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The Transparency of Assessing Aggression Using Conditional Reasoning

The conditional reasoning test of aggression (CRT-A) is an indirect test designed to assess implicit cognitive biases linked to the motive to aggress (e.g., Hostile Attribution Bias). The CRT-A consists of inductive reasoning problems, each containing an inductively valid aggressive answer and an inductively valid non-aggressive answer. The term conditional reasoning is used because the likelihood of endorsing a particular answer is believed to be dependent or conditional on the personality of the reasoner (i.e., high motive to aggress vs. low motive to aggress). The purpose of this study was to examine whether or not respondents could see the through the purpose of assessment. Participants took both the CRT-A and a self-report and were asked what they believed each test assessed.