



The Myth of Executive Functioning: Missing Elements in Conceptualization, Evaluation, and Assessment (SpringerBriefs in Neuroscience)

Leonard F. Koziol

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Executive functioning: we measure it, assess it, document its development in youth, track its decline in age and use it as a basis for diagnoses, treatment planning and-of course-theories. Could it be possible that science has spent decades chasing a cognitive phantom?

Noting the lack of consensus concerning definition, component skills, and location within the brain, *The Myth of Executive Functioning* calls basic assumptions, prominent theories, commonly used test methods, and even the phrase *executive functioning* into question. The book's deceptively simple argument takes an evolutionary/neuroscience look at the cornerstones of cognitive organization, including memory, planning, decision-making and adaptation to novel circumstances. From there, gaps are identified between systems of cognitive control and those behaviors that are evaluated in neuropsychological testing-gaps that contribute to the disconnect between how science views mind and body, brain and behavior. The author's problem-solving metaphor places new emphasis on stimulus processing and on the relationship between movement and thought as he offers thought-provoking perspectives on:

The limits of neuropsychological constructs.

- The components of adaptive thinking.
- The automatic aspects of problem solving.
- The left-brain/right-brain dichotomy.
- Problems with the domain approach to cognition.
- New paradigms for testing cognitive functioning.

A controversial presentation with the potential to change clinical practice and training, *The Myth of Executive Functioning* will be read, debated and learned from by neuropsychologists, clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, cognitive neuroscientists and rehabilitation specialists.

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