

Hispanics and Neuropsychology:

Bridging the Gap

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Current census figures project by the year 2000 that Hispanics will be the largest minority group in the United States. ~~Not only are Hispanics generally~~

~~younger, but they tend to produce more offspring.~~ ok

~~Thus, the trend to increasing number of Hispanics seems intact for at least the foreseeable future.~~

While the population of this minority group continues growing, the accompanying psychological knowledge is not (Padilla, Boxley, & Wagner, 1973). As Bernal and Padilla noted in 1982 there is little "being done to prepare clinical psychologists to work with minority groups". This gap is especially critical in the provision of clinical services. For example, Olmedo (1981) argued that in testing linguistic minorities, one must take into consideration "diverse social, political, and economic realities" which affect these groups. Nevertheless, in current clinical practice it is not uncommon to find translations of psychometric tests (e.g., WAIS) without appropriate cross-translations, norms, or adequate clinical trials. This practice is especially prevalent in neuropsychological assessment where even fewer tests have been translated. Clearly, such approaches violate numerous psychometric, statistical, clinical, and ethical principles.

While neuropsychological assessment has progressed significantly over the past decade, variables such as race and culture have not received much attention (see ~~Hartleige and Telzrow, 1986~~). In an attempt to examine the existing literature on the neuropsychological assessment of Hispanic populations, we examined the following sources of published information; the reference sections to 25 major neuropsychological texts, all articles published in the major neuropsychological journals [including Journal of Experimental and Clinical Neuropsychology, Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology, International Journal of Clinical Neuropsychology, and the Clinical Neuropsychologist], appropriate sections of the last 10 years of the Psychological Abstracts, as well as completed two separate computer searches.

OK

The paucity of information was surprising. Few studies have included Hispanics in their protocol with even fewer studies directly studying this population. The most commonly used tests are intelligence, usually variations of the Wechsler tests. However, the early versions ^{such as the Bellevue} (pre-WAIS) are most common. The Bender Gestalt Test is clearly the second most commonly used test of organicity. Variations of Luria's method (but not psychometric versions) are also found in the literature. A large percentage of authors were physicians and numerous universities from Spain were represented/

The United States and South/Latin America produced relatively few articles. At best, the amount of information was rudimentary. ~~Even then,~~ ^{and} the information was ^{usually} approximately 25 years out of date. Analysis of ~~the year of publication of these articles is not~~ } ^{OK} suggestive of changing patterns of publication.

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While ~~we are not certain why this paucity of information exists,~~ ^{we} offer several ideas as to why ^{this paucity of information exists.} ~~this may be~~ the case. A review of membership list for two major groups of neuropsychologists reveal that less than 1% of members have an Hispanic surname. Additionally, ~~most neuropsychologists are in clinical practice and not in the production of published literature.~~ Recent data from the American Psychological Association unfortunately points to a continuing trend of few Hispanics in this area (Howard, Pion, Gottfredson, Flattau, Oskamp, Pfafflin, Bray, and Burstein, 1986). Regardless of the cause for this paucity of information, measures must be taken to relieve the situation. As alternatives, we suggest that; neuropsychologists in academic and clinical settings must be made aware of this lack and importance of this information, additional research opportunities be established in the near future to address the problem, and that closer ties with colleagues in other countries be established to foster collaborative work. *To that end Division 40 ---*

- I. Minorities, Ethnics, and Hispanics
 - A. Defining Minority groups
 - 1. Traditional = Black
 - 2. Operational = Race, Ethnic
 - B. Race and Ethnics in US
 - 1. R = White, Black, and Indian
 - 2. E = Hispanics
 - C. Why Hispanics?
 - 1. Present = 5 - 10% of entire population
 - 2. 2000 = > blacks
 - 3. 2020 = > 50% of entire population
- II. Psychology Knowledge and Hispanics
 - A. Traditional
 - 1. Cross-Cultural
 - 2. Clinical
 - a. Psychopathology
 - b. Acculturation
 - c. Psychometric Assessment
 - B. Bernal and Padilia
 - 1. Psychology Knowledge = Hispanic population (growth)
- III. Neuropsychology, Clinical
 - A. Growth Patterns
 - 1. Organizations - INS, NAN, Division 40
 - 2. Books
 - 3. Journals
 - B. Major Issues
 - 1. Rehab/treatment
 - 2. Assessment
 - a. Differential Diagnosis
 - b. Deficit Analyses
 - c. Instruments
 - C. Assumptions
 - 1. Down Individual Differences
 - 2. Reasons
 - a. Measure Brain not Function
 - b. Brain not sensitive to ID variables
 - 3. Faults
 - a. Sex, Handedness, Age, Education (critical LNNB Level)
 - b. Other Variables - medication, etc. Culture and Ethnicity

IV. Hispanics and Neuropsychology

- A. Goals
 - 1. What is known
 - 2. Who is finding out
- B. Procedures
 - 1. Review of Literature
 - 2. Personal Experience
 - 3. Survey
- C. Review
 - 1. How
 - a. Psych Abstracts
 - b. Journals
 - c. Books
 - d. Computer Searches
 - 2. Results
 - a. Number = down
 - b. Authors = Padilla, ? --> MD
 - c. Universities = Spain, C/Latin America, US
 - d. Tests = WAIS (older version)
 - Bender (not scoring)
 - Luria (not LNNB)
- D. Survey
 - 1. INS, NAN, 40 (Mailing Labels)
 - > 2-3%, Closer to 1%
 - 2. Division 40 Mail Survey
 - a. Original Search
 - b. Second Mailing
- E. Personal
 - 1. Argentina
 - 0
 - 2. Puerto Rico
 - a. WAIS
 - b. Bender
 - 3. Spain
 - a. Barcelona; Madrid
 - b. Behavioral Neurology
 - 4. Mexico
 - a. Dstrosky

V. Projections and Solutions

- A. APA Survey
 - 1. Changing Face of American Psychology
 - 2. Division 40 mailing
- B. Solutions
 - 1. Awareness
 - a. NP is affected by ID variables
 - b. Hispanics = Dominant Force

2. Research
 - a. US
 - b. Collaboration
3. Training
 - a. US - recruitment and retention faculty
 - b. Abroad - introduction
4. Policy
 - a. MFP/APA
 - b. Neuroscience/APA
 - c. Division 40

VI. Summary

- A. Problem
- B. Solution

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- I. Identifying Hispanics
 - A. Defining Hispanics
 - B. Census Information
 - 1. Total number
 - 2. Projections and childbirth
 - 3. Illegal aliens

- II. Hispanic Neuropsychological Research
 - A. Method of Gathering Information Presented
 - B. Tests
 - 1. Weschler Intelligence Scales
 - 2. Bender
 - 3. Luria Approach
 - C. Summary
 - D. Implications

- III. Limitations of Unstandardized Translations
 - A. What Has Been Translated
 - B. Use of Above
 - C. Limitations
 - 1. Statistical
 - 2. Ethical

- IV. Issues Which Should Be Addressed
 - A. Religion
 - B. Gender
 - 1. Machismo
 - 2. marianismo
 - C. Culture
 - 1. Family
 - 2. Marriage
 - D. Linguistic
 - E. Personality

- V. Personnel
 - A. Current
 - B. Anticipated

- VI. Summary and Conclusions
 - A. Limitations of Existing Research
 - B. Limitations of Existing Approach
 - C. Suggestions for Improving
 - 1. Not to repeat historical trends
 - 2. Collaborative (including international) research
 - 3. Teach/sensitize students and faculty
 - 4. Research and clinical/training opportunities