

Ecological Validity

Spordone refers to neuropsychological testing in relation to ecological validity and the definitions he supplies for ecological validity serve well for other psychological testing and assessment procedures.

“Ecological validity can be defined as the functional and predictive relationship between the patient’s performance on a set of... test(s) and the patient’s behavior in a variety of real world settings (e.g., at home, work, school, community). This definition also assumes that demand characteristics within these various settings are idiosyncratic and fluctuate as a result of their specific nature, purpose, and goals” (Spordone 1996, p. 16).

Tedd Judd and David Fordyce’s chapter ‘Personality Test’ in Spordone’s book on ecological validity write, “The concept of ecological validity suggests that the clinician benefits from a working knowledge of the social, cultural, familial, economic, physical, (legal), and intellectual contexts from which their clients come and to which they willreturn” (p. 321).