4th World Conference on
Psychology and Behavioral Science
May 13-14, 2024 | Vienna, Austria
https://doi.org/10.62422/978-81-970290-0-4-006

Processing speed in Gifted Children as Measured by the WISC V: It's Just Wrong

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This presentation will discuss why the Processing Speed Index (PSI) of the Wechsler Intelligence Scales for Children – Fifth Edition (WISC V) should not be considered in assessing gifted intellect. Processing speed in humans occurs in hundredths of thousandths of milliseconds. In fact, a magnetoencephalogram is used to measure the speed of neuronal communication, but the WISC V uses a stopwatch. This presentation is based on the presenter's research article: Processing Speed in Gifted Children: A Clinical Neuropsychological Perspective, which is set for publication in the February 2024 Special Issue of the Roeper Review. The research shows that the WISC V Processing Speed Index (PSI) as measured by the WISC V yields lower scores in gifted children compared with their neurotypical counterparts. This presentation will explain why gifted children score lower on the PSI. The attendees will learn a proper method for assessing processing speed in gifted children. The objective of this lecture is to further reduce possible misdiagnosis in the population.

Biography:

Dr. Paul Beljan is a pediatric neuropsychologist practicing in Scottsdale, AZ. He holds child diplomate with ABPdN and adult diplomate with the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology (ABN). He is a past president of the American Board of Pediatric Neuropsychology (ABPdN). Dr. Beljan earned a post-doctoral master's degree in psychopharmacology.

Dr. Beljan co-authored Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnosis of Gifted Children and Adults: ADHD, BiPolar, OCD, Depression, and Other Disorders. He also co-authored Large Scale Brain Systems and Neuropsychological Assessment: An Effort to Move Forward. Dr. Beljan is a nationally retained forensic expert and lectures nationally and internationally