

# The IRAP is Non-relative to What? In Pursuit of Red Herrings that Obscure IRAP Design and Analysis

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# What makes the IRAP so special?

- What do we mean when we say that an IRAP is non-relative and what makes the IRAP different from other implicit measures?
- Never technically defined in the literature (that I'm aware of...eek!) but instead anecdotally.
- IRAP literature typically uses the term non-relative as a justification for the IRAP when addressing the mainstream cognitive literature

# Measures that are Relative versus Non-relative in a *Mentalistic Sense*

- What do cognitivists theoretically mean when they speak of a psychological measure in terms of relativity?
- What were the original strategic advantages of describing the IRAP this way?
- What are the ultimate conceptual costs that are now accruing by failing to clarify that the IRAP is not designed to measure one *acontextual/absolute/ontological* mental bias as distinct from another (i.e. non-relatively)?

# Measures that are Relative versus non-relative in a Functional Sense

- Is the IRAP (non-)relative in a functional sense?
- Have we ever talked about IRAP scores as being ‘absolute’?
- Is this a problem?
- Not necessary!

# Measures that are Relative versus non-relative in a Functional Sense

- When the *anchor* phrase in an IRAP trial-type (i.e. the most likely affirmation/denial as the case may be) does not overlap functionally then we've got problems!
  - Both phrases in a given trial-type will be arbitrary *with respect to* our functional criterion of interest.
  - In other words, the resulting IRAP scores have no functional meaning with respect to our criterion even though we'll have identified whether the individual is behaviourally biased towards affirming versus denying the relevant proposition.
- When the anchor phrase in a trial-type does overlap well with criterion
  - Non-arbitrary capture of the relational responding in flight that manifests as the relevant criterion behaviour.
  - Non-arbitrary zero point
  - How does this compare to how 'object-ive' measures work in everyday life?

# How does this help us Build Bridges?

## The Cognitive-Functional Framework

- Less defensiveness when there's clarity about which realm we're talking about at any given time
- Makes it clearer how each conceptualisation is legitimate in it's own rite and thus highlights useful terms of engagement
- Mental concepts can serve a useful orienting purpose for functional accounts AND vice versa

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