



Illinois Wesleyan University Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research
Conference

1994, 5th Annual JWP Conference

Apr 23rd, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

The With-In Session Effects of Stimuli

Emily Cointin

Illinois Wesleyan University

Bryan Reeves

Illinois Wesleyan University

Jim Dougan, Faculty Advisor

Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Emily Cointin; Bryan Reeves; and Jim Dougan, Faculty Advisor, "The With-In Session Effects of Stimuli" (April 23, 1994).
John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference. Paper 14.
<http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/1994/posters/14>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

THE WITH-IN SESSION EFFECTS OF STIMULI

Emily Cointin, Bryan Reeves and Jim Dougan*,
Department of Psychology, IWU

Traditionally, data collection and analysis has been taken across sessions with little interest given to differences within the session. However, McSweeney (1990) has shown differences within the session can have effects on the outcome of an experiment. Alternation of stimuli seems to be an important factor, but the reasons remain unclear. Two experiments were designed to determine the effects of stimuli on within-session response patterns. Six naive, female, Long-Evans Hooded rats were used in the study. In experiment 1, each subject was placed in a standard operant conditioning chamber on either of the two schedules. The first condition administered multiple VI30 - VI30 second schedule in which one bar was extended into the chamber for 5 minutes, retracted and immediately re-extended. In the second condition, the subjects were placed on multiple VI30 - VI30 seconds schedule in which one bar was extended for 5 minutes, retracted and then the other bar was extended for 5 minutes. Each session lasted for 1 hour and each subject was exposed to both conditions for 20 days with 3 of the subjects receiving each of the conditions first. In experiment 2, each subject was placed on multiple VI30 - VI30 schedule with the bar extended for variable amounts of time. In one condition, the bar was extended for 5 minutes then retracted and the other bar was extended for 5 minutes, in the other condition, the bar was extended on a VI5 minute schedule with alternating bars. Each session lasted 1 hour and each schedule was alternated after 15 days. In both experiments, it is expected that significant differences will be shown between the two conditions.