Forensic Psy, week 4

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**The Reliability of Polygraph Test**

The polygraph is a lie detector test used in courts to record and measures different psychological indicators of a criminal before the court such as pulse rate, blood pressure, and respiration. However, its credibility is highly debatable whether it accurately detect lies or not. The proponents say that the test provides accuracy up to 90 percent whereas the critics say the test accuracy is about 70 percent. American Polygraph Association member Frank Horvath states that there is no such instrument to detect lies (Iacono, 2008). Similarly, I believe that some criminals or employees are much confident to hide their emotions in front of the court or organization, it is hard in case of some people to judge them with their statements. Some emotions can be easily relaxed by diverting attention to something which gives us pleasure, while during the test if someone starts to think about positive aspects, the nerves can be calm easily.

The results of a polygraph are not admissible, as it can be presented as evidence but the court cannot base their decision on such tests. Similarly in employee performance evaluation, it can be used as a mechanism to make him more trustworthy and test their confidence level in such a situation, however, it is not a reliable test for the lie detector.

**The Bail System**

U.S Constitution states that unjustified bail shall not be provided, also, there is no actual right to bail. However, it is considered an individual’s right to enjoy liberty during the judicial hearing process. Moreover, there is no mechanism for criminal offending during the bail period and is considered a threat to society. The judicial system is required to make such arrangements where there is no threat of harm to society. The should provide the liberty to criminal to resume his work or make certain arrangements for his personal and professional lives, but they should not be exposed to the society where they have been caught as criminals. Considering the pros and cons, the damage expected to society due to the bail system is much bigger than an individual or his/her family.  
**Conclusion**

Different technologies are used in courtrooms to solve criminal cases, however, the reliability of all these instruments is highly debatable such as data visualization, hypothesis testing, witness statements, briefing, and evidence. The most used technology by the police department is the virtual environments, where investigators rely on the visual representation of data which is easy to identify the criminal and arrest even years after the initial criminality (Leonetti & Bailenson, 2009).

**References**

Iacono, W. G. (2008). Effective policing: Understanding how polygraph tests work and are used. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, *35*(10), 1295–1308.

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