

Behavior Dynamics Journal

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



INVOLUNTARY CUES TO ANOMALOUS BEHAVIOR AND DECEPTION

1. Listen to how an individual talks.

Behavior detection experts will often focus on subject's voice and how they answer questions just as much as the content that an individual is providing. Typically, behavior detection specialists will note how long it takes for a suspect to respond to a question with responses coming delivered in under 0.5 seconds deemed rehearsed and responses over 1.5 seconds as thinking up the answer. Grammar and tense changes are another area the behavior specialists will focus on and they will listen for verb and pronoun tense changes. These shifts from past tense to future tense show areas to investigate further.

2. Facial touching and grooming gestures.

Frequent facial touching can be an indicator of varying levels of stress. When a suspect touches the same area of their face with frequency it should be noted. Touching or covering eyes is also a form of negation that has a significant association with deception and covertness. The area to focus on is below the bridge of nose to bottom lip. Also grooming behaviors such playing with hair or beard can be a sign of increasing stress.

3. Hands and Arms.

During the interview or interrogation process any suspect who displays increased arm or hand movement while speaking or sitting is experiencing increased stress. While this may be desirable during an interrogation process, the security interview process should be kept stress free in order for the interviewer to get a "clear and accurate" assessment of the nonverbal cues as well as the verbal cues.

4. Elbows and hands.

Individuals when speaking normally without stress, will demonstrate behavior that shows elbows are being kept normally at the side of their body. When stress goes up the body naturally pulls the elbows into the ribs. Often the behavior specialist/interviewer can have a suspect unknowingly show their true feelings and maybe even intent by overusing their hands. Over use of the hands, especially when it looks disjointed and unnatural can indicate hostility and frustration. FBI research has shown evidence that while an individual is questioned they often tend to recreate or telegraph their intended crime with their hands.

Cultural differences.

When discussing behavior indicators it is important to note that culture plays an important role when it comes to making an accurate assessment as to whether or not an individual is being truthful and/or comfortable with their answers as well as cooperative with the process. As well as culture, education also plays a role in the process. When evaluating hand, arm and other gestures, understanding the culture will aid you in finding the meaning of the action. Some cultures display a closed body position with little body or gesture movements. Even eye contact differs depending on where you are in the world and what ethnic group you may be dealing with. Some Mediterranean cultures as well as the Middle East, may wave their hands and arms obsessively in the air. Different cultures display different nonverbal cues so don't get locked in on cues that may not apply in certain areas of the world. Do your homework before you go abroad.

Deception of the month: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Aq8__OL91M

MORE INVOLUNTRY CUES TO POSSIBLE DECEPTION AND ANOMALOUS BEHAVIOR

AREAS FOR OBSERVATION

Posture of Body: upright, slump, away

Skin Color: pale, red, white, changes

Head Position: upright, tilted, forward/back

Eyes: direction, openness

Hands/Feet: movement, position, color

Mouth/Lips: position, color, turn up/down

Primary Sense: visual, aural, kinetic, feeling

Voice: pitch, rate, changes

Words: short, long, number of syllables, dysfunctions, pauses