



The Finnish Rorschach Association ry

The Autumn Seminars of The Finnish Rorschach Association

December 8 & 9, 2023, Helsinki, Finland

“R-PAS Updates and Case Interpretation”

&

“Using R-PAS in Multimethod Assessment of Psychosis”

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Time: Friday, December 8, 2023, from 10:00 to 17:30
Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 9:00 to 16:00

Place: Suojeluskuntatalon Auditorio, Töölöntorinkatu 2 B, First Floor, 00260 Helsinki, Finland

Fee: FRA members: 390 € for both days, 270 € for one day. Non-FRA members: 520 € for both days, 360 € for one day. All fees are VAT 0% and no VAT is added to the fee.

Registration: Registration is open to members of The Finnish Rorschach Association, the Danish Rorschach Society, the Swedish Rorschach Society, The Norwegian Rorschach Society, the Therapeutic Assessment Institute community and the Society for Personality Assessment. Please send an e-mail to our treasurer, Joona Suominen, by December 1, 2023. E-mail: joona.suominen@icloud.com. After registration, you will receive an invoice including a reference number for payment.

Day 1: R-PAS Updates and Case Interpretation

9:30 Coffee

10:00 An updated review of research comparing the CS and R-PAS

10:30 Updates to R-PAS

FQ coding interface

Administration App

Norms

Some pending 2nd edition changes

12:00 Lunch Break

13:15 Updates on construct validity and implications for interpretation

Complexity

SC-Comp

V & FD

14:30 Discussion

14:45 Break

15:00 Multimethod case interpretation: Part 1

16:30 Break

16:45 Multimethod case interpretation: Part 2

17:30 Close

*18:30 Dinner at **Restaurant Elite**, Eteläinen Hesperiankatu 22, 00100 Helsinki, Finland (dinner at your own expense; **please sign up well in advance by writing to emiliano@muzio.net**)*

We will start the day with an up-to-date review of all the data on how the Rorschach Performance Assessment System (R-PAS) differs from Exner's Comprehensive System (CS). The goal is to provide attendees with a concise guide to the last 15 years of research documenting the effects of CS to R-PAS changes. These changes include documentation guidelines, administration procedures, FQ tables, and dimensional scoring algorithms. This portion of the workshop attempts to address the question: Were Exner's efforts to improve the Rorschach through his Rorschach Research Council successful?

Following this, we will shift to discussing some of the updates underway as developments for the second edition of the R-PAS manual. These updates include practical features of using R-PAS, including the FQ coding interface, the online application to simplify and guide administration, new norms, and changes to some of the variables that will be included. We will also present updated summaries of the construct validity literature and the implications for interpretation—including reviews of Complexity, individual variables of the Suicide Concern Composite (SC-Comp), and the dimensional variables Vista (V) and Form Dimension (FD)—that can be applied to improving Rorschach interpretation for clients in your practice today.

The last portion of the day will focus on a multimethod assessment case that includes a complex R-PAS record and the Personality Assessment Inventory, among other measures. Attendees will receive the Rorschach protocol in advance, along with its coding, results output, and case-specific inferences from the Interpretive Guide. We encourage attendees who know R-PAS or are learning R-PAS to practice coding the case before reviewing our coding of it. The case interpretation will consider multimethod assessment principles and illustrate enhanced interpretation by focusing on cross-method convergence and divergence.

Day 2: Using R-PAS in Multimethod Assessment of Psychosis

8:45 Coffee

9:00 Main dimensions of psychosis, Self-disorder in Schizophrenia

10:30 Break

10:45 Methods to assess the main dimensions of psychosis

What R-PAS can contribute to a multimethod psychosis assessment

R-PAS & MMPI psychosis meta-analyses

12:15 Break

12:30 WSumCog Codes & Disorganized Thinking: Multitrait multimethod construct validity study

Examples of R-PAS Psychosis records

13:15 Lunch Break

14:30 Charles Manson's Evaluation and his Rorschach in R-PAS

15:30 Discussion

16:00 Close

The first part of the workshop on the second day will be devoted to describing the main dimensions of psychosis, to illustrate where R-PAS fits into the multimethod assessment of psychosis and where other methods are needed. Self-disorders of schizophrenia spectrum disorders (SSDs) will be described as a context to understand the phenomenology of patients with SSDs during the assessment. Updates to R-PAS psychosis research will be presented, including (a) new meta-analyses of the Rorschach and MMPI in assessing psychotic symptoms and (b) using the multitrait multimethod matrix to understand R-PAS construct validity in assessing disorganized speech and other psychotic symptoms. Examples of the various types of psychotic Rorschach responses and their meaning will be provided. The last part of the workshop will present data from Charles Manson's last psychological evaluation in 1997 that became available to the public in 2017 after his death. Two MMPI-2 experts and Joni Mihura, as an R-PAS expert, were invited to provide a contemporary interpretation of Manson's test results. In contrast to Rorschach records from psychopaths that can be rather flat, Manson's grandiose flair and need for uniqueness to sustain the media and the public's attention results in extremely unique Rorschach responses. Due to the longstanding debate as to whether Manson qualified for a diagnosis of schizophrenia, and the strong meta-analytic support for assessing psychosis with the Rorschach, R-PAS results were used to answer that question. The original CS interpretations and Mihura's R-PAS interpretations will be briefly compared, but the R-PAS results will be interpreted more in-depth. Because a video or transcription of the 1997 clinical interview was not available, Mihura reviewed two online interviews with Manson (one at the trial, another in 1993 with Diane Sawyer) to further evaluate his speech for what had been referred to in his record as thought disorder or schizophrenic speech. Video clips of the interview will be shown. Then Mihura will evaluate the key schizophrenia dimensions using the test data. Finally, a discussion of his assessment results with the focus on assessing psychosis will close the day.

Gregory J. Meyer, Ph.D., is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Toledo. His research focuses on psychological assessment, with an emphasis on the integration of personality assessment methods and using the Rorschach as a performance-based measure of psychological processes. He has more than 95 peer-reviewed publications and an h-index of 52. He has received Distinguished Contribution Awards for specific articles and general contributions and served as the Editor of the *Journal of Personality Assessment* for 11 years. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (Division 5) and of the Society for Personality Assessment. In addition to co-authoring the manual for the Rorschach Performance Assessment System, he co-edited a casebook entitled *Using the Rorschach Performance Assessment System (R-PAS)*.

Joni L. Mihura, Ph.D., ABAP is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Toledo specializing in psychological assessment and psychosis. She is Board Certified in Assessment Psychology (ABAP). Dr. Mihura received early career awards from both the Society for Personality Assessment (SPA) and the American Psychoanalytic Association (APsaA) as well as an SPA award for contributions to the literature. She is a Fellow of SPA, and a past President. She has numerous publications on psychological assessment and is best known for her work with the Rorschach inkblot test—including systematic reviews and meta-analyses of the test's validity. She is the co-developer of a new Rorschach system, the *Rorschach Performance Assessment System (R-PAS)*, for which she presents invited lectures and trainings internationally. She is taking the lead on developing a new Rorschach test specifically to assess psychosis: the Thought and Perception Assessment System (TPAS). She is the co-editor of two books—*Using the Rorschach Performance Assessment System (R-PAS)* and the *Handbook of Gender and Sexuality in Psychological Assessment*, and editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Personality and Psychopathology Assessment*.