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Cutting-edge Thoughts on Automated Integrative Complexity

August 2014 – In a five-paper symposium in the forthcoming October 2014 issue of *Political Psychology*, Peter Suedfeld, Philip E. Tetlock, Lucian Gideon Conway, III, Kathrene R. Conway, L. Janelle Gornick, Shannon C. Houck, Tetlock, S. Emlen Metz, Sydney E. Scott, Michael D. Young, and Margaret G. Hermann discuss the importance of creating an automated measurement of integrative complexity and the issues faced in doing so.

Integrative complexity scoring is an important and widely-studied construct in the history of political psychology, yet it is time-consuming to score by the traditional hand-scoring method. This symposium brings together leading experts in the area for a lively discussion of the possibility of automating the integrative complexity construct. Suedfeld and Tetlock open the symposium by introducing some of the obstacles to hand-scoring integrative complexity and the tension between hand-scoring and automated scoring of the construct. Then, in the target article for the symposium, Conway, Conway, Gornick, and Houck present a new system for the automated scoring of integrative complexity and offer validity evidence for this system. Tetlock, Metz, and Scott offer commentary on this system, discuss the theoretical assumptions underlying integrative complexity scoring, and outline the importance of distinguishing different types of complexity moving forward. Young and Hermann offer additional commentary on the gold standard for measuring the construct and further discuss an alternative automated system that involves a different approach to automation of integrative complexity. Houck, Conway, and Gornick conclude the symposium with a summary commentary highlighting the general agreement concerning the usefulness of automated systems, present new evidence concerning the validity of their original system, and discuss the potential for using multiple systems as we move forward.

In total, this symposium provides the most recent and cutting-edge thoughts on how we might automate a historically-important construct in the field. Given the increasing importance of automating linguistic variables in our field, this symposium will thus be of interest to anyone who may want to consider scoring linguistic complexity using automated systems

The articles can be accessed on the *Political Psychology* website at the following link:
[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1467-9221/earlyview](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1467-9221/earlyview)

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