QUANTIFYING PARTICIPATION WHILE EXAMINING SITUATIONAL AND PERSONALITY VARIABLES IN A JURY DELIBERATION

Richard C. Casteel

A Thesis Submitted to the University of North Carolina Wilmington in Partial Fulfillment Of The Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts

Department of Psychology
University of North Carolina Wilmington

2006

Approved by

Advisory Committee

Dr. Bryan Myers Dr. James Johnson

Dr. Len Lecci
Chair

Accepted by

Dean, Graduate School
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT ........................................................................................................................................... v

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ................................................................................................................ vi

LIST OF TABLES ........................................................................................................................ vii

LIST OF FIGURES .................................................................................................................... viii

INTRODUCTION ........................................................................................................................... 1

Majority and Minority Influence on Group Decision Making ...................................................... 3

Faction and Informational Influence .......................................................................................... 4

Willingness to Influence .............................................................................................................. 8

Social Loafing ............................................................................................................................. 8

State/Trait Differences ............................................................................................................. 10

Personality Traits ...................................................................................................................... 10

Extraversion .................................................................................................................................. 12

Conscientiousness ..................................................................................................................... 13

Methodological Separation of Extraversion and Conscientiousness ...................................... 13

Bias .............................................................................................................................................. 14

Assessing Juror Bias .................................................................................................................. 15

PJAQ .............................................................................................................................................. 16

Certainty of Decision .................................................................................................................. 17

Research Hypothesis ................................................................................................................... 18

STUDY 1 ........................................................................................................................................ 19

METHODS ...................................................................................................................................... 19

Participants ................................................................................................................................... 19
ABSTRACT

The current research quantified individual participation in a jury deliberation in an attempt to predict rates of involvement as a function of situational and personality characteristics. Measured level of juror bias and conscientiousness resulted in accurate predictions for rates of participation. Furthermore, the study supports previous juror research. The methodology for quantifying and controlling factors in a deliberation are highlighted. Implications for a willingness to influence are discussed as well.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Dr. Len Lecci for his direction and suggestions during the creation, execution, and interpretation of this thesis project. I would also like to thank all the members of his lab who worked on the project. I would like to thank my committee for their suggestions to improve the project.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Total number of posts and number of words per post for the simulated jurors and the corresponding averages for all of the participants</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Mean ratings (out of 7) for each of the exit survey questions and subscales with significant differences between the subscales</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Pearson correlation between mean participant ratings and dependent measures of participation</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Pearson correlation between mean participant ratings and dependent measures of participation</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Pearson correlation between mean participant ratings and dependent measures of participation</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Pearson correlation between participant ratings and dependent measures of participation</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Pearson correlations between participant ratings and independent measures</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Pearson correlations between participant ratings and independent measures</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Pearson correlations between participant ratings and independent measures</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Pearson correlations between participant ratings and independent measures</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average words per post as standardized conscientiousness and bias vary in the moderate and high certainty conditions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>