



**Task Number:** 2016-006

**Article Title:** The vision in “blind” justice: Expert perception, judgement, and visual cognition in forensic pattern recognition

**Origin:** Psychonomic Bulletin and Review

**Date Published:** 2010

**Author:** Itiel Dror and Simon Cole

**Article’s Subject Matter:**

The article speaks to Bias and references a number of studies done by authors such as (Vokey et al – 2009), (Schiffer & Champod – 2007), (Hall & Player – 2008), (Wertheim, Langenburg, & Moenssens – 2006 and 2009) and (Charlton, Fraser-Mackenzie & Dror – 2010).

In the last study referenced, 4 out of 5 examiners contradicted their original conclusions on previously examined prints, but with bias stating that the prints were from the original erred Mayfield comparison.

The Shirley McKie case was also brought up in that there was an error and apology made, yet the print continues to be disputed in Scotland by the original examiners.

**Key Points in Article**

- Extraneous influences such as emotional context, expectation, and motivation affect decision making
- More studies are required to understand perceptual and cognitive processes involved in forensic pattern recognition
- Many individual examiners and forensic professional bodies have been reluctant to acknowledge, accept, and take proper action to counter biases.

**Fallacies and or Issues**

- Article was written in 2010 and since that time a number of forensic bodies have acknowledged bias and are taking steps to reduce/minimize it (blind verification, or bias reduction, in verification)