



CHIEF SCIENTIST MESSAGE | DR. JOHN KIRCHER

What's More Important than Accuracy in Credibility Assessment?

Hi,

As the Chief Scientist at Converus, I was asked to provide this newsletter message. In the American Polygraph Association (APA) Journal this month, Russ, Abbie and I published [an article](#) addressing an issue mentioned in scientific literature for decades, but one that seems to have had little impact on the application of credibility assessments in programs that screen for rare target behaviors.

Organizations use credibility assessments for screening and diagnostic testing. For some, the assessment is part of a larger process to vet job applicants. For others, it's a tool to help gauge the truthfulness of an allegation or claim. Many consider test accuracy paramount, but accuracy is of no value if there is little chance the outcome is correct.

The probability that a *not credible* or *deceptive* decision is correct tells us whether we can rely on the outcome. The person failed, but maybe they were actually truthful on the test. Perhaps we made a mistake. How confident can we be that the decision is correct? What is the probability the outcome is correct?

The probability the outcome is correct is called *outcome confidence*, and we want it to be as high as possible. We want people to be confident the results of our tests are valid. Surprisingly, and unfortunately, the probability that a *not credible* outcome is correct can be unacceptably low, even when accuracy for deceptive people is quite high.

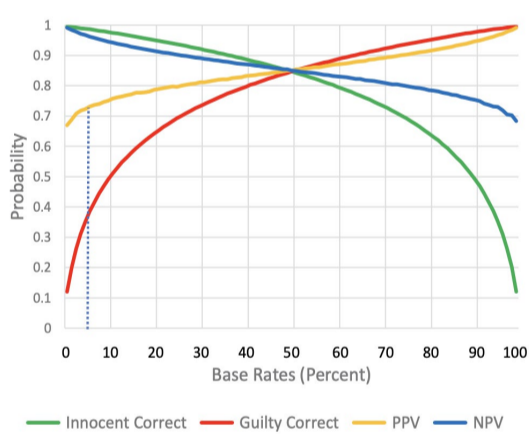
In the [APA Journal article](#), we discuss *outcome confidence* and how it is affected by the prevalence of deception in the tested population. A population of mostly innocent examinees reduces confidence in deceptive test outcomes and, at some point, renders them useless. We also discuss what we do to fix that.

I hope you enjoy the article.

John Kircher
Converus Chief Scientist

P.S. - Click your email "forward" button to send this email to others interested in credibility assessment. And please share industry news with us! We'd love to hear from you. Send email to info@converus.com.

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLE



Bayesian Decision-Making Mitigates Effects of Base Rates on Outcome Confidence

[READ](#)

NEW SERVICE PARTNER

A warm welcome to our new Converus Service Partners: The Auxilium Group, in Canada

We continue to attract the best of the best in the credibility assessment industry. (Want to become a Converus Service Partner? Click [here](#).)

VIRTUAL TRAINING



EyeDetect & VerifEye | Teams Meeting (Free)

Date: July 9-11, 2024 (3 days)
Time: 9am to 2pm MST (GMT-6) / 11am to 4pm EST
Agenda:

- Tues., July 9 – Test Proctor training
- Wed., July 10 – Administrator training
- Thurs., July 11 – Test Writer training

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ABOUT CONVERUS

Converus provides scientifically validated credibility assessment technologies. [VerifEye™](#) (U.S. patent pending) is the world's first mobile app to help organizations or individuals accurately verify the truth about a person — including background, identity, creditworthiness and claims — in about 10 minutes. [EyeDetect®](#), which detects deception by measuring involuntary eye behavior, is a fast, accurate, affordable, noncontact, scalable, and fully automated option to polygraph. [EyeDetect+](#) is the world's first automated polygraph, making the testing process impartial, accurate, and less intrusive (than a traditional polygraph). It assesses credibility by monitoring and recording ocular activity plus physiological activity similar to a traditional polygraph. Customers worldwide use the product line for screening and investigations to help protect countries, corporations and communities from corruption, crime and threats. Converus is headquartered in Lehi, Utah, USA. Visit: converus.com

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