



Apr 23rd, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

The Effects of Alternating Reinforcers on Within-Session Changes in Response Rates

Jennifer Contarino
Illinois Wesleyan University

Jason Goebel
Illinois Wesleyan University

James Dougan, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

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

Contarino, Jennifer; Goebel, Jason; and Dougan, Faculty Advisor, James, "The Effects of Alternating Reinforcers on Within-Session Changes in Response Rates" (1994). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 27.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/1994/posters/27>

This 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.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

THE EFFECTS OF ALTERNATING REINFORCERS ON WITHIN-SESSION CHANGES IN RESPONSE RATES

Jennifer Contarino, Jason Goebel, James Dougan*, Dept. of Psychology, IWU

Recent research has studied rate of response within-sessions. McSweeney has found a consistent pattern of response rate within-sessions which is unapparent when rates are averaged between sessions. This rate peaks about 20 minutes into the session then gradually decreases. An explanation for this phenomena has not yet been determined. Six naive female Long-Evans Hooded rats were shaped for reinforcers of both food and water. They were then tested on a VI schedule during hour long sessions with reinforcers of food pellets for the first 40 minutes followed by water for the remainder of the session. Rates of response are expected to be more constant, without a decline after 20 minutes. This would suggest that alternating reinforcers have an impact on within-session response rate. Results such as these would have implications on future design and theory.