

Response bias in assessment of psychopathology: Issues and challenges

Leslie C. Morey, PhD

A recent meta-analysis by McGrath, (2010) concludes that there is little evidence to support the use of response bias measures in self-report assessment. This presentation will examine the hypotheses and conclusions advanced by McGrath et al. (2010), particularly in reference to the use of indicators of response bias from the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI: Morey, 1991). It is suggested that there are considerable data to support the utility of these indicators for the detection of response bias, and that despite the limitations of the moderated regression field study approach advocated by McGrath et al., the available research in fact demonstrates evidence of such moderation. However, detection of such biases only constitutes an initial step in the assessment process; disentangling various sources of bias and understanding their effects on the clinical presentation represent key additional questions for the assessor. Recent developments and future potential directions for such work with the PAI will be reviewed and discussed.