

Raymond Baird, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus

Department of Psychology

Research area: Psychology and Law

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Bio

Raymond R. Baird, Professor of Psychology, was awarded an A.B. in Psychology from Eastern New Mexico University. He earned a M.S. and Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Washington. Before coming to UTSA, he taught at Wright State University, where he rose to the rank of Associate Professor, headed an interdisciplinary graduate program, and earned an award for outstanding undergraduate teaching. Upon his arrival at newly-opened UTSA, he helped to develop both the undergraduate curriculum and the master's program. He served as Director of the Division of Behavioral and Cultural Sciences for 16 years. He then served as Interim Director of the Division of Mathematics and Statistics for four years, followed by a one-year appointment as Interim Chair of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. He is currently completing his second year of service as Senior Associate Dean in the College of Sciences.

His research emphasis in the past decade has been psychology and law, revolving primarily around perception of sentencing equity. The principle underlying this work is that in order to "balance the books," society expects the perpetrator of a crime to experience outcomes (e.g., punishments and losses) that are worse than those experienced by the victim of the crime, but not excessive. Thus society expects the legal system to make the punishment fit the totality of the specific circumstances of the crime. When a given crime is associated with a high level of victim suffering, for instance, the ideal punishment will be more severe. In addition, society requires that the judicial system weigh factors associated with the criminal. The optimal punishment should fit not only the crime but also should fit the criminal as well. For example, restitution and remorse have the effect of reducing the severity of the optimal punishment. This research program has yielded several poster presentations, four reporting results from master's theses done under his direction. An offshoot of this research in the subfield of psychology of law has focused on adult memory errors and has yielded several additional posters (three with undergraduate honor's students working under his direction). Research summarized in a publication growing out of this line of work (see note 1) demonstrated that experts sometimes make more errors of commission (as opposed to errors of omission) than non-experts.

Degrees

Ph.D., Developmental Psychology, Philosophy, University of Washington

M.S., Psychology, University of Washington

B.A., Psychology, Eastern New Mexico University

Recent Courses

- 1013 *Introduction to Psychology*
- 2543 *Theories of Learning*

Recent Publications

- Baird, R. R., (2003). Experts sometimes show more false recall than novices: A cost of knowing too much. (vol. 13, pp. 349-355). *Learning and Individual Differences*.
- Baird, R. R., West, V. L., (1981). Stereotypic images of adoptive families. (vol. 33, pp. 19-23). *Texas Psychologist*.
- Rupert, P. S., Baird, R. R., (1979). Modification of cognitive tempo on a hapticvisual matching task. (vol. 135, pp. 164-174). *Journal of Genetic Psychology*.
- Baird, R. R., (1979). More abnormal psychology texts: Observations on a mixed lot. (vol. 24, pp. 55-57). *Contemporary Psychology*.1977
- Colle, H., Vestewig, R., Baird, R. R., (1977). Testing the test files: What do you ask of your publisher?. (vol. 4, pp. 31-35). *Teaching of Psychology*.
- Baird, R. R., (1974). Children's phonological rules: A failure to replicate. (vol. 23, pp. 112-120). *Language Learning*.
- Baird, R. R., (1974). Congruence and negative information as determinants of answers to questions of entailment. (vol. 13, pp. 545-560). *Journal of Verbal Learning and Verbal Behavior*.
- Baird, R. R., (1974). Recall of embedded sentences: Perceptual or performance deficit?. (vol. 3, pp. 36-38). *Bulletin of the Psychonomic Society*.
- Baird, R. R., Koslick, J., (1974). Recall of grammatical relations within clausecontaining sentences. (vol. 3, pp. 165-171). *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*.
- Baird, R. R., (1973). Structural characteristics of clause-containing sentences and imitation by children and adults. (vol. 2, pp. 115-127). *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*.

Additional Information

- Senior Associate Dean, College of Sciences, UTSA, 2007 - Present
- Who's Who Among America's Teachers (student nomination)
- City of San Antonio Higher Education Authority member