What’s Up with Human Factors

How Should Standards Minimize the ‘B-Word’ (Bias) in Forensic Science?

AAFS Meeting,
Seattle,
February 20, 2018
Members

- Tom Albright, Salk Institute
- Hal Arkes, Ohio State University
- Deborah Davis, University of Nevada, Reno
- John Hollway, University of Pennsylvania
- Rick Lempert, University of Michigan; NSF
- Erin Morris, LA County Public Defender
- Michael Risinger, Seton Hall Law School
- Dan Simon, University of Southern California
- William Thompson, Chair, University of California, Irvine
The Rise of “Cognitive Forensics”

…cognitive research is … making important contributions to [forensic science] The challenge for our profession is to encourage cognitive scientists to assist us…

Human Factors in Forensic Science

• What is the most important instrument in forensic science?
  • The human mind!
Special Concerns

• Reducing the potential for bias
• Improving assessment of examiner performance
• Improving communication of findings to lay audiences
Bias

- Identifying risks
- Proposing mitigation procedures
- Sharing examples of good practices
- Analyzing “task-relevance”
- Engaging with labs on research
Guidance on Testing Examiner Performance

• Purpose: validation; quality assurance; training
• Tips on: design, methods, analysis and reporting
• Engagement: OSAC-wide
Developing Standards for Reporting

• Criteria for Standards:
  • Justified logically and empirically
  • Understood by intended audience

• HFC Contributions
  • Identify strengths and weaknesses of reporting methods
  • Promote research
    • Interactions with CSAFE, labs, research community
Other Issues for HFC?

- Personnel selection
- Stress, fatigue and performance
- Forensic ergonomics
- Vicarious trauma
- You tell us…
We’re here to help…