

*The Detection Of Stress, Emotion, & Deception From Speech:
The Intersection Of Linguistics, Policy, & Politics*

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While prior research on the detection of stress, emotion, and deception from speech and language has shown only limited progress, this has not prevented the marketing of commercial devices that purport to detect these states to a variety of customers, such as law enforcement agencies, the military, intelligence agencies, homeland security, and insurance companies. For the major products currently on the market, all independent studies to date have failed to verify their efficacy with a wide range of speech materials collected under different experimental conditions, ranging from laboratory studies with carefully controlled speech to “mock crimes” to speech produced under realistic levels of jeopardy. This literature will be reviewed, including two studies conducted by the author, and they will be discussed in terms of how their experimental design and their results are shaped and used in policy debates by four interest groups in this area: private manufacturers, elected officials and their staffers, academic researchers, and federal bureaucrats.