

Gender: A Factor in False Memory Creation in Eyewitness Testimonies

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Extensive research has highlighted the risk of using eyewitness testimonies in legal contexts due to human memory's fallibility. To address this, factors contributing to inaccuracies, including false memories, need examination. This study focuses on studying gender differences in the creation of false memories and uncovering a relationship between the gender interactions of the eyewitness and the interrogator in creating false memories. For this purpose, the current study adopted an experimental design, where 60 male and female participants were interrogated after watching a video of a robbery by both male and female interrogators. Measures such as double-blind design procedures were taken to minimize any extraneous or mediating effects. Data was analyzed through chi-square tests of independence. The results showed that female eyewitnesses exhibited a higher frequency of errors stemming from false memories compared to their male counterparts and that when questioned by female interrogators, male eyewitnesses provided more accurate responses and avoided false memories. However, the underlying causes of these significant gender-based differences warrant further exploration in future studies. This research has implications for the legal and law enforcement sectors, shedding light on areas that require heightened attention and precautions. Furthermore, the findings underscore the competence of female interrogators, suggesting that they are equal, if not superior, in performing interrogative tasks within law enforcement agencies.

Keywords: Eyewitness testimonies, Gender interactions, Gender, Interrogation
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