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False Feigners, Continued: An Examination of the Impact of Mixed Responding on MMPI-2-RF Content-Based Validity Scales

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Introduction
• The MMPI-2-RF includes Validity Scales designed to detect non-content-based (e.g., random, fixed) and content-based (e.g., overreporting, underreporting) invalid responding.

• Previous research examined the frequency of “false feigners”—individuals incorrectly identified as under- or overreporting when actually responding in a random, acquiescent, or counter-acquiescent manner.1

• Concerns regarding undetected mixed responding on the MMPI-A-RF led to the development of Combined Response Inconsistency (CRIN)—a supplement to VRIN-r and TRIN-r that is scored by summing raw VRIN-r, TRIN-r, and TRIN-r raw scores.2

• Previous research found support for the incremental utility of an MMPI-2-RF CRIN in the detection of mixed responding.3,4

Aims & Hypotheses
There is a gap in the literature examining the influence of mixed responding on MMPI-2-RF content-based Validity Scales.

Hypotheses
• Based on Burchett et al. (2016), we hypothesized mixed responding would elevate mean scores on F-r, Fs, RBS, and L-r.

• We did not expect an impact on FBS or K-r means.

• We anticipated screening with VRIN-r and TRIN-r would decrease ‘false feigners’ misclassifications and we explored the incremental utility of screening with CRIN.

Method
• We inserted computer-generated mixed responses into a forensic inpatient sample with no elevations on MMPI-2-RF Validity Scales.

• Six datasets with 40% generated mixed responding were created.

• Dividing participant items into 3 equal parts, we replaced 40% of items in each third of the test with acquiescent (A), counter-acquiescent (C), or random (R) responses (ACR, ARC, CAR, CRA, RAC, RCA).

• We examined mean scores for content-based Validity Scales. We also examined the frequency of elevations on each overreporting and underreporting scale:
  1. Without screening for non-content-based invalidity
  2. After screening with VRIN-r and TRIN-r
  3. After adding CRIN to screen invalid protocols

Table 1: MMPI-2-RF Content-Based Validity Scale Means for Original and 40% Mixed Response Insertion Conditions (N = 156)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Original</th>
<th>ACR</th>
<th>ARC</th>
<th>CAR</th>
<th>CRA</th>
<th>RAC</th>
<th>RCA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F-r</td>
<td>55.71</td>
<td>76.70</td>
<td>72.14</td>
<td>80.00</td>
<td>84.65</td>
<td>74.89</td>
<td>83.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(9.07)</td>
<td>(10.41)</td>
<td>(9.63)</td>
<td>(10.53)</td>
<td>(9.48)</td>
<td>(11.20)</td>
<td>(10.61)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fp-r</td>
<td>51.72</td>
<td>78.78</td>
<td>80.59</td>
<td>88.10</td>
<td>85.83</td>
<td>84.36</td>
<td>83.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fs</td>
<td>52.82</td>
<td>64.47</td>
<td>76.53</td>
<td>83.24</td>
<td>74.57</td>
<td>86.69</td>
<td>62.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FBS-r</td>
<td>50.32</td>
<td>62.88</td>
<td>61.13</td>
<td>56.24</td>
<td>58.79</td>
<td>58.26</td>
<td>61.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(8.89)</td>
<td>(8.14)</td>
<td>(8.09)</td>
<td>(8.11)</td>
<td>(8.14)</td>
<td>(8.07)</td>
<td>(7.68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBS</td>
<td>51.85</td>
<td>70.00</td>
<td>67.57</td>
<td>62.55</td>
<td>63.87</td>
<td>64.16</td>
<td>66.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(9.53)</td>
<td>(10.41)</td>
<td>(10.86)</td>
<td>(9.90)</td>
<td>(9.41)</td>
<td>(10.01)</td>
<td>(10.22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L-r</td>
<td>51.90</td>
<td>60.31</td>
<td>58.20</td>
<td>59.81</td>
<td>59.42</td>
<td>58.43</td>
<td>60.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(7.06)</td>
<td>(7.23)</td>
<td>(7.16)</td>
<td>(7.48)</td>
<td>(7.98)</td>
<td>(6.67)</td>
<td>(8.58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-r</td>
<td>50.13</td>
<td>46.65</td>
<td>47.02</td>
<td>52.74</td>
<td>52.48</td>
<td>49.64</td>
<td>48.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(7.38)</td>
<td>(6.25)</td>
<td>(6.38)</td>
<td>(5.76)</td>
<td>(6.31)</td>
<td>(6.15)</td>
<td>(5.92)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results & Discussion
• Mixed responses led to notable increases in content-based Validity Scale score means.

  o F-p-r, Fs, and F-r exhibited the greatest elevation changes.

  o FBS-r, RBS, and L-r exhibited moderate increases in mean scores while K-r means remained in the normative range.

• Few content-based Validity Scales exhibited elevations to interpretive thresholds.

  o A notable exception was F-p-r, with 10-24% elevating to 100T or higher.

  o This impact was mitigated when VRIN-r and TRIN-r were used to screen for invalid responding, reducing the number of protocols flagged by F-p-r to 4-12%.

  o Adding CRIN, the F-p-r ‘false feigner’ rate was further reduced to 2-10%.

  o Fs also exhibited some elevations. Fs may be particularly impacted by RAC mixed responding.

• This was the first study to examine the impact of computer-generated mixed responding on the MMPI-2-RF content-based Validity Scales.

• 40% may have been too low to be sensitive to the impact of mixed responding. Future studies should examine results for the full spectrum of 0-100% inserted mixed responses.

References


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