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The Effects of Fixed-Ratio and Fixed-Interval Schedules of Reinforcement on Generalization Gradients

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THE EFFECTS OF FIXED-RATIO AND FIXED-INTERVAL SCHEDULES OF REINFORCEMENT ON GENERALIZATION GRADIENTS

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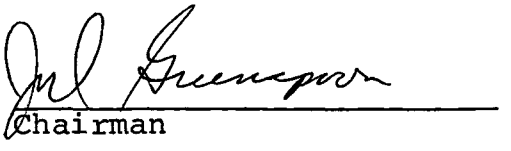

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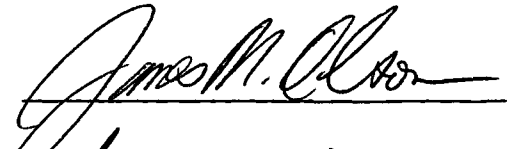

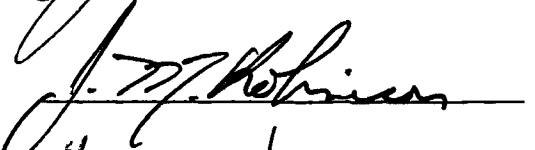

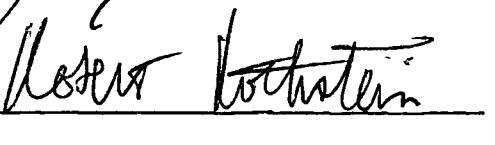

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THE EFFECTS OF FIXED-RATIO AND FIXED-INTERVAL SCHEDULES OF REINFORCEMENT ON GENERALIZATION GRADIENTS

by

CHRISTY L. SUTTON

RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT
Presented to the Faculty of Behavioral Sciences
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Abstract

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The purpose of this study was to investigate the effects of fixed-ratio and fixed-interval schedules of reinforcement on generalization gradients. The subjects were four female rats from the Fischer strain. All subjects were conditioned in the presence of a 2000 hz tone to press the bar for reinforcement. Each subject was then trained to one of the following schedules of reinforcement: FR-5, FR-30, FI-5, or FI-30. After maintenance on this terminal schedule for three days the subjects were tested for generalization. The generalization test consisted of variations in the frequency of the original S^D. Response rate was recorded and gradients of both absolute and relative generalization were plotted. While the FR schedules produced the highest response rates, the subjects trained on the FR-5 schedule of reinforcement exhibited the most generalization.