

## Ch. 14: Projective Testing

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

## Design response patterns

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

## The Projective Hypothesis

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

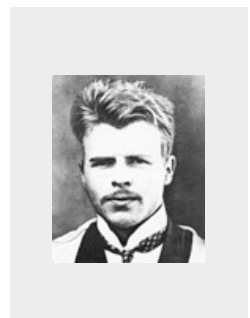
## Rorschach I



## 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

## Hermann Rorschach



Died in 1922 at age 37  
before he completed his work

## 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

## 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

## 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)

## TAT



## 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)

## 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

## 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

