



Pearson

Cognitive Test Bias: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

Presented by: Susan Engi Raiford, Ph.D.

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern

Sponsored by Pearson Clinical Assessment

Overview

This intermediate-level webinar will discuss concerns about cognitive test bias and fairness emerged in the 1960s during a time of great cultural shift and change. A history of intelligence test use and related litigation involving California school psychology practice, as well as specific examples of analyses and practices, are used to illustrate and demonstrate how test development techniques evolved and psychological assessment practice responded to concerns about bias and fairness.

Learner Outcomes

As a result of this activity, the participants will be able to:

1. Describe major legal proceedings related to cognitive test bias in California in the 1970s through 1990s
2. Describe a change in test development approaches that took place since the 1960s and was designed to reduce cognitive test bias.
3. Discuss the impact of banning cognitive tests on overrepresentation of Black children in California
4. List contemporary procedures used to identify and eliminate cognitive test bias.
5. Identify the types of cognitive ability tasks on which Black children tend to score lowest.

Time-ordered Agenda (Eastern Time Zone)

3:00 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.	History of cognitive test bias case law and related litigation
3:10 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.	Types of bias
3:20 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.	Evolving techniques for addressing and eliminating bias in cognitive tests
3:35 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	Current status of practice in use of cognitive tests
3:50 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Questions & Answers

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About the Presenter

Susan Engi Raiford, PhD, is a senior research director at Pearson clinical assessment. She has been a primary developer of the Wechsler Intelligence scales since 2004. She led development of the WAIS-IV, WPPSI-IV, WISC-V, WISC-V Integrated, and presently leads the WAIS-5. She has authored Essentials of Psychological Tele-assessment and four books on the Wechsler scales, and maintains a part time psychological assessment practice. Prior to becoming a psychological test developer, she provided clinical services to all ages in inpatient, outpatient, school, and residential settings in both the private and public sectors.

About Pearson

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