

Editorial

Deception Detection: New Paradigms for Future Challenges

To be able to correctly assess the veracity of statements offered by suspects, witnesses and alleged victims is of paramount importance in investigative and court settings. Today there is a large body of research on people's deception detection ability, and the research literature is largely occupied with lie-catchers' unsuccessful strategies and the consequences that may follow. The aim of this special issue is very different; our ambition is to acknowledge a number of new and promising waves of deception detection research.

The first new line of research has its search-light set on the strategies used by liars' and truth-tellers' when being interviewed. To learn about these so-called counter-interrogation tactics is important in order to be able to refine interview techniques aimed at detecting deception. The current special issue contains two papers on suspects' strategies. In the first of these papers Maria Hartwig (John Jay College of Criminal Justice, USA) and her colleagues discuss suspects' strategies from an impression and information management perspective, and use the well established social-cognitive construct of self-regulation to throw light on counter-interrogation tactics. In the second paper Aldert Vrij (University of Portsmouth, U.K.) and his colleagues focus on how pairs of liars and truth-tellers reason when preparing for an upcoming interview. These two papers add to an emerging wave of research on how suspects plan and try to withstand an interview.

A second new line of research is on how to interview in order to elicit diagnostic cues to deception and truth. In the first of the two papers following this line of research Jessica Suckle-Nelson (Southern Connecticut State University, USA) and her colleagues subject their Assessment Criteria Indicative of Deception to an empirical test. This so-called ACID technique is a statement analysis method that combines tactical interviewing with theoretically based content criteria. In the second paper representing this line of research Liu Meiling (Inner Mongolia Agricultural University, China) and her colleagues show that it is possible to elicit cues to deception and truth among children by asking them unanticipated questions. Common for this emerging line of research is to try to actively elicit cues to deception, in contrast to just mapping people's (poor) ability to detect deception when passively taking part of video-clips.

The third and final new line of research acknowledged in this special issue is the detection of false (criminal) intent. In the first of the two papers dealing with this issue Pär Anders Granhag (University of Gothenburg, Sweden) provides a sketch of a new paradigm which links the emerging concept of Episodic Future Thought (EFT) and the detection of deception. In the second paper, closing the special issue, Ewout Meijer and his colleagues (Maastricht University, The Netherlands) provides novel empirical data showing how the use of the Concealed Information Test (CIT) can be used to detect criminal intentions.

All in all we believe that this collection of papers acknowledge some of the more important and promising new lines of research within the area of deception detection. In brief, the special issue shows that in order to meet the future challenges that await deception detection scholars, new research paradigms must be developed and pursued.

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