

**Subject:**

FW: [Rorschach\_List] Re: another sexy Sunday question

Winnicott's Rorschach and Potential Space Where Life Emerges

Barry:

I do follow the current discussions in the JPA on this very subject.

I am a bit uncomfortable about the roots of this issue. Enemies of the Rorschach do scorn at the description «performance-based». They may be right. I can sense the issues about academic status, scientific status, economical impacts, etc.

The word projective has become yucky! Negative aspects are literally projected into and onto it, but perhaps not for psychological or theoretical reasons. I'm afraid we are mainly dealing with politics here. (My hope is that in, say, 20 years from now all this debate will look ridiculous). We all «know» what we are talking about when we say the projectives. For one, I would keep the word but refine the definition.

If I stick to the psychological issue, «self-expression» may not be quite right. Rorschach himself would remind us that there is a stimulus out there, which, of course, is the reason why he considered his tests as a test of perception, which nowadays might sound rather restrictive.

So «Problem-solving task» may fit, but we would need to know what is the «problem» the subject has to solve. It is probably different from Wechsler's Block designs. We would probably agree that one of the problems is to express oneself while taking outside reality into account.

I like Leichtman's idea of a test of Representations.

I don't like the idea that projection is limited to FQminus or movement responses. Of course, we have to define projection, and this is where some problems remain.

This brings us back to the problem of the «missing» theory about what is the Rorschach. (This is why so many people have so many opinions about it. I'm telling you: this is a highly projective object!). :-)

I find Winnicott's work on Playing and Reality extremely relevant: the ink plate is handed to the examinee half-way between external reality and internal reality, in **an area called potential space where play and creativity can occur**. And what the test teaches us is that every human being does this in his own personal way, adjusting (too little, well-enough or too much) within this area situated between the objective (distal features) and the subjective. This a person does with an inkblot as he or she does with all aspects of life.

I just don't know yet how to label this process in psychological terms nor in a politically correct fashion.

My 2 pennies

Gérald

PS- ISP perhaps: Individuality Sampling Procedure or PFPS: Psychological Finger Prints of the Self (yak!)

**From:** Rorschach\_List@yahoogroups.com [mailto:Rorschach\_List@yahoogroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Gérald Lajoie

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2009 13:00

**To:** Rorschach\_List@yahoogroups.com

**Subject:** RE: [Rorschach\_List] Re: another sexy Sunday question

Gerald,

There is projection in the Rorschach--no doubt, but there is a lot more, so we don't like to confine the categorization of it to a "projective" test. I like the term "self-expression", others like "performance-based"

and something like "problem-solving task."

Barry