

# DETERMINING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF RECOGNIZING DECEPTION IN PSYCHOPATHS BY EXPERIMENTAL POLYGRAPH TESTING

Boris Đurović

Police Department of Novi Sad

**Abstract:** Polygraph testing is the worldwide accepted and systematical procedure evaluating truthfulness of answers to asked questions. There are some specific methodological weaknesses but, besides that, the results which we get using the polygraph have been justified in a few decades of application. The main point of this research is checking successful detection of psycho-physiological deceiving by means of the polygraph, using an experimental test, psychopaths vs. non- psychopaths. In this way, we have checked the validity of successful application of the polygraph on a domestic model. The results obtained through this research are consistent with all the research on this subject carried out so far. Namely, psychopaths are unable to deceive the polygraph undetected to a statistically significant level compared to the rest of the population. The sample shows certain differences in successful deception that favor psychopaths, but this difference is not statistically significant. However, comparing those who successfully deceive the polygraph in general with sub dimensions on measured instruments we found the connection between successful deceiving and interpersonal dimension at Hare's check list of psychopathy and antisocial behaviour. Examinees with higher score on interpersonal dimension (on Hare's check list) were more successful in deceiving the polygraph, as well as the examinees with higher score on antisocial dimension in the questionnaire which evaluates psychopathy. The results are discussed in the contexts of modern psychopathy researches and the polygraph, as well as possible practical usage of the obtained results. Finally, the author points out to some methodological weaknesses of the research and gives suggestions for future research attempts in this area.

**Keywords:** lying, the polygraph, psychopathy, criminal, successfulness deceiving polygraph.