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PSYC 531

Article Critique 8: INTERVIEW-INFORMED FUNCTIONAL ANALYSES: A COMPARISON
OF SYNTHESIZED AND ISOLATED COMPONENTS

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Based on the previous research, we learned that functional analysis (FA) is an effective functional-based and comprehensive assessment; nowadays, FA is the most common assessment. However, the standard FA has many limitations, such as not enough assessment time. This study introduces interview-informed synthesized contingency analyses(IISCA). IISCA can increase efficiency and maintain the accuracy of the assessment.

The package of IISCA includes: a) “a single test condition rather than multiple test conditions b) combined rather than isolated reinforcers c) idiosyncratic rather than generic Establishing Operations (EOs) and reinforcers d) shorter session duration e) reinforcing co-occurring topographic of problem behavior” (p.154). Two studies were conducted in the article. Study 1 illustrated that IISCA was “differentiated more often than the standard FA” (p.269) and more efficient. Study 2 revealed that IISCA “was effective in all four cases,” while the standard FA was effective in two of those cases. Not only the IISCA has high efficiency for assessing, but also it is a necessary method for “treating socially mediated problem behavior(p.269).” IISCA has its limitation as well, so more research on IISCA evaluation is needed.

After a few weeks of study, we have learned many different assessment tools. As behavior analysts, we should flexibly utilize tools based on the given time of assessment, the functional level of our clients, and the target behaviors we want to decrease/increase.

Slaton, J. D., Hanley, G. P., & Raftery, K. J. (2017). Interview-informed functional analyses: A comparison of synthesized and isolated components. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 50(2), 252–277. doi: 10.1002/jaba.384