

Ch. 14: Projective Testing

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

870

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

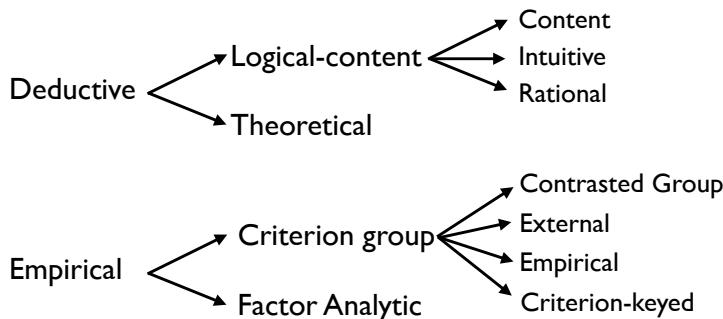
Certifiably Sane

- Psychologist: "The Rorschach is a projective psychological test that contains 10 cards with inkblots on them...The subject is shown each of the cards one at a time and [states] what the inkblot might be"
- Attorney: "You mean to say that you can tell whether a person is sane or insane by the way he or she interprets 10 black, gray and variously colored inkblots?"

871

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

Design Theories



872

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

Design Theories

- Deductive (aka "Top Down" or "Theory-driven")
 - Use reason, clinical experience and common sense to choose test items that are face-valid to the construct being assessed.
- Empirical (aka "Bottom-Up" or "Data-driven")
 - Look for patterns in large groups of data
 - Data tells us what groups/dimensions/factors exist
 - Don't assume face validity or response style

873

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

Stimuli vs. Response

- Objective vs. Subjective
 - stimuli
 - expected responses / response choices

874

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

The Projective Hypothesis

- Given ambiguous stimuli, response will
 - ...reflect their needs
 - ...reflect their existing cognitive schemas

875

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

Inkblot History

- Inkblots originally used for *Personality* assessment by Binet
- Rorschach adapted for use assessment *Psychopathology*

877

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

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

879

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

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

881

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

882

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

Barnum Effect

- Named after P.T. Barnum “We’ve got something for everyone”
 - “There’s a sucker born every minute” - David Hannum, in criticism of Barnum.
- aka Forer Effect
- Forer, 1948:
 - Provide personality profile to students
 - Students rate the accuracy
 - Reported accuracy = 4.26 out of 5 (between Very Good and Excellent)

883

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

Forer Profile

- 1 You have a great need for other people to like and admire you.
- 2 You have a tendency to be critical of yourself.
- 3 You have a great deal of unused capacity which you have not turned to your advantage.
- 4 While you have some personality weaknesses, you are generally able to compensate for them.
- 5 Your sexual adjustment has presented problems for you.

[...]

884

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

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 (popularity of response)

885

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

Rorschach Theory vs. Data

- Determinant : cooperative movement
- Hypothesis : subjects giving these responses are fun, trustworthy
- Data: study of 20 sexual psychopathic murders, over 70% gave such answers

886

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

Rorschach Controversy

- Remains controversial
- Administration not standardized
- Reliability coefficients not established
- Validity
 - lack of relationship to psychological diagnoses
 - 50% of above average IQ children diagnosed with social/cognitive impairments (Erard 2005)
 - lack of incremental validity (e.g. in addition to MMPI)

887

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

Rorschach Controversy 2

- Test has not shown to be Reliable or Valid
- Still a widely used clinical test
- Similarity to Lie Detector Tests?

888

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

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)

890

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

TAT : Lindzey's assumptions 1

- 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

891

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr. Michael Diehr

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

892

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr Michael Dohr

Projective Testing : Conclusions

- Projective tests are controversial yet widely used
- Objectively, have poor psychometrics: Reliability, Validity, Standardization & Norms
- Subjectively, they seem impressive
- Recommendations:
 - do not oversell results
 - use only to generate *hypotheses*
 - part of a larger assessment

893

Psychology 402 - Fall 2014 - Dr Michael Dohr