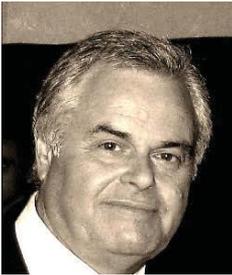


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The Centennial Introspection Project 100 Years of Polygraph Practice



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Foreword

The notion that our body displays physical cues indicative of deception has been recognized since early days of mankind thus produced numerous methods to detect deception, most of which relied on the concept that God will help the truth-tellers to survive the ordeals and tortures suspects were subject to. Only in the nineteenth century researchers with academic background utilizing medical measuring apparatuses, were able to demonstrate the connection between intentional deception and its' physical responses i.e. the “psychophysiological connection”.

Around 1920 the polygraph has advanced from its early laboratory experimental stage to nowadays operational practical stage. In 1921 the first polygraph police laboratory was inaugurated in California's Berkley Police Department. And already in 1923, the US Supreme Court referred to of the systolic blood pressure test in its famous Frye precedence.

In spite of not having an exact date of birth, it can be estimated that the polygraph is celebrating nowadays its' first centennial anniversary, a mile stone that calls for an introspection of what has been achieved since its' "birth". For that, publications of the profession's forth fathers who laid the practical foundation (such as; Marston, Larson, Keeler and others), were reviewed in order to compare early days practice to current practice. Although the review focused on the early twenties of the twentieth century later publications which detailed the early practice – including suggestions from the thirties were reviewed as well.

In order to broaden and enrich this review, nowadays prominent professional researchers and practitioners were asked to share their point of view in this matter by answering the following question:

Suppose you were a polygraph examiner already in the early years of the profession, when the practice was evolving please, outline the foremost changes you have witnessed in the last 100 years.

Please, disregard technical instrumental development due to the fact that those were basically developed by out of polygraph professionals and were later harnessed to the polygraph needs.

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While researching these old publications the similarities between old days practice and current practice was surprising and somewhat annoying. Yet, in spite of the similarities it seems that hundred years ago, examiners practiced an **intuition-based practice** while today, examiners are practicing an **evidence-based practice**. Old days practice leaned on individual examiners experience which led to different schools of thoughts while today regardless of the differences between the various approaches they all should be rooted on researches.

i.e. standardized practice opposed to difference schools of thought practice which was based on individual experience.

Last 100 years excelled in revolutionary scientific changes, a revolution that seems to neglect the polygraph practice. In spite of not witnessing a revolution there is an ongoing evolution that after hundred years can be considered as a revolution.

And to all those innovation and ground-breaking zealots and fanatics who claim “stagnation”, keep the wheel in mind. The wheel was invented some 8000 years ago. The basic shape and form stayed the same since. Innovation and advancement came in the shape of material: from stone thru wood thru metal to nowadays rubber with steel walls. Yet, the original shape and form stayed the same for an obvious reason: ‘If it’s ain’t broke don’t fix it’!