

"Using the Rorschach Comprehensive System from a neuropsychological perspective"

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One-Day Workshop

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The idea that the Rorschach can be used to study brain-behavior relationships dates back to Hermann Rorschach's seminal work, in which a quarter of the clinical cases presented were neurological (Rorschach, 1921). This idea was later more explicitly articulated by Piotrowski (1936) with the development of his ten "organic signs" on the Rorschach. Since then, there have been hundreds of published studies with the Rorschach in a wide range of neuropsychological populations, including patients who have undergone frontal lobotomy, patients with traumatic brain injury, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, mental retardation, dementia, Asperger's syndrome, ADHD and other conditions. From the 1960s however, with the advent of more specific neuropsychological assessment methods and neuroimaging techniques, came increasing criticism of the use of the Rorschach in neuropsychological assessment. The confusing multiplicity of systems of administration, coding and interpretation of the test at the time only made matters worse. In the 1990s, following the development of Exner's Comprehensive System and its perceptual-cognitive problem-solving paradigm in the 1970s and 1980s, alongside its solid evidence-based foundation and popularity amongst clinicians and researchers, came a renewed interest in the method as a tool of neuropsychological assessment. One important consequence of this has been an increasing number of Rorschach studies using neuroimaging techniques (fMRI, EEG...).

The goal of this one-day workshop will be to draw on all this accumulated knowledge to map the kind of impact that various forms of neuropsychological dysfunction can have on Rorschach performance. A variety of case illustrations representing a broad range of psychological and neuropsychological disorders in children, adolescents, adults and elderly subjects will be presented throughout the workshop. One of these cases will be sent to participants in advance for coding and interpretation. In the afternoon of the workshop, participants will first be divided into smaller groups to discuss specific diagnostic and treatment planning questions regarding the case. Then, findings will be integrated in the larger group. This case illustration will be used to help further understand the Rorschach as a measure of typical cognitive performance in the study of brain-behavior relationships, and how Rorschach findings can be integrated to history, clinical observation and results on tests of maximal cognitive performance (e.g. WAIS, WMS...) to gain a better and broader understanding of the individual being assessed.

Emiliano Muzio, Ph.D. is a Clinical Psychologist and Licensed Psychotherapist working as a private practitioner in Helsinki, Finland. His practice includes individual psychotherapy for adolescents and adults (official psychotherapy service provider for The Social Insurance Institution of Finland – Kela), psychological and neuropsychological assessment, therapeutic/collaborative assessment (TA), cognitive remediation therapy for schizophrenia (CRT), lecturing as well as supervising (and acting as a consultant for) psychologists and other mental health professionals. He has been teaching psychology and neuropsychology at various institutions since 1996, including the University of Paris, the University of Jyväskylä and the University of Helsinki. He has been training psychologists in Finland in the Rorschach Comprehensive System since 2007. Since 1997, he has occupied various clinical positions in France and Finland, including positions in clinical

gerontology (Hôpital Emile Roux, Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris), in rehabilitation of patients with traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury (Invalidiliiton Käpylän Kuntoutuskeskus), in adolescent psychiatry (The Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa) and in adult psychiatry (City of Helsinki Department of Social Services and Health Care). His doctoral dissertation (University of Paris, 2006) looked at bridging the gap between personality psychology and neuropsychology by studying the neurocognitive correlates of the Rorschach (CS) in a geriatric population and in Dementia of the Alzheimer's Type. He is the author of a number of peer-reviewed articles and presentations at international conferences, and has worked as Guest Editor on the recently published special section of *Rorschachiana* on Neuroscience and the Rorschach (Volume 37, Issues 1 & 2, 2016). Dr. Muzio has served as President of The Finnish Rorschach Association since 2015.