

What's Wrong with the Rorschach? Science Confronts the Controversial Inkblot Test

By James M. Wood, M. Teresa Nezworski, Scott O. Lilienfeld, Howard N. Garb

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Since its creation more than eighty years ago, the famous Rorschach inkblot test has become an icon of clinical psychology and popular culture. Administered over one million times world-wide each year, the Rorschach is used to assess personality and mental illness across a wide range of circumstances: child custody disputes, educational placement decisions, employment and termination proceedings, parole determinations, and even investigations of child abuse allegations. The test's enormous power shapes the lives of hundreds of thousands of people -- often without their knowledge. In the 1970s, this notoriously subjective test was supposedly systematized and improved. But is the Rorschach more than a modern variant on tea leaf reading?

What's Wrong With the Rorschach? challenges the validity and utility of the Rorschach and explains why psychologists continue to judge people by their reactions to ink blots, in spite of a half century of largely negative scientific evidence.

What's Wrong With the Rorschach? offers a provocative critique of one of the most widely applied and influential - and still intensely controversial - psychological tests in the world today. Surveying more than fifty years of clinical and scholarly research, the authors provide compelling scientific evidence that the Rorschach has relatively little value for diagnosing mental illness, assessing personality, predicting behavior, or uncovering sexual abuse or other trauma. In this highly engaging, novelistic account of the Rorschach's origins and history, the authors detail the wealth of scientific evidence that the test is of questionable utility for real-world decision making.

What's Wrong With the Rorschach? presents a powerfully reasoned case against using the test in the courtroom or consulting room - and reveals the strong psychological, economic, and political forces that continue to support the Rorschach despite the research that has exposed its shortcomings and dangers.

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Editorial Review

Review

"provocative and important ...a continual assessment of the merits and pitfalls of projective testing." (by Frederick C. Crews, from his article *Out, Damned Blot!*, Volume 51, Number 12 July 15, 2004)

Review

In this brilliant, powerful book, four experts on clinical assessment expose the fatal flaws of the famous inkblot test. Casting their penetrating critique in gripping narrative form, Wood, Nezworski, Lilienfeld, and Garb have composed a requiem for the Rorschach that will fascinate anyone interested in how clinical psychology is now transcending its prescientific past."

— Richard J. McNally, Ph.D., professor, Harvard University, and author of *Remembering Trauma*

"By demolishing the misconceptions and exposing the weaknesses of the Rorschach as it is currently used today, the authors have paved the way for this infamous psychological phoenix to rise again from the ashes."

— Edwin E. Wagner, Ph.D., psychologist and author, *The Hand Test* and *The Logical Rorschach*

"A much-needed rigorous analysis of the Rorschach, a must-read for anyone who cares about validity issues in clinical assessment."

— Gerald C. Davison, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Psychology, University of Southern California

"A thorough, scholarly, and devastating critique of the Rorschach inkblot test. Attorneys will no doubt find the book invaluable as an aid to prepare for cross-examination of psychologists who use the Rorschach in their work."

— Solomon M. Fulero, Ph.D., J.D., psychologist and attorney, professor of psychology, Sinclair College, Dayton, Ohio

"Wood and his coauthors provide such a fascinating history of the immortal Rorschach inkblot test that it's easy at first to miss the troubling implications of the tale. The well-told story is so engaging that one does not have to be a nerd or combatant in the Rorschach wars to read on for fun. The sense of a serious problem magnifies as the tale unfolds, and the reader realizes that important clinical and legal decisions still routinely depend on the results of this unreliable and invalid test."

— James C. Coyne, Ph.D., professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania Medical School

From the Inside Flap

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Oliver:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each book has different aim as well as goal; it means that book has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They are really reading whatever they consider because their hobby will be reading a book. Think about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, person feel need book when they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you will need this *What's Wrong with the Rorschach? Science Confronts the Controversial Inkblot Test*.

Michael Jones:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open as well as read a book entitled *What's Wrong with the Rorschach? Science Confronts the Controversial Inkblot Test*? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have additional opinion?

Omar Lamm:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled *What's Wrong with the Rorschach? Science Confronts the Controversial Inkblot Test* the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe not known for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a e-book then become one form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get just before. The *What's Wrong with the Rorschach? Science Confronts the Controversial Inkblot Test* giving you a different experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful details for your better life within this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern

this is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Cheri Tow:

Many people spending their period by playing outside having friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV the entire day. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, you think reading a book really can hard because you have to accept the book everywhere? It all right you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like What's Wrong with the Rorschach? Science Confronts the Controversial Inkblot Test which is finding the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's notice.

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