

"The Corruptive Power of False Confessions"

Presented by:

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Questions?

Contact:
Marianne Arcangeli
ma84@cornell.edu
607.255.4661



Presented by:

- Law, Psychology, and Human Development
- Department of Human Development
- Cornell Law School
- Center for Behavioral Economics and Decision Research
- Department of Psychology

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Dr. Saul Kassin

Distinguished Professor of
Psychology

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Confession evidence is so powerful that it often trumps contradictory DNA. Research to be reviewed shows that certain dispositional and situational factors put innocent people at risk to confess. In addition, new research will be presented suggesting that confessions bias juries, judges, and other decision makers, even when they are coerced, and that this bias occurs for a combination of reasons, including the fact that they may corrupt other evidence. This research has important implications for the concept of harmless error.

Dr. Kassin has served as President of the Psychology and Law Division of APA; in 2007, he received a Presidential Citation Award from APA for his work on false confessions. He has testified as an expert witness in state, federal, and military courts; lectures frequently to psychologists, judges, lawyers, criminal justice commissions, and law enforcement groups; and has appeared as a media consultant for ABC, CNN, CBS, PBS, MSNBC, and other national and syndicated news networks.



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