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Invitation to the Autumn Seminars of
The Finnish Rorschach Association (Helsinki, Finland)

Seminar 1, November 16, 2018:

Quantitative Models of Psychopathology and Psychological Assessment

Seminar 2, November 17, 2018:

Assessing Personality Structure Using the Rorschach Comprehensive System

Guest Lecturer: Mark A. Blais, Psy.D. (USA)

Time:	Friday, November 16, 2018, from 10:00 to 16:45
	Saturday, November 17, 2018, from 9:00 to 15:45
Place:	Suojeluskuntatalon auditorio, Töölöntorinkatu 2, Helsinki, Finland
Fee:	150 € per seminar, 240 € for both seminars (VAT 0%; includes lunch and coffee)

Registration: Registration is open to members of The Finnish Rorschach Association, the Danish Rorschach Society, the Swedish Rorschach Society and members of SPA. Please send an e-mail to our treasurer, Marjut Serguskin, by November 5, 2018. E-mail: marjut.serguskin@gmail.com. After registration, you will receive an invoice including a reference number for payment.

Seminar 1, Friday, November 16, 2018:

"Quantitative Models of Psychopathology and Psychological Assessment"

Abstract

Quantitative models of psychopathology (QM) emerged from the empirical study of the DSM disorders. This literature suggests that psychiatric disorders are not discrete bounded entities but rather expressions of a few dimensions of psychopathology. Briefly, QM organizes the major features of psychopathology (e.g. symptoms, signs, and disorders) into a hierarchy of three primary dimension (Internalizing, Externalizing and Reality Impairing) and an overarching Global Dimension (like Spearman's cognitive g-factor). Ongoing research suggests that the Global Dimension or p-factor represents the overall burden of psychopathology including; vulnerability to relapse, treatment response, and life time functional impairment.

Additional QMs have been developed for normal and abnormal personality traits. All QM models are highly compatible with clinical psychological assessment and offer a powerful new perspective for assessing psychopathology, estimating life impairment, and recommending effective treatment (e.g. trans-diagnostic response to psychotherapy and medication). Blais & Hopwood (2016) outlined some potential advantages of integrating QM with clinical psychological assessment including enhancing the fields empirical foundation and linking assessment practice more broadly within psychology.

This workshop will demonstrate how the ***Personality Assessment Inventory*** (PAI; Morey, 1991) and ***SPECTRA***™ (Blais & Sinclair, 2016), along with other assessment tools, can be employed to assess psychopathology from QM perspective. The workshop will focus primarily on assessing the higher-order dimensions of Internalizing, Externalizing, Reality Impairing and the p-factor. It will highlight the relevance of these Spectra to clinical assessment and offer suggestions for integrating Spectra level information into assessment reports. Additional QM compatible instruments including the NEO-Five Factor Inventory & Personality Inventory for the DSM will also be discussed.

Schedule

9:45: Coffee

10:00–12:45: Part 1 (including 15 min coffee break)

12:45–14:00: Lunch

14:00–16:45: Part 2 (including 15 min coffee break)

19:15: Dinner somewhere in the area for those interested in socializing further (not included in registration fee)

Seminar 2, Saturday, November 17, 2018:

"Assessing Personality Structure Using the Rorschach Comprehensive System"

Abstract

The evaluation of personality structure has traditionally been a core feature of clinical psychological assessment. After decades of de-emphasize, the importance of personality structure was reaffirmed in Section III of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (5th edition [*DSM-5*]; APA, 2013). Specifically, Section III, requires a patient's level of personality functioning be evaluated before assigning a personality disorder (*Criterion A*).

Instruments developed to assess *Criterion A* or *Level of Personality Functioning* (LPF) rely on self-reported or clinician rated data. However, assessing personality structure is a complex task. The DSM-5 approach with its focus on explicit behaviors, could be enhanced with psychological instruments capable of assessing implicit personality processes and dynamics. A multi-method combination of self-report and performance-based (e.g. projective) data, offers an ideal strategy for obtaining a comprehensive evaluation of personality functioning. This workshop, will explore the benefits of using the Rorschach Inkblot Method (RIM; Weiner, 1996) with Comprehensive System scoring (CS; Exner, 2004) to assess personality structure and functioning. Using clinical case material, the workshop will present a method of organizing and integrating a wide range of assessment data and generating a clinically useful, reasonably comprehensive description of personality.

Schedule
9:00–11:45: Part 1 (including 15 min coffee break)
11:45–13:00: Lunch
13:00–15:45: Part 2 (including 15 min coffee break)

16:00–17:00: General Assembly of The Finnish Rorschach Association (FRA members only)

Mark A. Blais, Psy.D.

Mark A. Blais, received his Doctor of Psychology Degree (Psy. D.) from Nova Southeastern University and completed his post-doctoral fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). He has been a member of MGH Department of Psychiatry since 1990. During his MGH career he has held multiple leadership positions including Associate Director of Inpatient Psychiatry and Associate Chief of Psychology. Dr. Blais is currently the Director of the Psychological Evaluation and Research Laboratory (*PEaRL*) and Associate Professor of Psychology (Psychiatry) at Harvard Medical School. The *PEaRL* is an innovative psychological assessment service providing clinical evaluations, advanced assessment training, and conducting programmatic research exploring the complexities of personality, psychopathology, and neurocognitive ability. He has published over 120 peer reviewed papers, 40 book chapters, and two edited books. He also co-developed the *SPECTRA^{TM}*, a new broadband psychological inventory designed to assess the quantitative model of psychopathology. He is an award-winning teacher and mentor. In 2007 he received the MGH Department of Psychiatry Clinical Faculty Mentorship Award. The impact of his work in assessment and personality was recognized in 2009, when he received the Theodore Millon Award *"For outstanding work in advancing the science of Personality Psychology"* from the American Psychological Association. Dr. Blais also received the 2013 *Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award* from the Center for Psychological Studies at Nova Southeastern University. He serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Assessment, Journal of Personality Assessment, and Journal of Personality Disorders. In addition to his work at MGH he consults to businesses, government agencies, and professional sports organizations on issues related to personality, measurement, and elite performance.