



**Illinois Wesleyan University**  
**Digital Commons @ IWU**

---

John Wesley Powell Student Research  
Conference

1992, 3rd Annual JWP Conference

---

Apr 25th, 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM

## Cross-Motivational Choice: A Test of Two Theories

J. Duttlinger  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Dr. James Dougan, Faculty Advisor  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

---

Duttlinger, J. and Dougan, Faculty Advisor, Dr. James, "Cross-Motivational Choice: A Test of Two Theories" (1992). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 38.  
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/1992/posters/38>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

## CROSS-MOTIVATIONAL CHOICE: A TEST OF TWO THEORIES

J. Duttlinger, Psychology Department, IWU, Dr. James Dougan\*

Choice, the simple allocation of responses amongst alternatives, has been extensively studied in the past. Most often, choice has been studied on concurrent variable interval schedules. A variety of quantitative models, including matching, behavioral economics, and momentary maximizing, have had varying degrees of success in accounting for choice behavior. The present study examined predictions of two more recent theories, behavior systems and delay reduction. Rats were deprived of both food and water, and were exposed to a "cross-motivational" choice in which one alternative produced food, the other water. Periodically, the animal was given the opportunity to immediately obtain water. According to the delay reduction theory, the rat should choose the more immediate reinforcer, even if this involves changing its initial choice. According to the behavior systems theory, the rat will be "locked in" to a particular choice alternative once the initial choice is made.