

## Journal Article Presentation

### Introduction:

**Title:** Maintenance of self-imposed delay of gratification by four chimpanzees  
Michael J. Beran  
The Journal of General Psychology

**Theory:** Chimpanzees have different levels of self-control for foods they value differently.

**Hypothesis:** Chimpanzees will display a stronger level of self-control for foods they value more highly.

**Theoretical Construct I:** Delay of Gratification / Self-Control

**Corresponding Operational Definition:** Number of food pieces they wait for.

### Design:

**Study:** Experimental

**Subjects:** Four Chimpanzees: Lana, Sherman, Panzee, and Mercury

**Independent Variable I:** Type of food in the bowl.

**Scale of Measurement:** Quantitative

**Dependent Variable I:** How many food pieces they wait for before consuming that particular food type.

**Scale of Measurement:** Ratio

### Results:

**Main Effect I (Of First IV):** Not Significant,  $p > .05$

## **Discussion:**

The first study seemed more interesting by showing that chimpanzees actually display delay of gratification. Trying to show that they have different levels with food that is valued differently seems insignificant.

### **Did the Operational Definitions Correspond well to the Theoretical Constructs?**

Yes, using food seems like it would be something chimpanzees value highly enough to use in this type of experiment.

### **What are the Potential Confounds?**

How hungry the chimpanzees were.  
If they really knew that more food pieces would be given to them if they wait.  
Were the foods ranked correctly.

### **How would you have done the Study differently?**

Shown the chimpanzees how many pieces of food they could potentially get.

### **Even if you are completely happy with the Study, what would you do next?**

Have the reward be something different from food.