

# Behavior Dynamics Journal

A bi-monthly publication focusing on the Operational Application of Behavior

## WHY BEHAVIOR CUES MAY OCCUR AND ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL BEHAVIOR

In most cases there maybe an ample amount of behavior cues displayed when an individual attempts to deceive. However, there may be cases especially with psychopaths and sociopaths that no behavior cues are present because of the lack of emotion, feelings of guilt or wrongdoing. Some reasons for displays of behavior during attempted deception are: 1. Deceivers need to control their behavior to appear more credible. 2. Deceivers can have feelings of guilt and or fear, or as Dr. Paul Ekman coined duping delight, "The kick someone gets from fooling another." 3.

When someone is being deceptive they may experience a significant cognitive load, meaning substantial mental effort. 4. Deceivers attempting to control behaviors tend not to take their credibility for granted as truth tellers might. 5. Deceivers will feel the need to control their behavior to appear more believable. For example, the common belief is that a liar will not make consistent eye contact. When in actuality, a liar may over compensate with eye contact to appear believable. An individual attempting to deceive can

experience strong emotions such as guilt or fear. These emotions may cause a decrease in gross body movements due to the attempted deception, but may also be at times, due to thinking or cognitive overload. Although, there have been studies that report either increases or decreases in body movement cues, gener-



ally speaking, the research shows that liars tend to show less arm and hand movements than truth tellers.

### Special points of interest:

- An individual attempting to deceive can experience strong emotions.
- Deceivers will feel the need to control their behavior to appear more believable.

**NEXT Issue:** Involuntary Cues for Deception.

## BEHAVIOR AND APPEARANCE CUES/IRREGULARITIES

Some individuals can try and control their body language and still present a demeanor that can be "read" by a behavior specialist. Nonverbal cues need to be evaluated in clusters and in context with the situation they are being evaluated, along with an individual's personal baseline. An individual's baseline will enable one to determine whether or not the cues observed were caused by a question asked. It is important that some type of baseline rapport needs to be established. The following is a list of appearance irregularities which should draw attention and scrutiny from a behavior detection officer or professional in a transportation security environment.

**Clothing:** Having clothing bulges or unusual or unnatural clothing that doesn't match the weather or the current environment.

**Exaggeration:** Anyone trying not to appear suspicious (i.e. Exaggerated yawning, verbally overstating facts or pointing out the obvious).

**Demeanor of "No Worries":** Whistling and going out of your way to appear and behave "Normal" to draw away any attention.

**Noise:** Coughing or fidgeting excessively that causes noises and distractions.

**Focus:** Inappropriate focus on wallet, change, cell phone, newspaper or other items in their possession.

**Nervousness:** Continually referring to passport/tickets or excessive staring and appears to be anxious or hurried.