

Teachers' Interpretation of School Administrators' Gestures

Dr. Darryl Hunter

University of Alberta, Canada

Abstract:

This paper describes work underway in Canada to develop a psychometrically sound instrument for measuring teacher candidates' responses to school principals' gestures when school principals are explaining statistical reports. Gesture studies have revealed at least five overlapping sources/meanings for gestures: as cognitive expressions; as projections of emotion; as deliberate performances for an audience; as involuntary behaviours; as collateral expressions to speech. Video clips from a national study of school principals' statistical literacy will be played. Teacher candidates' focal points for interpreting gestures as forms of non-verbal communication will be identified. The implications for teacher training about the multiple facets of non-verbal communication will be explained. As well, the presentation presumes that statistics are best taught not as a subset of mathematics, but rather as the language of science.