

False Confession Identifi

Table 1: Hit Rate

Hit Rate (True Identified as True)						
Percentage	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%	Total
Taken Class	0	5	5	13	5	28
Not Taken Class	1	10	24	20	10	65
Total	1	15	29	33	15	93

The Pearson Chi Square significance for Hit Rate is $p=.378$

Table 2: False Alarms

False Alarms (False Identified as True)						
Percentage	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%	Total
Taken Class	1	3	7	5	2	28
Not Taken Class	1	10	24	20	10	65
Total	2	13	31	25	12	93

The Pearson Chi Square significance for False Alarm is $p=.872$

No significant differences were found between students who had taken a class and those who had not in either hit rates or false alarms.

Discussion

There is no evidence to suggest that previously being exposed to knowledge about false confessions in class made students any more accurate when identifying confessions. This finding is consistent with the findings of the previous literature. This further illustrates that training, whether formal (Kassin & Fong, 1999), or informal, such as in a class setting, does not increase accuracy when identifying false confessions.

Limitations to this study include that there is no guarantee that every participant watched the whole video. The length of video watched could impact the accuracy.

Future research should examine different groups involved in the Criminal Justice systems ability to identify false confessions such as defense attorneys, prosecuting attorneys, and judges. Additionally, different training methods and topics should be compared to see if there is in fact a reliable way to increase accuracy in false confession identification.

References

Kassin, S. M., & Fong, C. T. (2004). Effects of training on judgments of truth and deception in the interrogation room. *Law and Human Behavior, 28*, 499-516.

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