

“Psychologists regularly make judgments about the adequacy of other people’s responses without normative data.”

“... we rely on our personal perceptual system to describe his perception as inaccurate. A woman screams at the clinic receptionist and is labeled seriously disturbed by one observer and merely angry by another.”

“Rorschachers need norms, but there is nothing wrong and certainly nothing unusual about making other people’s functioning without them.”

Conformation bias: “...means that people, including Rorschach researchers in their estimation, see what they expect to see.”

“Such expectations may tell us something about the learning history of the individuals involved. B.F. Skinner (1953, p. 215) used the same hypothesis in developing his “verbal summator,” a projective device that presented the subject with slurred speech and asked him or her to decode what was being said.”

“Summary: We checked Wood’s assertion that the CS pathologized his Rorschach protocol and we agree with him. We have no reason to doubt his claim that this pathologizing is an overstatement. Our own approach to the Rorschach would label this protocol as healthy, but it was not a blind interpretation.”

Reality testing: Our approach to reality testing on the Rorschach is essentially that of Mayman (1970), which is in turn based on Rapaport’s approach to ego functioning and the Rorschach (Rapaport, Gill, and Schafer, 1946). Each answer is coded for the degree to which it does justice to the stimulus. However, it is not the codes that matter as much as the justice that is done to the stimulus. The codes are merely (Karson, 2004) shorthand for keeping track of a large number of responses. What really matters is the extent to which the perceptions of the subject accurately account for the stimulus. The theory holds that while healthy psychological functioning is generally subject to the demands of reality, psychopathological functioning is much less so. Pathological functioning disrupts the perceptual process by allowing personal concerns to affect perceptions well beyond the point of merely coloring them and sometimes to the extent of distorting them. The consequences of such distortions are not insignificant; the greater the perceptual distortion the greater the risk of impaired judgment and functioning.”

Karson, M. & Kline, C. (4Apr2004). Two interpretations of Jim Wood’s specimen Rorschach protocol. WebPsychEmpiricist. Retrieved from: http://www.wpe.info/papers_table.html.

