IAT Studies Showing Validity with “Real-World” Subject Populations

VOTING BEHAVIOR
Among undecided voters assessed one month before a local Italian election IAT measures of implicit political attitudes successfully predicted subsequent voting behavior


An IAT measure predicted future shift in judgments about desirability of enlarging a U.S. military base in Vicenza, Italy, for 129 residents who initially reported themselves as undecided.


Votes by self-reported undecided voters in a representative sample of Italian voters (Itanes) were predicted by their IAT measures of liberal–conservative ideology


MENTAL HEALTH
A suicide-ideation IAT differentiated among adolescents who were nonsuicidal, suicide ideators and suicide attempters.


A self-injury IAT differentiated non-self-injuring from self-injuring adolescents and improved the prediction of self-injury beyond that achieved with demographic and psychiatric predictors.


An IAT measure of phobic reactions to spiders differentiated spider-phobics from controls and showed reduction in phobic associations following exposure therapy.


An IAT measure of panic-related associations predicted severity of panic symptoms, agoraphobic avoidance, and distress in response to panic stressor.


In a sample of persons diagnosed with panic disorder, change in a panic IAT over the course of a 12-week treatment predicted subsequent change in panic symptoms.

An IAT measure of self–shame association significantly distinguished a sample of 60 women meeting diagnostic criteria for borderline personality disorder (BPD) from a comparison sample of healthy women (N = 60).


In a sample of women who met diagnostic criteria for borderline personality disorder (BPD), an IAT measure of self–anxiety association significantly distinguished 23 diagnosed with comorbid posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from the comparison group (N=37) not diagnosed with comorbid PTSD.


**MEDICAL**

ER and general internal medicine resident physicians’ implicit bias against Black patients predicted fewer recommendations for thrombolysis for Black than White myocardial infarction patients.


The laboratory of Reinout Wiers in Netherlands has produced numerous results showing the use of IAT measures in understanding adolescents at risk to develop serious alcohol and other drug problems. Here are a few references to this large body of work.


An IAT measure of attitudes of 5th-grade children toward smoking showed variations as a function of parental smoking, and was responsive to effects of tobacco-prevention activities.

**EMPLOYMENT**

IAT correlated with hiring managers—ethnic bias in inviting Swedish vs. Arab–Muslim job applicants for hiring interviews.


IAT measure implicit bias against injecting drug users (IDUs) predicted intention to change jobs of nurses working with IDUs.


**FORENSICS**

An IAT measure revealed that pedophiles have an association between children and sex, whereas nonpedophilic offenders have an association between adults and sex


The IAT method successfully distinguished truth-tellers from criminal liars, including drug users, traffic offenders, and murderers.