Hindu literature, had encountered the tale. Unless an authenticated source could be located the story would remain apocryphal or possibly have been created by Keeler himself.

Our long search through the massive holdings of Archive.org ultimately led to a short story published in 1901. The story is set in a caravan traveling across a desert on its way to Jerusalem from Bassorah over 100 years ago. Gerald, the story's main protagonist and interpreter in the caravan, is bedeviled by his unrequited love for Ethel, who is also traveling with the group to Jerusalem. The theft and ultimate recovery of Ethel's magical charm reveals the wisdom of a sheik who used his sacred ass to find the culprit. It

also led to a discovery for Gregory, and to find out that piece you will need to read the story. Though the tale was fictional, it gave some credence to an assumption that Keeler's version was not manufactured out of whole cloth. Somewhere there must be a common source for these two telling. The search continues.

So, readers, and especially instructors of polygraph schools, we now offer for your enlightenment, education and enjoyment the following story "The Sheik's Solution".





## THE SHEIK'S SOLUTION

Marie Stuart<sup>1</sup>

The noise and bustle incident to the night encampment of the caravan was dying away. A rod or more from the tents, sinewy camel drivers were berating the tired beasts with tongue and staff before settling them for the night. Weirdly, against the moonlight, the great, ungainly shapes sank and rose and sank again, while their distorted shadows stretched in leaps across the sand.

In front of one of the smaller tents stood Gerald Grant, bidding his mother and cousin goodnight.

"There is nothing I can get for you?" He asked. "Well, good night, then."

Mrs. Grant stooped to enter the tent. Ethel Avery was following her after a careless,

"Good night, Jerry. Call me for the sunrise," but Gerald put out his hand for a more formal leave-taking. He held her hand for a minute, scanning her face as if in search of something, then dropped it with a quiet, "Good night, Ethel. See that you have plenty of bedding. These nights are often chilly in spite of the hot days."

In the little time Gerald had stood there talking with his mother and cousin, an all-pervading quiet had replaced the confusion of the noisy settling. Thirty feet or more from the women's tent, lithe, silent Bedouins were building the night fire. The sheik was watching them at a comfortable distance from the heat. In response to a wave of the sheik's hand, Gerald lounged beside him. This was not the first time Gerald had made the journey

<sup>1</sup> This article first appeared in the March 1901 edition of *Smith College Monthly*, VIII(6), pages 332 – 338. Downloaded on 17 April 2024 at <https://archive.org/details/smith0001smit/page/n5/mode/2up>

from Bassorah to Jerusalem under the guidance of the Sheik Hajj aj Ebu Yousef. Gerald was attracted anew at each meeting by the shrewdness and almost cosmopolitan sageness of the older man, with its foundation of a thoroughly oriental nature.

This time, instead of being alone, or one of a party of men, as heretofore, Gerald was traveling slowly home from Southern India in the company of his mother and her niece. Gerald knew very well why his mother had joined him with Ethel. He had never seriously questioned whether he would fall in with his mother's plans or not. There was time enough for all that in the future, and then - Ethel had such queer ideas. His brows knit as Ethel's latest queer idea came into his mind.

"What worries my friend?" asked the deep voice of the sheik, in his own tongue, which Gerald spoke after a fashion. "Is it the maiden? She is fair, surely. Dost, thou love her?"

"It would make no difference if I did," Gerald blurted out. "I could not tell her of it."

The sheik looked puzzled. Gerald stopped a minute, trying to put his meaning clearly in the unfamiliar language. "She believes no man should ask a woman to marry him until she has given him a sign that he is the chosen one. She would almost put in practice that custom which the maidens of the Ganges have when they go out with their water jars and sprinkle the heads of the men, they would have woo them. It's a pretty custom, truly, but not exactly possible in our country."

"And she has given thee no sign?" asked the old man. "Strange! I thought she loved thee, and I wondered if her love might be returned. Sometimes I have thought thou lovest her, and then again, thou seemest too impatient or too indifferent. Indifference and impatience are far from being love's shadows, my son."

"Impatient? Yes," exclaimed Gerald. "Impatient because I am too American to like her method, but hardly indifferent. Though, perhaps, I am a little loath to settle down, to give up my pleasant journeys with you, my friend."

Silence fell between these two, who, so unlike and so seldom thrown together, had yet become good friends - a silence not voiceless, because these two understood each other. From a circle of Bedouins around the fire came the sound of a monotonous chant, "The Death of Abdullah," recited by an old man in a drowsy sing-song to the sleepy group. On the outskirts of the circle out on the moonlit sand, Bedouin boys, less tired than their elders, played games with their almond-wood wands, tumbling and tripping each other up with the crooks. Now and then an unusually hard fall elicited a shrill cry, quickly smothered. For all was done quietly, subdued by the moonlight and the silence of the desert, as well as by regard for those who might be sleeping.

Into Gerald's drowsy brain drifted the close of the monotonous recitation, "And so saith Duraid, the son of As-Sinniab of Insharn." As the last tones died sleepily away, the deep, quiet voice of the sheik asked of the singer, "Give us now the 'Address to the Beloved.'" The Bedouins settled themselves more comfortably into





the hollows of the sand. Here and there one rose and stretched his tired muscles, wrapped himself in his blanket, and lay down again before the fire. The sheik sat back in the darkness, turned slightly towards Gerald, who lay with his handsome, sunburned face lighted by the flames. The old man waited patiently until the night quiet again prevailed, and then began:

"Of thee did I dream while spears between us were quivering,

And sooth, of our blood full deep had drunken the tawny shafts.

I know not - by Heaven I swear, and here is the word I say!

This pang, is it love-sickness, or wrought by a spell from thee?

If it be a spell, then grant me the grace of thy love-longing.

If other the sickness be, then none is the guilt of thine!"

Through Gerald's heart surged anew the old question - Did he really love her so much that nothing else mattered?

Again, the sheik touched his mood lightly. "And how wouldst thou feel, my son, should the maiden make choice of other than thee?"

"But she couldn't, she mustn't!" exclaimed Gerald, jumping to his feet. The sheik smiled quietly. In a flash Gerald saw his real position.

"My friend," said Gerald, "you have thrown a new light on the situation. I'll wait for

no signs. Tomorrow, - well, tomorrow we'll see. By the way," he added, "tomorrow I shall be twenty-eight years old. Well, good night, my friend."

"Tomorrow, ah, tomorrow!" murmured the sheik, as Gerald went away. "How much his tomorrow holds!"

Already the camel drivers were astir when Gerald started across to Ethel's tent, to call her for the sunrise. The sand which he remembered as vivid red in the fire-light's glow, spreading out to the mysterious silver sea of the moonlit desert, now was commonplace and cold in the faint pink dawn. Ethel hurried to meet him, exclaiming,

"Oh, here you are! I've been waiting for you for some time. Yes, the sky is beautiful, but I haven't any time for that now. Aunt Hattie's and my jewel box has been broken open and I do not know how many things are gone. The gift I had for you today was stolen, I know, because that is what I opened the box to find. It's a little oriental charm I picked up at Bassorah. This must have happened yesterday, for yesterday morning, just before we started, I took the charm out of my purse, showed it to auntie, and then put it away for safe keeping. Auntie is in a terrible state of mind. I left her counting over her belongings for the fourth time, trying to remember whether she had her diamond and pearl pin with her or whether she left it at home."

trying to remember whether she had her diamond and pearl pin with her or whether she left it at home."

"Did anyone see you open your jewel-box?" asked Gerald.

"Several people might have seen the charm, but I do not think anyone saw where I put it, for I went back into the tent to put it away in the box."

"Of course it's some of these thieving Arabs. They are a pretty good lot on the whole; but, like all communities, I suppose they number some rascals among them. I'll speak to the sheik about this."

Ethel watched Gerald walk across to tell the sheik of the broken lock and the missing jewel. The sheik came over with Gerald to where Ethel was standing. Gerald asked Ethel for the box, and then, in response to a request from the sheik, asked for a description of the charm. Ethel hesitated a moment, then gave it rather reluctantly. The sheik watched her blushing face with a peculiar expression. Gerald looked from one to the other in silent amazement. There was apparently between these two the mutual understanding of some point which he, the interpreter, had missed.

"I'll get the box," Ethel broke in rather hastily.

"Who do you think could have taken it?" Gerald asked the sheik.

The sheik sighed. "I know not. My people are ever but children, yet they are not bad. Thou wilt find nothing of any money value stolen, I think."

And so, it proved. Nothing was gone but the oriental charm, which, to Gerald's bewilderment, seemed to have little value.

"What is the sheik going to do?" asked Ethel curiously, as she and Gerald watched

the assembling of the tribe at the sheik's bidding.

"Work on their superstitious natures, I suppose," replied Gerald. "That white ass the sheik always rides is regarded as sacred by the whole tribe. It's one of the famous white asses of Nejd, and the sheik always cares for it with his own hands. I believe the sheik is going to retire into the desert, and by the help of prayers to Allah and the wonderful powers of the ass, he'll come back with a knowledge of the thief."

"What a foolish performance!" exclaimed Ethel. "Do you believe any of this stuff?"

"I believe in the sheik," replied Gerald. "That is the main point."

A sullen silence pervaded the camp during the sheik's three hours' absence in the desert. Fierce black eyes glanced askance at these foreigners who had got one of the tribe into trouble and cast suspicion over the whole number. Impatience had succeeded sullenness long before the sheik returned. Gerald grew worried.

"Thank goodness, there he comes!" exclaimed Gerald. "I began to be afraid that he and his ass had ridden away never to return."

Ungraciously, at the command of the sheik, the Bedouins gathered in a wide circle around the sheik and his ass. In response to a low-toned request from the sheik, Gerald led his mother and cousin into the circle. "We've merely got to go through the formality of doing as the rest do," Gerald explained.



Of the long, impressive speech of the sheik, which followed, Gerald explained to his companions as much as he could understand. "He's working on their belief in the supernatural and putting in a lot of religious precept and instruction." The Bedouins shifted uneasily in their seats and glanced furtively at each other. The deep, even voice of the sheik went on. "Now," explained Gerald, "he has just told them that each one, to save his reputation, must go up and touch the ass's tail. As the ass is a sacred ass, he'll know when the thief touches him, and probably he'll bray or kick. Sort of trial by fire, you see."

The sheik closed his speech and motioned to the old men to try it first. Then silently and sullenly, one by one, the rest came up and touched the ass's tail. The interest grew intense when only a small group remained and as yet the ass had given no sign. A low murmur of surprise went around the circle when the last man had gone up and the ass stood there placidly, having scarcely altered his position.

"What utter nonsense all this is!" exclaimed Ethel, impatiently. "I don't believe in your old sheik at all."

"Stay still a minute longer," begged Gerald. "See, he's not through yet."

The sheik was passing slowly around the circle, stopping before each person, bowing to the ground, and muttering cabalistic words. He made the entire circuit, then turned and went back to one of the younger men. He drew himself to his full

height, and, pointing at the Bedouin with his stick, said in clear tones,

"This is the thief."

The man glanced helplessly around the circle, then fell in a huddled heap at the sheik's feet, talking rapidly and incoherently. In an instant the excitement had spread to the whole circle. Amazement and superstitious fear had seized everyone. The sheik waved them all back, saying, "Let only the strangers remain." The sheik questioned the man long and earnestly; then, dismissing him, he approached Ethel and Gerald. Silently the sheik handed Ethel her charm, which the Bedouin had given up. In response to the eager questioning of both faces, he smiled quietly.

"Thou wouldst like to know how it came about? We will sit here and I will talk slowly, and thou wilt tell the maiden as I tell it to thee. My people are superstitious and sometimes do wrong, but - praise be to Allah - they are not common thieves, as this proves. My white ass - the poor beast grows old now, even as I am old, but always has he been greatly revered and dreaded by my people. Today he and I went into the desert, I to think and pray to Allah, he to bear me company. In the desert grows a very pungent herb, the golden matricaria. Its odor is penetrating and not unpleasant. When I had found this plant, I rubbed it well over the tail of my ass. When, later, I went slowly around the circle of Bedouins, I found only one man whose hands had not that odor about them. That man could only be he who had feared to touch the beast lest the sacred animal object to being handled by the morally unclean. Why did



he take no other jewels when he took the charm? He is not a common thief, I tell you, and the charm has a peculiar character which made it valuable in his eyes. Ah, the maiden has gone! Well, perhaps it is as well. The charm which she unwisely showed thy mother in the sight of several of my people, is one well known among us, but hard to obtain. It brings to the giver the love of him who receives it, like your

sorcerer's love-philter. The wretched man who stole it has a wife he dearly loves who has ceased to love him, and- what! the youth gone, too! Ah, -well, I am but an old man."

From the distance came the sound of Gerald's happy voice calling eagerly, "Ethel! Ethel!"







# THE EGYPTIAN ACADEMY FOR POLYGRAPH SCIENCES

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### THE EGYPTIAN ACADEMY FOR POLYGRAPH SCIENCES

Recently, the use of polygraph has become increasingly prominent across a multitude of realms in the Middle East and Africa, driven by technological advancements and a compelling need for security and credibility. Primarily utilized in security domains to aid investigations and verify statements in different cases, polygraph applications have expanded beyond these boundaries to encompass employment sectors, where applicants for given positions in some Sectors are required to undergo polygraph testing as an assessment prerequisite.

Moreover, the utilization of polygraph devices is extending into educational and personal relationship scopes as well. These devices are perceived as dynamic agents for ensuring truthfulness and transparency; conversely, the primary challenge facing users of lie detection devices is standing to ensure the competence and reliability of those conducting the tests. In this regard, and driven by the

interest of concerned Egyptian authorities in enhancing the proficiency and training levels of polygraph users, the concept of establishing the Egyptian Academy for Polygraph Sciences has emerged. In 2020, we commenced the establishment of a contemporary academy as per the latest scientific standards, utilizing modern teaching methodologies and training aids so that theoretical knowledge culminates with practical application through intensive training programs. This qualifies graduates with precision in operational skills and data analysis.

We have explicit standards, set forth by the American Polygraph Association (APA) which thrives on ensuring the highest standards of professional, ethical, and scientific practices. This is attained by establishing and disseminating professional practice standards encompassing techniques, devices, analyses, research, training, and ongoing education.



The American Polygraph Association serves as the fundamental and key reference for all users of Polygraph worldwide. It is a professional organization established to provide training and the best practice model and to offer professional resources for continuous development in evidence-based ethical lie detection, through the use of polygraph devices.

To establish a new accredited academy, it was imperative that we endure the rigorous accreditation standards set by the EAC, affiliated with the association. Subsequently, we diligently strived to meet these standards with absolute

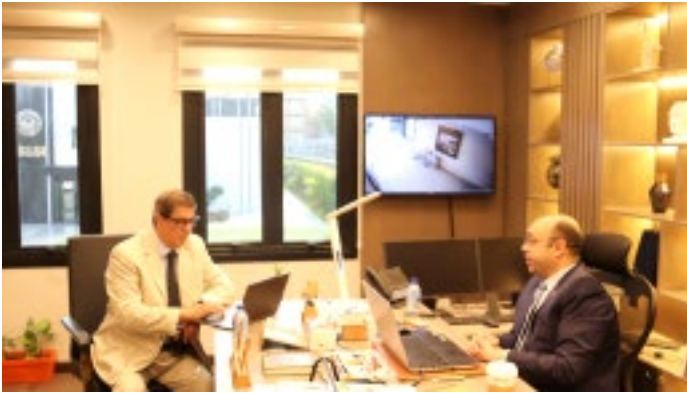
precision, beginning with the well thought-out selection of the academy's location. The Egyptian Academy for Polygraph Sciences is strategically situated in one of the most exquisite districts of Cairo Governorate, surrounded by hotels with a broad range of different standards as well as a wide array of ethnic cuisines catering to African, European, Asian, American, and other culinary tastes, along with clubs and entertainment facilities. This location was selected to facilitate students' commute and living arrangements during their study term at the academy.



The Egyptian Academy for Polygraph Sciences comprises three floors designed to efficiently accommodate adequate room. This has resulted in a range of multipurpose classrooms equipped with the latest educational technologies. These classrooms feature smart boards, advanced sound systems, and display tools that foster an interactive and stimulating

educational environment for students. The educational curricula are highly developed under the supervision of academia's elite with extensive experience in lie detection device usage and forensic investigations, in line with the educational standards set by the EAC affiliated with the American Polygraph Association.





Furthermore, the academy includes especially-fitted laboratories for practical training on how to use Polygraph. This setup guarantees sustainable supervision, monitoring, and guidance for students



throughout their practical training at the academy. The academy utilizes the latest version of polygraph devices (LX6) produced by one of the leading companies in the field, Lafayette.



The Egyptian Academy for Polygraph Sciences also houses a scientific library containing a collection of books and scientific publications in the Art of lie detection, including all publications specific to the American Polygraph Association. All these publications have been converted into digital copies to facilitate students' access to the library's contents from computers or tablet devices.



Moreover, the academy has not overlooked the recreational and leisure needs of students. It has allocated areas featuring playgrounds, fully equipped sports halls with the latest fitness equipment, and sauna rooms to provide maximum relaxation for students.

The Egyptian Academy for Polygraph Sciences represents a significant step towards providing a contemporary

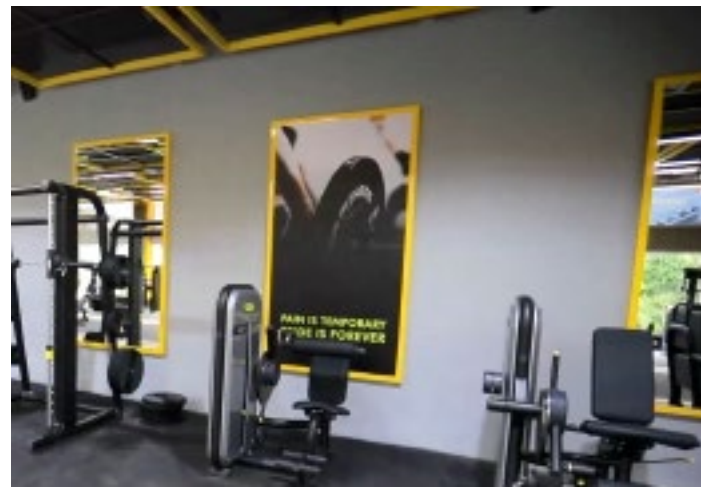




educational environment that meets the needs of lie detection students in the modern era. In February 2022, after successfully meeting all accreditation standards and requirements, the Board of Directors of the American Polygraph Association approved the academy. Since its inception, the Egyptian Academy for Polygraph



Sciences has embodied the principles of precision, science, and integrity under the leadership of its director, who holds two doctorate degrees—one in management and the other in political and security sciences—and is also a key teaching staff member at the academy.



Being the only accredited academy for Polygraph Sciences in the Arab world and Africa by the American Polygraph Association to teach Polygraph sciences in all languages, and through a selected group of top instructors in the field, The Egyptian Academy for Polygraph Sciences has attracted numerous institutions and students from around the world. Since its accreditation in 2022, the Egyptian Academy for Polygraph Sciences has trained a significant number of specialists in the Art of lie detection from the Arab world, Africa, Asia, and Europe, through various basic courses in Polygraph, as well as numerous advanced and refresher courses.

The academy conducted three basic courses annually, in addition to refresher and advanced courses, either at the academy's premises or through faculty member's overseas dispatch. This has had a significant impact on enhancing the educational and training experiences of the faculty members.

The role of the Egyptian Academy for Polygraph Sciences extends beyond qualifying students during courses; it involves ongoing guidance and communication with them even after completing the programs through constant follow-up and supervision. The academy has received wide recognition from institutions and students who have been qualified



through its programs, reflecting the result of diligent and coordinated work. This has led to a significant increase in the demand for courses from professionals in the field from various parts of the world, prompting the academy to adopt a thoroughly devised strategy for course scheduling to ensure quality and accommodate students. Moreover, our academy contributes to the development of the art of lie detection. This contributes to enhancing the accuracy of these devices and their

capacity to distinguish between truth and deception. Additionally, the academy plays a pivotal role in raising awareness of the ethical and legal usage of lie-detection devices, emphasizing the importance of respecting individuals' rights and maintaining confidentiality. Our academy believes that these efforts work towards ensuring the use of such technologies in a fashion that both serves justice and protects human values.







## A COMMENT ON ELECTRODERMAL RECORDING

Anonymous

In the wider world of electrodermal recording the standard sensor for the past 50 years has been the wet electrode.

That is, everywhere in the wider world except among polygraph examiners.

Wet electrodes, sometimes informally called “sticky pads” by examiners, are rarely used in polygraph testing. Most examiners are content with the metal plates that attach to the fingertip. Metal plates work, or at least seem to. In the APA Magazine just past all the images of electrodermal sensors showed them as metal plates. Polygraph schools tend to use only metal plates in their instruction. Metal plates appear to be the norm, and

why shouldn’t they be? Why would anyone want to use the wet electrodes, with their cost and inconvenience?

It might be that this is an area where we have something to learn. Let us consider the recommendations of the Society for Psychophysiological Research (SPR), a group that knows a thing or two about the electrodermal response.

“In general, EDA recording with dry electrodes, that is, without any electrolyte applied, is not recommended. Covering the skin with the electrode metal will result in a slow humidity buildup under the metal plate, and for a long time the electrode will be unstable and drift toward increased

<sup>1</sup> Committee Report: Publication recommendations for electrodermal measurements. *Psychophysiology*, 49 (2012), 1017–1034.

conductance. Also, surface sweating will produce a variable low resistance contact with the metal plate, strongly affecting the measure.”

In other words, the standard metal plates we use all the time can affect the data. That doesn’t sound so good. The full SPR report shows that metal plates are vulnerable to polarization, a problem that can contribute to wayward tracing.

In addition, the amount of surface area shared by the fingertip and the metal plate affects the tracing. More surface, lower resistance. To see how easy it is to affect the amount of surface area, find a piece of clear glass large enough for your fingertip, place it so you can see through the glass at your finger pressed against it, and watch how little changes in pressure affect that surface area. Similarly, have you ever seen the pulse show up in the EDA? Yes, even changes that small show up in the data.

Under APA guidance, last year three of the four polygraph manufacturers agreed to a common standard for electrodermal recording and displaying. The agreed-upon standard closely aligns with those of SPR. That is a pretty smart move on everyone’s part, and those three manufacturers are to be congratulated. However, SPR standards are not based on the use of metal fingerplates for electrodes.

Okay, okay, but the metal plates are not always plagued by these problems. We often get what we think are good tracings. So, what else do the psychophysicologists say about them?

“Skin electrodes can become infected by blood-borne diseases, and if applied to a new experimental participant without proper sterilization, can transmit a disease such as hepatitis C or HIV to that participant if the skin is not intact.”

This doesn’t sound so good for examinees, either. For those who do not sterilize their fingerplates between examinees, it remains possible they unknowingly infected examinees with illnesses. Maybe they have been lucky, though given the long time it takes for hepatitis C or HIV to manifest themselves, we may never know. And that doesn’t even include less scary but more prevalent skin-borne diseases such as nail fungus or poison ivy or who knows how many different kinds of germs.

So, are you ready to join the rest of the world in how it conducts electrodermal recording? We hope so. Just contact your instrument manufacturer for EDA-appropriate disposable adhesive electrodes. Don’t be that examiner who is the last to make the change.





## AFMGQT ≠ THE AFMQT: A THOUGHT PROBLEM

### Anonymous

cleave: (verb). 1. To split apart. 2. To adhere together.

The emphasis the APA has placed on the use of validated techniques over the past dozen years or so has no doubt collectively improved what we do. No longer can enterprising examiners create, advocate, and teach a technique without having to pass the test of independent evidence. That is a good thing. It seems the handful of named techniques that have a scientific foundation meet the needs of examiners and their clients.

There is an interesting wrinkle with the existing techniques, though, a peculiarity that rarely grabs our attention. We speak here of naming conventions, the verbal tag we assign to our methods. We do not have a formal system for naming our techniques. This gap in our procedures is no more evident than with the Directed Lie Screening Test and the Test for Espionage and Sabotage. These are two identical

sets of methods, except for the relevant questions, for which we have given the techniques different names. Or the Law Enforcement Pre-employment Test (LEPET) and the three-question Air Force Modified General Question Technique, methods that differ only in the relevant questions and the insertion of one additional irrelevant question. Why different names? Imagine for a moment if the Burglary ZCT and the Arson ZCT were likewise given different names because the relevant questions were not the same in both techniques. To add to this strangeness, there are other techniques that are clearly different from each other in meaningful ways and have somehow ended up with the same name. More about that in a moment.

First, let us agree that testing and scoring method names are important: They should communicate that the examiner has used a particular assemblage of methods. Examiners know what the Federal ZCT is

and can compare and contrast it with the LEPET or the CIT or You Phase or any of several polygraph techniques. Similarly, when someone mentions Federal 7-position scoring, we all know how it differs from rank order scoring, 3-position scoring, Empirical Scoring or the checkmark system. Names allow us to convey complex things very efficiently.

But what if one name is used to encompass different variations of a technique? Is that a problem? Here we would argue it can be a problem because examiners can come to assume that all variations of the technique have equal validity. The case in point is the Air Force Modified General Question Technique, a name that resulted from a historical accident. We usually abbreviate it as “AFMGQT”. One of the attractive features of the AFMGQT is that it can be used in mixed-issue screening as well as multi-facet criminal testing. It has forms that use two, three, and four relevant questions that can have varying degrees of overlapping coverage among the relevant questions, as is often the case in criminal testing. In screening the two-to-four relevant questions may have little or no overlap in coverage among the relevant questions. What an amazing technique. Tacitly we have accepted that decision accuracy of the AFMGQT is equal for all these variations.

Does that make sense, though? With a little help of minimally painful math, we can actually conduct a thought experiment to provide an initial test to our assumption of equal accuracy. Bear with us, and let’s see where the thought experiment leads.

Suppose we start with the British One-issue Screening Test (BOST). This

technique is identical to the AFMGQT version with two relevant questions, though in the case of the BOST the two relevant questions cover a single behavior and time period. To make the following math easier, let us take it as true that the BOST can deliver 90% decision accuracy, and equal accuracy for detecting deception and truthfulness. This is a tenuous assumption, but a convenience for this thought experiment. As a reminder, the BOST essentially has only one relevant question, one that is rephrased and used as a second relevant question. We will also set aside Inconclusive for the moment to help us avoid more messy calculations.

Now let us next take the AFMGQT with two different relevant questions we might see in a screening examination (e.g., drug use and involvement in serious crimes) and suppose we can be correct 90% of the time with each of those relevant questions. However, because the relevant questions cover different things, the scores from the relevant questions can’t be added together. Each relevant question must stand on its own. If we continue with the assumption of 90% accuracy, what is the likelihood that a truthful examinee will pass both test questions. This is easy to calculate: We simply multiply the individual accuracies. This means 90% times 90%, or 81%. If we have a truthful examinee in the chair, we expect the examinee to pass both relevant questions about 81% of the time. What is the likelihood of detecting deception if it is present at one of the test questions. Still 90%. To get mean accuracy we now average the two:  $(81 + 90)/2 = 85.5\%$ . So, to summarize, when we go from a single relevant question in a method like the BOST to the AFMGQT with two relevant questions that cover





different things in each question, the expected average accuracy of the AFMGQT is about 85.5%. This value is near what we generally think of with the AFMGQT.

How about if we really need to test three non-overlapping things in our AFMGQT? What happens to our expected accuracy for detecting total truthfulness now? Again, the calculation is straightforward: 90% times 90% times 90%, or about 73%. Detection of deceptiveness to one relevant question remains at 90%. If we average these two, we end up with 81.5%, just above the APA's standard of 80% for investigative examinations.

What if we want four non-overlapping relevant questions in the same AFMGQT? The likelihood of detecting truthfulness to all four questions is 65.6%, and the likelihood of detecting a deceptive response is still 90%. The estimated accuracy of our AFMGQT is now 77.8%, or the average of 65.6% and 90%. And for anyone brave enough to use a version with five non-overlapping relevant questions, the math will show the expected mean accuracy drops even further, to just under 75%.

Yet the AFMGQT is generally considered a validated technique with an estimated decision accuracy somewhere in the 80s. Our thought experiment suggests something might be missing from the picture. Sometimes the AFMGQT can deliver accuracies in the 80s and other times it can't. How could we have been so wrong about what the AFMGQT can do?

All the AFMGQT studies in the 2011 APA meta-analytic survey used specific-issue exams, where the relevant questions overlapped one another. Most had only

two or perhaps three relevant questions. Deceptive examinees undergoing specific-incident polygraphs with the AFMGQT are probably untruthful to more than one relevant question, making the detection of deception easier and thereby allowing that half of the equation to be more than 90%. As a result, it would be expected to boost the estimated average accuracy of the AFMGQT. It is a heroic, if untested, assumption to generalize the specific-incident AFMGQT accuracy to the mixed-issue AFMGQT.

What can we take from this thought experiment? One finding is obvious: decision accuracy and the number of independent relevant test questions are inversely related. Or, in less science language, the more topics in our screening test, the more errors we are likely to make. We think most examiners recognize this fact intuitively though the knowledge is imperfectly implemented into practice.

Second, we need to rethink our total reliance on the prevailing estimate for the accuracy of the screening AFMGQT. There are simply too many moving parts to warrant that confidence.

Here is our neatly packaged conclusion:

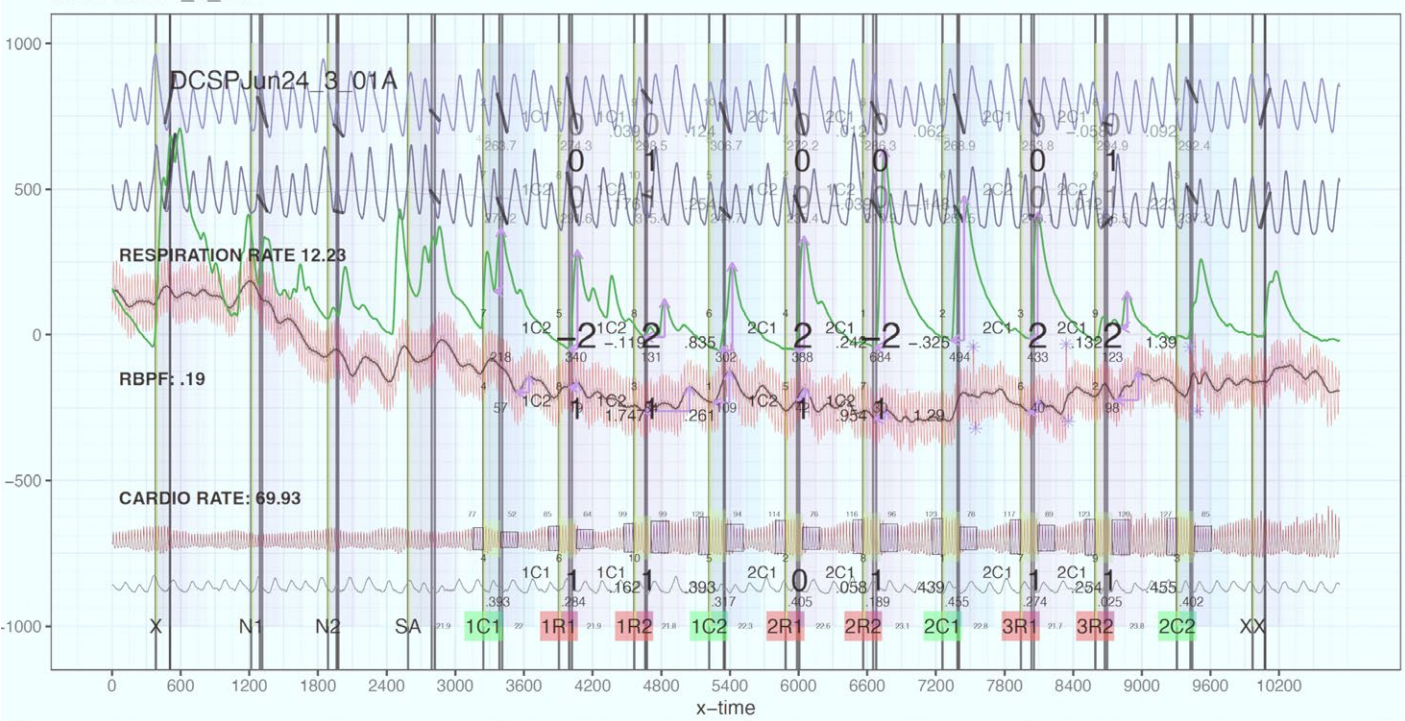
The AFMGQT  $\neq$  the AFMGQT. Assuming otherwise is other than wise.

This brings us to the end of our thought experiment, though we hope not to the end of the discussion.





AUTOMATED-ESS



## AUTOMATED-ESS

		<u>DLST</u>	
Presentation 1		R1	R2
Pneumo		0	1
EDA		-2	2
Cardio		1	1
PPG		1	1
Presentation 2			
Pneumo		0	0
EDA		2	-2
Cardio		1	1
PPG		0	1
Presentation 3			
Pneumo		0	1
EDA		2	2
Cardio		NS	NS
PPG		1	1
Spots		+6	+9
Decision		NSR	

Below are the school solution hand scores and results.

		<u>DLST</u>	
Presentation 1		R1	R2
Pneumo		0	0
EDA		-2	2
Cardio		1	1
PPG		0	1
Presentation 2			
Pneumo		0	0
EDA		2	-2
Cardio		1	1
PPG		0	1
Presentation 3			
Pneumo		0	0
EDA		2	2
Cardio		1	1
PPG		1	1
Spots		+6	+8
		NSR	NSR

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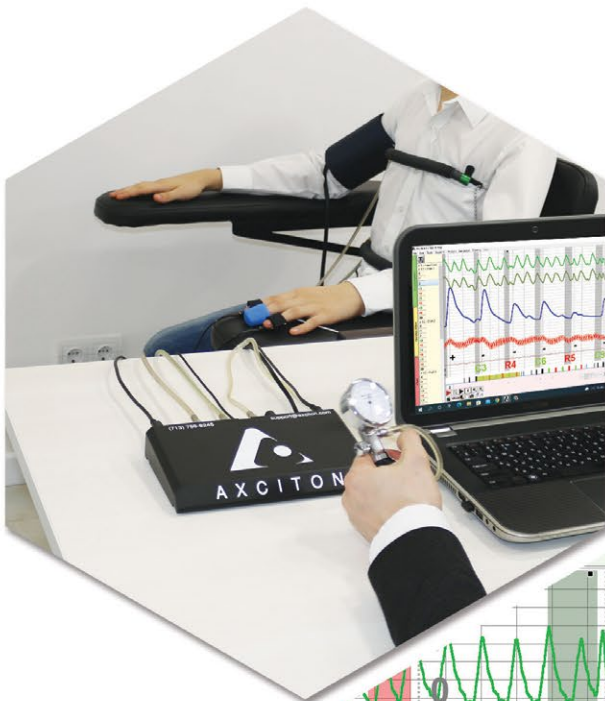
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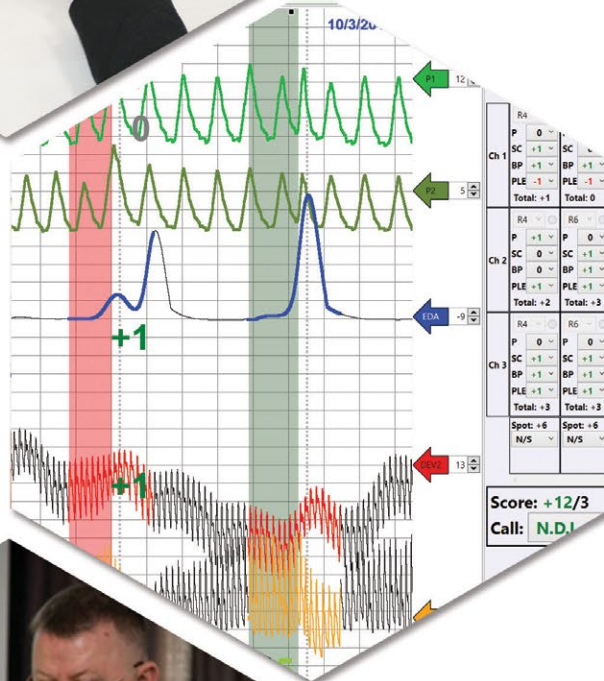
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