



### **I41 The Discriminative Power of Criteria-Based Content Analysis (CBCA): A Simulation Study in Adults**

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The goal of this presentation is to demonstrate how the Criteria-Based Content Analysis (CBCA), the main component of the Statement Validity Analysis (SVA), was applied in a simulation study with the goal of evaluating whether this instrument is able to discriminate in adult testimonies between subjects who live a real event and subjects to whom the event is only described.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by demonstrating how CBCA may be useful as some of its criteria are able to discriminate between persons who actually lived through an event and those to whom the event was only described.

**Method:** Ninety-five interviews were analyzed using CBCA. Forty-five of the interviewed participants were subjected to a real event (a verbal conflict during what the participants thought was a real lecture) and the remaining 50 participants were told the story about a lecturer in heavy conflict with a person from the public (this story was the same script provided to the former 45 subjects via an actor who impersonated the lecturer). For the analysis, 17 of 19 of the CBCA criteria were used.

**Results:** The following statistical analyses were used: a one-way Analysis Of Variance (ANOVA) for each item of the questionnaire; the "structure" of the discriminant function with the relative "weight" of each item in the process of division of the subjects in the two groups; a  $\chi^2$  statistic for the verification of the non-dependence from the case; and an index of canonical correlation (Pearson's  $r$ ) between the function itself and the dependent variable "group." The results of the study show that some of the CBCA criteria discriminated between those children who actually lived the event, as compared to those for whom the event was only described.

**Conclusions:** Despite the presence of some limitations on the study, as well as difficulties encountered in using the criteria of the CBCA, the results suggest that the CBCA seems to have some utility, since some of its criteria were able to discriminate between those persons who actually lived an event and those for whom the event was only described.

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#### **Adult Testimony, Statement Validity, CBCA**