Danish Rorschach Society V International Workshop
Lecturer: Patrick Fontan, Ph.D., psychologist:
« Psychometric Advances in the Rorschach CS «

The 25th -26th of April, 2019.

Venue: Hotel Comwell, Karensmindevej 2, 5500 Middelfart, Denmark

TOPICS for the Workshop:

Projection, Narration, and Computer-Generated Interpretation: the emergence of the individual from the data

In recent years, increased focus on test validity, meta-analyses and normative issues has raised questions related to the clinical interpretation of psychological tests in the background. There has been a belief that accurate administration and scoring, together with empirical evidence would translate naturally into a meaningful and synthetic psychological report. However, if psychological assessment requires valid data as a starting point, how psychologists integrate these data in to form a full description is another question. Psychological assessment is a practice which goes beyond the technical exercise it requires. This workshop will be focused on these issues, which are at the core of psychological assessment practice.How much space is left for projection? How can we deal with it and integrate it with psychometric data? How can one design a narration which faithfully describes the person in a lively and embodied fashion? What help can computers give us in this process? What are the pitfalls to avoid? Theoretical and practical considerations will be articulated with clinical cases which will be discussed and interpreted with participants.

Divergence and convergence between Rorschach CS and R-PAS

There is a current tension in the Rorschach community between two poles represented by R-PAS and the CS. If R-PAS represents significant advances for the Rorschach, it also contains substantial limitations which need to be taken into account in clinical practice. The R-PAS psychometric model of Complexity, which is a core element of the system, will be discussed in detail on statistical grounds. The Composite International

Reference Values for R-PAS and the CS will also be reviewed on methodological grounds and contrasted with different results and methods. The question of Rorschach pathological scales, their validity, utility, and generalizability will also be addressed, and clinical implications of these theoretical and psychometric considerations will be systematically articulated. Finally, propositions for a possible convergence between the R-PAS and the CS will be presented.

Suicidal Process and risk assessment with the Rorschach

Suicide risk is a significant and challenging clinical issue. The Rorschach Suicide Constellation has demonstrated reasonable validity in this field. However, the scale is relatively difficult to conceptualize on clinical grounds, and if it tells something about the patient's future outcome, the question of its clinical meaning here and now remains unclear. A theoretical approach to the interpretation of this scale in terms of psychological processes will be presented and will be contrasted with empirical studies on this question. In addition, retrospective studies have revealed different types of psychological processes leading to suicide attempts which will be presented in detail. Finally, the latest evidences on the prospective and cross-cultural validity of the Suicide Constellation will be reviewed.

The Component Model in clinical use

The Rorschach Components Model (Fontan et al., 2016) is a newly developed dimensional approach to the Rorschach CS. In the current scientific context, increasing focus is put on dimensional models of psychological assessment. Considering Rorschach psychometric properties, it is a challenge to wonder if the Rorschach can meet these standards. Rationale in favor of the use of dimensional models and how to apply them to Rorschach data will be presented. Results imply to reconsider some of our basic conception about the Rorschach, and these points will be presented in detail. Finally, a clinical case will be presented so as to demonstrate the purpose of this approach in applied practice.

Biography

Patrick Fontan is a school psychologist and a doctor in psychopathology. In his dissertation, he reviewed and developed the psychometric approach to the Rorschach, which led to the creation of an innovative dimensional model for the Rorschach CS (Rorschach Components Model), which has been published in Rorschachiana in 2016. He is the lead developer of CHESSSS, the free software solution for the Rorschach CS and Supplementary Scales (Fontan et al. 2013) which is currently used in numerous clinical and research contexts worldwide: Validity and Utility of the CS Suicide Constellation in Algerian Psychiatric Groups (Fontan & Fergani, SPA 2016), the Rorschach of Italian Suicidal Patients: A Discriminant Analysis (Gazale& Fontan, SPA 2016) Gender, Sexual Identity and Rorschach Human Responses (Mormont & Fontan, in press), The Complexity of the Rorschach and Factor Analysis (CSIRA, 2015), Longterm Psychotherapy changes in the Rorschach CS ideation & affect clusters (Yazigi, Lerman & Fontan, ISR 2017). As a school psychologist, he also specializes in psychological assessment of children and has published several papers on this topic in French journals. Concerning his teaching experience, he was a research assistant in the Universities of Paris West and Reims where he taught adult and child psychopathology. He also provided several workshops and seminars on the Rorschach test (Liege University (Belgium), Milan University (Italy), Algiers 2 University (Algeria), British Rorschach Society, Austrian Rorschach Society, Catalan Rorschach Society (Spain)

List of literature for the workshop:

Carstairs, K., Hartley, S., Peden, A., Woods, J. M., van Graan, A., Andronikof, A., & Fontan, P. (2018). A normative study in England with the Rorschach comprehensive system. Rorschachiana, 39(2), 105.

Smith, J. M., Gacono, C. B., Fontan, P., Taylor, E. E., Cunliffe, T. B., & Andronikof, A. (2018). A scientific critique of Rorschach research: Revisiting Exner's Issues and Methods in Rorschach Research (1995). Rorschachiana, 39(2), 180.

Mormont, C., & Fontan, P. (2017). Sex assignment to whole human responses in Rorschach. Rorschachiana, 38, 108-128.

Fontan, P., Andronikof, A., Mattlar, C.-E., & Mormont, C. (2016). Dimensions of the Rorschach Comprehensive System: Parallel Analysis and Principal Component Analysis of a European adult nonpatient sample. Rorschachiana.37(2), 114–146

Andronikof, A., &Fontan, P. (2014) L'examen psychologique de l'enfant : pratique et déontologie. Neuropsychiatrie de l'Enfance et de l'Adolescence, 62(7), 403-407

Fontan, P., Andronikof, A., Nicodemo, D., Al Nyssani, L., Guilheri, J., Hansen, K. G., . . . Nakamura, N. (2013). CHESSSS: A free software solution to score and compute the Rorschach Comprehensive System and Supplementary Scales. Rorschachiana, 34(1),56-82.

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For further information