



The Rorschach Performance Assessment System (R-PAS): Overview and Case Illustrations

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Brief Workshop Description

This two-day workshop introduces the new, empirically-grounded Rorschach Performance Assessment System (R-PAS). R-PAS uses the task as a verbal and perceptual behavior sample obtained under standardized conditions such that personality inferences are based on observed performance rather than self-description. Test scores are compared to new internationally-based norms and graphically displayed using standard scores. After describing the meta-analytic research foundation for R-PAS we focus on distinctive features of administration, coding, normative reference data, and interpretation, and apply the system to two cases. We assume participants have some previous Rorschach-based assessment experience.

Elaborated Curriculum Content

This workshop provides an introduction to the recently developed Rorschach Performance Assessment System (R-PAS). R-PAS is an approach to using the Rorschach that is based both on strong empirical support and on an appreciation of the task as providing an in vivo sample of perceptual and verbal problem solving behavior obtained in a standardized context. The latter allows for personality inferences to be based on observed performance rather than self-description. This conceptual foundation also helps demystify the process of making valid inferences from the task. R-PAS emphasizes scores where there is a clear link between the psychological processes associated with the perceptions and behaviors coded in the microcosm of the task and inferences about parallel psychological processes associated with the perceptions and behaviors that make up personality characteristics expressed in everyday

behavior. Building on the recent series of meta-analyses that form the foundation for the variables included in R-PAS (Mihura, Meyer, Dumitrascu, & Bombel, 2013, *Psychological Bulletin*), in this workshop we focus on how R-PAS is a reliable, valid, useful, and manageable way of using the Rorschach internationally in applied practice with adults. We also document how it provides incrementally valid information that complements self-reported characteristics to more fully understand patients and the problems that bring them for an assessment.

We start the workshop by briefly describing the scientific rationale and procedures for R-PAS, addressing administration; clarification; the selection, scoring, and computation of variables; form quality and perceptual accuracy; normative referencing for adults as well as children and adolescents; a standardized format to present the results; and interpretive inferences. The system is designed to address the legitimate criticisms that have identified limitations and problems with previous approaches to Rorschach-based assessment and as such it is built upon a strong research foundation, making use of the best supported variables in the Rorschach literature, and an appreciation of the Rorschach task as providing a sample of behavioral performance. The selection of variables and interpretive guidelines derive primarily from systematic reviews of the Rorschach validity literature; to a lesser extent they also derive from surveys of clinicians about the usefulness of indices and variables, a conceptual understanding of the processes involved in generating test responses, and attention to efficiency and parsimony. We will review relevant evidence from several of our studies, including extensive internationally conducted research to generate contemporary measures of perceptual accuracy, as well as several studies we have conducted to optimize the range of responses obtained from an examinee while simultaneously allowing for flexibility in responding and idiographic richness. The procedures used to derive R-PAS normative data will be reviewed and illustrated. Reference values for summary scores include the raw data, as well as transformations of the raw data to percentile-based standard scores and adjusted standard scores that account for the overall complexity of a protocol. We also introduce attendees to the large array of R-PAS training resources that are available and address considerations related to the advantages and challenges to use of R-PAS as a new system for applied practice. Finally, we illustrate the practical features of R-PAS by applying the new system to two clinical cases. Throughout we provide time that allows for questions, comments, and discussion with those in attendance.

This workshop should be useful for practitioners and for people who teach or conduct research on personality assessment. It should appeal to practitioners and teachers interested in learning how to more fully and accurately understand clients through multimethod clinical assessments that incorporate making careful inferences from valid, performance based R-PAS scales. Similarly, it should appeal to researchers interested in more fully measuring personality and psychological functioning through multimethod assessments that have incremental validity over self-report methods. Attendees should be familiar with the Rorschach. The workshop largely will be didactic.

Learning Objectives

1	Describe the basic empirical and conceptual foundation for variables in R-PAS
2	Summarize the value of "performance assessment" as a foundation for clinical interpretation
3	Explain why new normative reference standards improve clinical inferences
4	Describe the procedures that allow R-PAS norms to be expressed as Standard Scores despite the fact that many summary variables do not have normal distributions
5	Implement standardized administration procedures that optimize the length of Rorschach protocols
6	Summarize the R-PAS principles for accurate interpretation and contrast them with previous models
7	Apply R-PAS interpretive procedures and guidelines to a case

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

1	Explain how variables were included in R-PAS based on the validity literature, clinician input, the logical foundation between coded behavior and inferred personality characteristic, and parsimony.
2	Explain how Rorschach assessment is behavioral assessment and how tighter links between coded task behavior and inferred extra-test behavior maximize clinical validity.
3	Describe how R-PAS overcomes the challenge of computing standard scores with Rorschach variables, many of which are not normally distributed
4	Describe the ways that R-PAS recalibrates normative expectations for typical performance by using internationally collected reference data.
5	Apply the R-Optimized administration procedure to more adequately standardize records obtained in clinical practice and increase utility.
6	Explain at least two ways that the primary "Page 1" interpretive variables differ from the secondary "Page 2" interpretive variables and comfortably navigate the R-PAS Summary Score and Profile pages.
7	Interpret a case based on R-PAS principles and the on-line scoring program.

Continuing Education Credit

This workshop qualifies for 12 hours of Type I CE credits for psychologists. The Adler School of Professional Psychology is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Adler School of Professional Psychology maintains responsibility for the program and its content.

Presenter

Gregory J. Meyer, Ph.D., is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Toledo, where he has been since 2003. Before this he was at the University of Alaska Anchorage and also the University of Chicago Medical Center, where he was the director of the inpatient and outpatient Psychological Assessment Service. He was the Editor of the *Journal of Personality Assessment* from 2002 to 2013. His research focuses on psychological assessment, with an emphasis on the integration of personality assessment methods. Much of his work has addressed performance-based measures of implicit processes, most notably the Rorschach. He has made seminal contributions to the published literature in this area, as well as in psychometrics and assessment more generally. On four occasions the Society for Personality Assessment has given him Distinguished Contribution Awards for articles in the published literature. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the Society for Personality Assessment.

Schedule

Friday, April 4, 2014

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Orientation and overview of the Rorschach and issues leading up to R-PAS
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Overview of R-PAS and rationale for its development; Administration and coding
- 11:45 Lunch
- 1:15 Normative data, complexity adjustments, and overview of the scoring program
- 2:45 Break
- 3:00 Interpretive principles and procedures and introduction to Case 1
- 5:00 Closing of Day 1

Saturday, April 5, 2014

- 8:30 Review of yesterday's material, Q & A; Continue Case 1
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Finish up Case 1 and begin Case 2
- 11:45 Lunch
- 1:15 Continue with Case 2
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 Complete Case 2, Q & A
- 4:30 Evaluations and Closing

Obtaining the R-PAS Manual and Other Products

Attendees can order the complete 534 page Administration, Coding, Interpretation, and Technical Manual from www.r-pas.org. A limited number can be made available for purchase at

the workshop. Attendees are also welcome to register for an online scoring account. Registration is free and once registered users can purchase scoring allocations, and other products, which include a Portable Form Quality Tables and Coding Guide, Hermann Rorschach's Official Inkblots, Reference Sheet for R-PAS Administration, Color Location Charts, and Color Hand Scoring Forms. Attendees who register for an account will be given one free scoring allocation.

Location

The workshop will be held at the Chicago campus of the Adler School of Professional Psychology, 17 N. Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60602, in Community Hall on the 15th Floor.

Room Reservations

There are a variety of hotel options, both in the Loop and outside of downtown, available for accommodations. The Adler School is centrally located downtown and easily accessible from all train routes (Metra & Subway System) and most bus routes.

Registration

Registration is for both days of the conference. Register Online at:

<http://www.planetReg.com/RPASworkshop>

CANCELLATION: If you need to cancel, fees will be refunded until March 28. No refunds will be given for cancellations after March 28.