

TESTING TIMES

ASSESSMENT SECTION OF DIVISION 12 QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER



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October 2021

SECTION IX BOARD

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Special thanks to Dr. Sara Lowmaster for all her work on the Assessment Section website! New resources for teachers, students, and telehealth practices can be found [here](#)

If you would like to become a member, please visit the website. If interested in joining the Board, please contact Dr. Pade at hpade2@alliant.edu

[Pay Your Dues Here!](#)

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am excited and perhaps a tad nervous to step into the role of section President. I consider it an honor and an opportunity to make a positive contribution to the assessment community. I want to first offer my thanks to Martin Sellbom who served on the section board for the past 6 years and I know he will continue to support our efforts. I also want to thank David McCord who is transitioning to the Past President position. David has been incredibly effective as president, especially with our APA convention activities and further establishing relationships across different divisions. I want to congratulate Emily Gottfried who will transition from our Treasurer to President Elect and Adam Natoli, who has been an active member of the assessment community ever since his not so long-ago days as a student, for joining us as Treasurer. One more thank you and farewell to our student representative Cassie Boness who continues to move forward with her training. I am sure we will see her name in publications on a regular basis. Taking over as our student representative this year is Jake Brown who has already helped organize our social at the recent convention with tremendous energy that many of us envy. Thank you to Alexa Barrett who has been producing this newsletter for us while managing all the demands of life as a psychology student. Lastly, thank you to our continuing board members Paul, Sara, Priscilla, and Doug. I look forward to our continued work together including your feedback and guidance.

As hopefully all of you know by now, we have successfully launched our inaugural assessment focused CE series in collaboration with Division 12! A gigantic thank you to Tara Craighead and Kim Penberthy for helping us bring this vision into reality. We had great attendance for the two first live webinars and hope this continues for the upcoming sessions. Thank you to all of our presenters: Steve Finn, Bob Bornstein, A. Jordan Wright, Lisa Suzuki, Emily Gottfried, and David McCord. Recordings of all sessions will be available on our website soon with an option for CE credit, also free for members.

I begin this position with a ridiculous number of ideas and will attempt to reign myself in and manage to focus on getting a few meaningful initiatives completed effectively for the assessment community. Along

with future CE series through the section and division I would like to bring more attention to incorporating diversity factors into assessment teaching and training and will share more on that soon. I plan to elicit input from my fellow board members and section members about the scope and goals of our growing section and our role in the psychological assessment field. We are actively seeking nominations for our annual distinguished award and please look out for periodic emails with updates.

As we continue to make sense of an ongoing pandemic, in general and assessment specific, I hope that we continue to support each other as clinicians, instructors, supervisors, students, trainees, test developers, and - researchers.

- Hadas

THE SOCIETY OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY & ASSESSMENT PSYCHOLOGY WEBINAR SERIES

Evidence-Based Clinical Psychological Assessment

Members of Division 12/Assessment Section attend for free! Non-members can register for individual sessions or the full series for a discount.

A multimethod approach to psychological assessment (1 hour)

October 8th, 2021 12p.m. EST

Robert Bornstein

Integrating data and managing discrepancies in psychological assessment (1 hour)

October 22nd, 2021 12p.m. EST

A. Jordan Wright

Diversity considerations in psychological assessment (1 hour)

November 5th, 2021 12p.m. EST

Lisa Suzuki & A. Jordan Wright

Feedback in psychological assessment (1 hour)

November 12th, 2021 12p.m. EST

Emily Gottfried & Hadas Pade

[Register for all webinars here](#)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

An Empirical and Ethical Lens on Remote

Administration of

Standardized Tests - Ryan

Farmer, Ph.D.

October 13th

11:30a.m. – 1 p.m. CDT

[Register here](#)

Equity in Assessment of Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Populations – Elizabeth

Adams Costa, Ph.D. & Lori

Day, Ph.D. Moderator: Susan

Raiford, Ph.D.

October 19th

1 – 2 p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

Madeline – Gregory Meyers,

Ph.D. (International Society

of the Rorschach and

Projective Methods Pre-

Congress Webinar)

October 20th

12:30 – 2:30p.m. UTC

[Register here](#)

The Importance of

Diagnostic Assessment to

Inform Treatment Course

and Planning – Speakers

TBD

October 27th

12 – 1 p.m. CDT

[Register here](#)

Improving the Assessment of

ADHD in Youth – Mathangi

Selvamenan, Ph.D.EL, Janelle

Bierdman, ED.S. NCSP, &

Michael J. Suess, NCSP

November 19th

12 – 1 p.m. CDT

[Register here](#)

CLINICAL PRACTICE UPDATES

- The COVID-19 national public health emergency declaration has been renewed until October 17, 2021. [Read more](#)
- Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) is an agreement amongst 26 states that allows psychologists to practice across state lines for tele- or in-person work. [Read more](#)
- Proposed changes regarding telehealth services are outlined in the 2022 Physician Fee Schedule from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). [Read more](#)
- Beginning January 1, 2022, most healthcare companies will be required to make billing and reimbursement information publicly available. [Read more](#)

QUICK LEARNING: ASSESSMENT

Author: *Jake Brown*

Title: The Personality Psychopathology Five (PSY-5): Issue from the Pages of a Diagnostic Manual Instead of a Dictionary

Background: Dimensional models of personality have long been the dominant conceptualization of general (non-pathological) personality. Although numerous models have been proposed, with varying numbers of personality dimensions being present across models, the predominant conceptualization of personality consists of five higher order dimensions. Given the growing view that personality pathology is the result of extreme standings on these trait dimensions, such models have been thought to be generalizable to those experiencing personality-related psychopathology. However, these models were developed using non-pathological research samples and lacked adequate markers of disordered personality. This begs the question of whether general personality models are most efficient at describing maladaptive variants of personality traits. Given this, efforts were launched to conceptualize a model encompassing the full range of variance across personality dimensions.

Research Question: Which set of psychologically interpretable dimensions maximally captures personality psychopathology?

Methods: Participants included 207 undergraduate students. Data were obtained from 201 participants with 192 providing valid data for the current analysis. Of these, 97 identified as female and 95 identified as male, with a mean age of 20.2 (SD = 2.94). No other demographic information on participants was provided. Participants sorted a deck of 60 personality descriptor cards with descriptors ranging from maladaptive personality descriptions to adaptive, general personality descriptions into ten or more groups in which they felt the descriptors were highly similar (fine grain sort). They then indicated which pairs of traits they felt were opposite from one another. Finally, when they returned for a second session, they sorted the cards into less than ten groups (coarse sort). In their analysis, psychological similarity was quantified by the fine grain and coarse sorts. Psychological dissimilarity was quantified by the opposites task. The quantities were then added together to form a full psychological similarity-distance matrix for each subject. These matrices were summed to form a consensus matrix, which suggested five components for extraction.

Results: The emerging trait model was named the Personality Psychopathology Five (PSY-5). The five domains include Psychoticism, Aggressiveness, Disconstraint, Negative Emotionality/Neuroticism, and

Introversion/Low Positive Emotionality¹. Psychoticism reflects the degree to which an individual is connected with reality. High standings on this dimension may manifest as symptoms such as hallucinations and delusions. The Aggressiveness dimension reflects one's ability to utilize goal-oriented aggression. High standings on this dimension could reflect an enjoyment of intimidating or even harming other people to achieve some ends. Disconstraint encompasses control vs impulsiveness, harm avoidance, traditionalism, as well as rule following vs rule breaking, and criminality. At its high pole, antisociality might be prominent, whereas low standings on this dimension might manifest as obsessive-compulsive tendencies. Further, Negative Emotionality/Neuroticism is an internal disposition to experience anxiousness and nervousness, which can lead to internal suffering. High standings on this dimension may contribute to feelings of fear and anxiety in the face of non-threatening, day-to-day scenarios. Lastly, Introversion/Low Positive Emotionality reflects individual variations in the ability to readily engage with the stimulus-laden world. High standings on this dimension could reflect anhedonia, whereas low standings could be indicative of high levels of readiness to carry out the tasks of daily life.

Summary: Dimensional models are the dominant conceptualization of general personality. These models have been thought to be generalizable to maladaptive personality. Given the lack of maladaptive personality markers in the conception of the general personality models, as well as their development using non-pathological research samples, however, it seems that a more all-encompassing model is necessary. Thus, through descriptive card sorting of personality descriptors ranging from adaptive to maladaptive, the PSY-5 model was developed. Its dimensions include Psychoticism, Aggressiveness, Disconstraint, Negative Emotionality/Neuroticism, and Introversion/Low Positive Emotionality.

Learning Points:

1. Dimensional models are the dominant conceptualization of general personality.
2. General personality models were not derived from research involving markers of maladaptive personality, which begs the question of whether they are ideal models for conceptualizing personality pathology.
3. To address the shortcomings of general personality models, the PSY-5 model was developed, which encompasses both general and pathological personality.

Reference: Harkness, A. R., & McNulty, J. L. (1994). The Personality Psychopathology Five (PSY-5): Issue from the pages of a diagnostic manual instead of a dictionary. In S. Strack & M. Lorr (Eds.), *Differentiating normal and abnormal personality* (pp. 291–315). Springer. <https://doi.org/10.1037/t29775-000>

Want to Learn More?

1. Harkness, A. R., Reynolds, S. M., & Lilienfeld, S. O. (2013). A Review of Systems for psychological approaches and psychiatry: Adaptive systems, Personality Psychopathology Five (PSY-5), and the DSM-5, *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 96(2), 121-139. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00223891.2013.823438>
2. TEDxUniversityofTulsa: Rethinking Mental Health & Mental Problems by Allan Harkness: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAfTR-5NM5Y&t=443s>.

¹ It is worth noting that the PSY-5 dimensions Disconstraint and Introversion/Low Positive Emotionality were originally named Constraint and Positive Emotionality/Extraversion, respectively, and were changed during the construction of the MMPI-2 PSY-5 scales so that high scores would be considered potential indicators of dysfunction.

Assessment

- Ong, C. W., Pierce, B. G., Klein, K. P., Hudson, C. C., Beard, C., & Björgvinsson, T. (2021). Longitudinal Measurement Invariance of the PHQ-9 and GAD 7. *Assessment*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10731911211035833>.
- Rogers, M. L., Law, K. C., Houtsma, C., Tucker, R. P., Anestis, M. D., & Joiner, T. E. (2021). Development and Initial Validation of a Scale Assessing Suicide-Specific Rumination: The Suicide Rumination Scale. *Assessment*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10731911211033897>.
- Shihata, S., Johnson, A. R., Erceg-Hurn, D. M., & McEvoy, P. M. (2021). Measurement Invariance of Disorder-Specific and Transdiagnostic Measures of Repetitive Negative Thinking. *Assessment*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10731911211028657>.

Journal of Personality Assessment

- David, R. M., Carroll, A. J., & Smith, J. D. (2021). Virtual delivery of Therapeutic Assessment: An empirical case study. *Journal of Personality Assessment*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00223891.2021.1929262>
- Krishnamurthy, R., Hass, G. A., Natoli, A. P., Smith, B. L., Arbisi, P. A., & Gottfried, E. D. (2021). Professional practice guidelines for personality assessment. *Journal of Personality Assessment*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00223891.2021.1942020>.
- Shug, R. (2021). Personality disorder traits, Rorschach performance, and neuropsychological functioning in the case of a serial killer: The importance of a multilevel approach in the assessment of personalities associated with extreme and repetitive violence. *Journal of Personality Assessment*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00223891.2021.1942023>.

Psychological Assessment

- Hornsby, B. W. Y., Camarata, S., Cho, S.-J., Davis, H., McGarrigle, R., & Bess, F. H. (2021). Development and validation of the Vanderbilt Fatigue Scale for Adults (VFS-A). *Psychological Assessment*, 33(8), 777–788. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0001021>.
- Maietta, J. E., Ahmed, A. O., Barchard, K. A., Kuwabara, H. C., Donohue, B., Ross, S. R., Kinsora, T. F., & Allen, D. N. (2021). Confirmatory factor analysis of imPACT cognitive tests in high school athletes. *Psychological Assessment*, 33(8), 746–755. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0001014>.
- Pohl, A., Hums, A.-C., Kraft, G., Köteles, F., Gerlach, A. L., & Witthöft, M. (2021). Cardiac interoception: A novel signal detection approach and relations to somatic symptom distress. *Psychological Assessment*, 33(8), 705–715. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pas0001012>.

International Collaborative/Therapeutic Assessment Conference

[See conference program here](#)

Scientific Sessions with CEUs offered October 1st & October 8th. [Register here](#)

Workshops

Four Models of Therapeutic Assessment: Core Concepts and Practices Shown in Classic Videos

October 2nd & 9th, 2021 9a.m. – 1p.m. CST

Stephen Finn

Millon Theory and Instruments in Collaborative and Therapeutic Assessment

October 15th, 2021 9a.m. – 1p.m. CST

Seth Grossman & Blaise Amendolace

The AAP in Action: A Hands On Approach to Learning How to Use the AAP During a TA

November 5th & 6th, 2021 10a.m. – 2p.m. CST

Caroline Lee, Melissa Lehmann & Carol George

Using the Thurston Cradock Test of Shame (TCTS) in Therapeutic Assessment Through Assessment Intervention Session

December 6th, 2021 10a.m. – 2p.m. CST

Julie Cradock-O'Leary

[Register for all workshops here](#)

SOCIETY FOR PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT

The Assessment Section is excited to dedicate a spot in the *Testing Times* to feature news and announcements from the Society of Personality Assessment.

SPA welcomes Joni Mihura, Ph.D., ABAP as incoming President, taking over for John McNulty, Ph.D. (Past President). Anita Boss, Ph.D. is the new President-Elect. Read Dr. Mihura's *Letter from SPA-President* (which includes links to fantastic assessment training resources related to diversity, inclusion, and social justice) [here](#).

SPA recently launched a new website, led by Executive Director Nathan Victoria, CAE. To learn more about how to become involved in SPA, visit their website [here](#).

SPA's Annual Dissertation Grant and Student Research Grant applications are due October 15th!

REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

With this quarterly newsletter, we aim to succinctly provide you with new information and upcoming events regarding assessment and recognize our members' valuable contributions to the field. We would love to hear about news and accomplishments you would like to share with other members. To make improvements for the next issue, we welcome any feedback you may have.

[Please submit questions, concerns, and suggestions here](#)

Testing Times is a quarterly newsletter for the Assessment Section of the Society of Clinical Psychology (APA Division 12).

[Assessment Section website](#)

