Apr 8th, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

The Influence of Camera Angle on Perceptions of Confessions

Megan Smeets
Illinois Wesleyan University

Amanda Vicary, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc

Part of the Psychology Commons

http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2017/oralpres4/1

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at The Ames Library at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
Of the 157 people who have been released off of death row, 28% of them confessed to their crime. There are numerous reasons why people may confess to a crime they did not commit, but often it is up to a jury to determine if the confession is false or authentic. One tool jurors may use to help make this determination is a video tape of the interrogation; however, recent research has found that the camera angle used in the video recording may elicit different judgments of the voluntariness of the confession. Specifically, previous research using simulated interrogations demonstrated that a confession with a suspect-focused video was perceived as more voluntary, while an interrogator-focused video was perceived as more coerced. The current study seeks to expand this idea by using an actual interrogation video (as opposed to a simulated interrogation conducted by actors) that has been edited to show either the suspect and the interrogator at the same time, just the suspect, or just the interrogator. Results will provide insight into whether the angle of the recording can influence jurors’ judgments of the validity of a confession.