# Review

- IQ / Race
- The 4 Claims of *The Bell Curve*
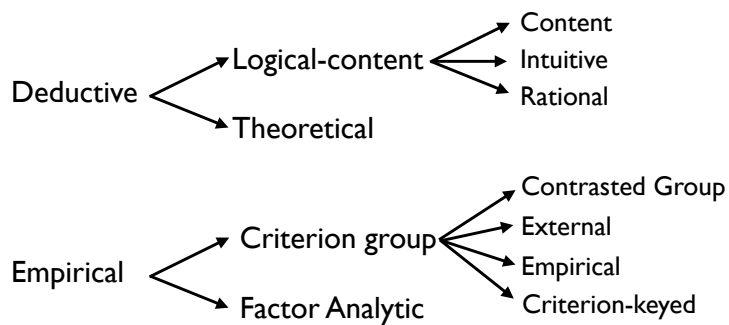- Policy / Politics
  - Remediation
  - Selection Philosophy

# 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 wether a person is sane or insane by the way he or she interprets 10 black, gray and variously colored inkblots?"

# Design Theories

Deductive
- Logical-content
  - Content
  - Intuitive
  - Rational
- Theoretical

Empirical
- Criterion group
  - Contrasted Group
  - External
  - Empirical
  - Criterion-keyed
- Factor Analytic

# Design Theories

- Deductive (aka "Top Down" or "Theory-driven")
  - Use reason, clinical experience and common sense to choose test items that are face-valid.

- Empirical (aka "Bottom-Up" or "Data-driven")
  - Look for patterns in large groups of data
  - Data tells us what factors exist
  - Don't assume face validity

# Stimuli vs. Response

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

# The Projective Hypothesis

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

# Inkblot History

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

# Rorschach 1

# 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

# 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 rated accuracy: 4.26 out of 5 (between *very good* and *excellent* match)

# 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.

[...]

# Rorschach Claims

- Expert examiners can make predictions of "miraculous" accuracy
- Predictions hard to test
- Explained by the P.T. Barnum Effect?

# 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)

# 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

# Rorschach Controversy

- Test 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)

# Rorschach Controversy 2

- Test has not shown to be Reliable or Valid
- Still a widely used clinical test

- Professionals suffering from overconfidence?
  - Similarity to Lie Detector Tests?
  - FBI hair analysis...

# 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 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

# 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

# Projective Testing : Conclusions

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

# Project Paper - Discussion

- Reliability good ( r > 0.4 )
  - Convergent +
  - Divergent 0
- Reliability poor (r < 0.4 )
  - Think about Q1 & Q2: bad theory or questions?
- Reliability good but Convergent poor
  - test is measuring *something* but perhaps not what you think?
  - poor choice of Convergent target