

Subject: Re: Rorschach
To: RORSCHACH@MAELSTROM.STJOHNS.EDU

From: Piero Porcelli <porcellip@MAIL.MEDIA.IT>
Reply-To: <RORSCHACH@MAELSTROM.STJOHNS.EDU>
To: RORSCHACH@MAELSTROM.STJOHNS.EDU
Subject: Re: Rorschach
Date: Thu, 2 Oct 2003 09:54:04 +0200

Maybe I am wrong but I remember I read a book of Françoise Minkowska when I was a student. Minkowska (wife of the phenomenological psychiatrist Eugène Minkowski) interpreted the Rorschach by her own approach that was based on "phenomenology of the form", that I suppose may be close to the concept of "perceptual-idiographic". If memory serves, Minkowska was interested in the interpretation of idiographic Rorschach responses related to the perceptual features rather than the classic idiographic, content-based approach. The book was in French, published in the 50s and I remember I read it in an university library in Paris. Fortunately, I have much more vivid memories of Paris and other things outside the library :-)

Maybe someone of the list could confirm my memory (Helge, are you still there? Alberto?).

Piero Porcelli

Yes Piero, actually your memory is quite good. The full reference is: Minkowska, F. (1978) *Le Rorschach: A la recherche du monde des formes* [The Rorschach: In search of the world of forms] (reprint); Paris: Desclée de Brouwer (Orig. publ. in 1956). It's a collection of her most important articles. Her husband and herself were friends of Hermann Rorschach, and particularly the brother of the psychiatrist the neurologist M. Minkowski.

I am just reviewing her work for my Doctoral Dissertation. She developed a phenomenological approach to the method, made some important contributions (particularly in the study of schizophrenia and epilepsy which in her view constitute two poles, the one characterized by a 'splitting' procedure and the other by a 'binding' one visible in their Rorschach responses) and was head of a school in France, the "Groupe Franziska Minkowska" with their own publication (the 'Cahiers').

Although I consider her contribution important I don't agree with all of her opinions, for ex. her criticism of the psychoanalytic Rorschach approach (Zulliger) which she erroneously identified exclusively with content analysis (content-idiographic). In this sense I couldn't agree more with you Piero, the perceptual-idiographic dimension exists and furthermore I believe it was the original view of Hermann Rorschach himself (also Minkowska's opinion), which has been lost over the decades. A good example that at the same time demonstrates her mistaken criticism, is Zulliger's (direct disciple of Rorschach) finding of a predominant W-type in 'oral' characters, D-type in 'genital' characters, Dd-type in 'anal' characters, and S-type in 'aggressive' characters - all of them idiographic attitudes of the respective personalities: **this is also exactly the approach Piotrowski defended and promoted coining the term 'Perceptanalysis'** (using as model the term 'Psychoanalysis'). In my humble opinion, the restrictive identification of idiographic possibilities with content analysis is a mistake maintained since longtime from different, even opposing schools (extremes meet). I refer you to my paper (1995) "Psychoanalytic Development of the Classic Rorschach System", in V. Moita & A. A. Pires (Eds.), XIVth International Congress of Rorschach and Projective Methods - Proceedings Book (pp. 659-682); Lisboa: Sociedade Portuguesa de Rorschach.

Alberto
