

PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR | ONE DAY

Test results in expert evidence

How to read, write and check an expert opinion that rests on a psychological test.

DURATION

One day, about six hours of teaching

FOR

Expert psychologists, lawyers, judges, prosecutors

GROUP

Up to 20, mixed professions

LANGUAGE

English

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

A practical procedure for test-based opinions

The seminar gives participants a practical procedure for reading, writing and checking an expert opinion that rests on a psychological test. It is built on a free ten-question guide and on invented cases, so no real case is discussed.

It works best with a mixed group, because the same opinion is read by three professions and each asks different questions. Local rules on expert evidence, disclosure of test materials and record-keeping are for the organiser and the court to bring to the room.

What the seminar is not

It deals with the measurement side of an opinion. It does not assess any expert, recommend any test or give legal advice, and it does not describe any national law.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the day, participants can

- 1 judge whether an opinion names its instrument, version, language and norm, and whether the evidence cited supports the use made of the score;
- 2 calculate a score interval from the standard deviation and reliability, and judge whether a score can be reliably separated from a cut-off;
- 3 tell reliable change from measurement error and practice effects when scores from repeated testing are compared;
- 4 appraise the checks of response style and effort, and see which conclusions about intent they cannot support;
- 5 rewrite a conclusion so that it states measured facts and leaves legal qualification to the court;
- 6 draw up a file checklist that lets a second qualified person repeat the scoring.

HOW EACH BLOCK WORKS

1. Presentation	2. Worked example	3. Exercise	4. Check
Short, built around one idea	Calculated step by step	Alone or in pairs, on a worksheet	A short check with an answer key

PROGRAMME

Five blocks, one day

1

Instrument, language and norm: what an opinion must name

Validity in this language and for this purpose, the choice of norm, its sample and its age. Exercise: annotating an invented opinion.

2

Measurement error and the cut-off

The standard error of measurement, the interval around a score, and what a cut-off means for one person once base rates are considered. Exercise: a worksheet with three scores.

3

Repeated testing, response style and the limits of a score

Practice effects and the reliable change index, effort and response-style checks, and what a score cannot show.

4

Facts and legal conclusions

The line between an expert's factual findings and the court's legal assessment. Exercise: rewriting four invented conclusions.

5

The file and how to check it: a workshop

Where the instrument came from, what the file must contain and how scoring is repeated. Teams check an invented file against the ten-question checklist.

ARRANGEMENTS

For organisers of continuing education

FORMAT	Professional seminar for an organiser's members or staff: professional bodies, judicial training institutions, bar associations, universities	DURATION	One day, about six hours of teaching with breaks
GROUP	Up to 20 participants; best mixed (experts, lawyers, judges, prosecutors)	MATERIALS	Free guide, calculation worksheet, invented opinion and file, checklist
CERTIFICATE	Certificate of attendance for the whole programme	DATES AND FEES	Agreed with the organiser; on request

Trainer: Dr Milos Kankaras

Psychometrician with a PhD in social sciences (Tilburg University) and more than 25 years of research experience in developing and checking measurement instruments, including large international studies. He does not carry out clinical evaluations of individuals. He develops psychological instruments and provides measurement-quality services, including independent expert opinions on whether assessment instruments are valid, so participants should know of that interest.

The free guide behind the seminar

Ten questions for reading, writing and challenging a psychological test result in an expert opinion, with invented examples and a one-page checklist.

[Open the guide on centerforpsychology.me](https://centerforpsychology.me)

Enquiries and seminar requests:
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