



WARNS: Why context matters in test fairness

Thao Vo

Thao recently earned her Master of Arts degree in Educational Psychology from Washington State University in the spring of 2019. Her thesis uses a novel integration of ecological frameworks and district-gathered administrative data to understand the underlying sources of bias of adolescent risk and needs assessment. She currently works in the Learning and Performance Research Center as a graduate research assistant on projects involving psychometric analysis, with particular interests in test validity and fairness.

Brian F. French

Brian is a Professor of Educational Psychology and Director of the Learning and Performance Research Center at Washington State University, his area of research is focused on the quality of test scores used to make decisions about individuals and groups. He teaches courses in educational and psychological measurement, statistical modeling, and research methods.

Cihan Demir

Cihan is a grad student in the Department of Educational Psychology at Washington State University. He is interested in applying Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT) procedures to personality tests.

Bruce W. Austin

Bruce is a Research Associate in the College of Education at Washington State University. Mr. Austin holds a Master's degree in Statistics and another Master's in Educational Psychology. His work on the WSU WARNS team has included training and communicating with our WARNS subscribers, the development of the WARNS/PSSO online platform, and participation in research to further develop the instrument for broader populations. Mr. Austin's research specialty involves the development of statistical techniques to address issues and standards of fairness and equity in assessment data. Specific focus includes measurement invariance, response styles, psychometric methods, and methods for identifying and correcting sources of non-invariance in predictive equations that produce test bias or differential prediction. He collaborates on a variety of projects with WSU and external researchers in areas such as Communication, Kinesiology, Health Sciences, Human Development, and Extension.

Paul S. Strand

Paul is a professor in the Department of Psychology at Washington State University Tri-Cities. His areas of research interest include how socio-emotional development and culture impact school readiness and success.