

Ch. 14: Projective Testing

- Review of test design patterns
- The Projective Hypothesis
- Projective Tests
 - Rorschach Inkblot Test
 - The TAT

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Design response patterns

- Deductive (aka “top down”) vs. Empirical (“Data-Driven”)
- Logical Content
- Criterion Groups
- Objective vs. Subjective
 - stimuli
 - expected responses / response choices

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The Projective Hypothesis

- Given ambiguous stimuli, response will reflect a person's needs
- Given ambiguous stimuli, response will reflect existing cognitive schemas

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Rorschach I



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Rorschach Inkblot Test

- 10 cards
- Two phases:
 - free association :“what might this be?”
 - inquiry: determine why subject saw that
- Tester gives as little feedback as possible: remains vague, neutral, ambiguous
- Test is atheoretical

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Hermann Rorschach



Died in 1922 at age 37
before he completed his work

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Rorschach History

- Hermann's death led to difficult history
- Five disciples each with different scoring system
- Studies in the 1950s and 1960s began to debunk the Rorschach in controlled double-blind studies
- Exner began to develop his system in response

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Rorschach Scoring

- Exner's Comprehensive system
- Responses scored on 5 dimensions:
 - Location
 - W(hole), D(etail), Dd(unusual detail)
 - Determinant
 - F(orm), M(ovement-human), FM(animal), m (inanimate), C(olor), T(shading)
 - Form quality : F+, F, F-
 - Content : H(uman), A(nimal), N(ature)
 - Frequency

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Rorschach Controversy

- Remains controversial
- Administration not standardized
- Reliability coefficients not established
- Validity
 - lack of relationship to psychological diagnoses
 - lack of incremental validity (e.g. in addition to MMPI)

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TAT



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Thematic Apperception Test

- Similar to Rorschach in some ways
- Questions about reliability and validity
- Administration & Scoring is not well standardized
 - too many scoring systems
 - most clinicians use no scoring system at all!
- However, somewhat less controversial than Rorschach
 - made fewer claims
 - did not "oversell" its abilities
 - Based on a theory (Murray's 28 human needs)

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TAT : Lindzey's assumptions I

- Subject identifies with one "hero"
- Subject's issues may be represented symbolically
- Not all stories are important
- Themes from stimuli less relevant than themes from subject
- Recurrent themes important
- Themes may be short or long term

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TAT : Lindzey's assumptions 2

- Stories may represent third-hand material; but selection is important
- Stories may reflect sociocultural factors
- Disposition and Conflicts in stories may be unconscious

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