

Rorschach Low ( $\leq 1$  M and sum C) and Lack of Awareness of Internal Experiences David Ranks

Ror and Executive Function Message List Reply | Forward Message #6590 of 6592.

Re: [Rorschach\_List] Re: Ror and Executive Function

My thought would be to look at the overall protocol, the full responses for each M response, the good and poor human percepts, and so on. Is it possible we get in trouble by trying to pin too much on just one score rather than looking at it in the overall context?

Neurodevelopmental data suggest that these people have difficulty integrating feelings in to decision making. The case of Phineas Gage and Antonio Damasio's book "Descarte's Error" are among many examples showing that under those conditions judgment and social skills will be very impaired. My suspicion would be that when people have enough M to plan, but **lack access to their feelings** which is one important element needed for empathy, that these problems would be more likely. So my hunch would be that it is not the frequency of M per se, but the quality of M, special scores, and how those fit into the overall picture that clarify these questions.

Dave

On Thu, Feb 5, 2009 at 9:46 PM, Rick Poll <richardipollack@...> wrote:

I just compared Exner's non-patient adults with several of Gacono and Meloy's antisocial/psychopathic/schizophrenic samples. Median M is 4.

Most of the other groups in Gacono and Meloy's samples had a median of 3.0. For example, Male psychopaths have a median of 3.0. So do antisocial schizophrenics. The only group that was higher was sexual homicide perpetrators, with a median of 4.0.

For the most part, these very disturbed groups give one less M. The pattern for WSumC is similar, i.e. a little lower in Gacono's groups than Exner's non-patients (and again with the sexual homicide perpetrators looking a little more like normals on these two variables).

Well, the numbers are lower, but are they enough lower to be consistent with neurodevelopmental theories of how attachment affects executive functions?

Rick

--- In Rorschach\_List@yahoogroups.com, David Ranks <davemr2003@...> wrote:

There are good neurobiological reasons why these variables can occur together in this population. **With impaired attachments: a) they do not learn to mentalize and lack the capacity for empathy/ b) they have never had the chance to learn affect regulation, so they avoid affect. Hence few M and low sum C, and high Lambda. Their avoidance of feelings also leaves them unaware of other internal experiences such as Y, and low awareness of tension and need states - so they may get along with low M and sum C in very simple environments that make little demand on them. These lacks help push up the**

CDI, from what I can see.

David Ranks

It may be hard to find any in this population like those you describe, but your question makes me curious, and I want to look at my data. I wonder what Pam has to say too.

----- Original Message ----- From: "Rick Poll" <richardipollack@... <richardipollack%40yahoo.com>> To: <Rorschach\_List@yahoogroups.com <Rorschach\_List%40yahoogroups.com>> Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 6:11 PM Subject: Re: Réf. : [Rorschach\_List] ROR and Executive Function

Does the hypothesis hold if you remove the records which show limited engagement/richness (e.g. high lambda and/or other signs of more simplistic responding)?

Rick

--- In Rorschach\_List@yahoogroups.com <Rorschach\_List%40yahoogroups.com> ,

"Jane Sachs" <jsachs@> wrote:

Pam - I find your post very interesting, in part because I notice the same variables coming up repeatedly in the Rorschachs I give to birth moms in CINA cases. But in addition to having low or no M, they also usually have positive CDI, which one would predict would be at least one significant locus of the impairments Michael found in his sample of frontal lobe injured patients.

And Michael - just for comparison's sake, do you have the variables associated with this sample's "brief collapse of psychic function - regression into acute confusional-psychotic or traumatized states - as they encounter complexity - lack of structure in the environment and suffer catastrophic reaction when they become aware of the way their neurocognitive functioning has changed?"

Jane