

Neuropsychology and Projective Tests on the Italian Riviera!

**Come to the Summer Seminars in Genoa (Genova) Italy!
July 23 to July 25**

Tevfika Ikiz
Chair of the Continuing Education Committee

Maria Fiorella Gazale
Summer Seminar 2016 Organizer

We are happy to announce the 2016 International Society of Rorschach and Projective Methods Summer Seminars, which will be held Italy on the waterfront in the heart of the Old Harbor at the elegant modern NH Collection Genova Marina Hotel on the shores of the Mediterranean.. In keeping with our members desire for modern advancements in projective techniques, the 2016 Summer Seminars topic is “**Neuropsychology and Projective Tests**”.

“The neuropsychology of personality has been enriched with significant research achievements in the last decades. In particular, Rorschach and Adult Attachment Projective tests have been intensely explored with neuroimaging tools. The advent of specific diagnostic procedures (e.g. fMRI, PET, CT and EEG mu waves analysis) have opened doors in the understanding of brain functioning and damage, demonstrating neural connections and interactions between emotional and cognitive functioning. In particular, the methods provide evidence of neural basis of attachment theory and social cognition, allowing a more in-depth examination of inter- personal relationship. Moreover, early traumas in attachment relationships have proven to affect brain development. Most important for personality assessors, these cutting edge neuroimaging studies have found clear evidence about how projective methods access brain functioning areas critical to attachment and object relations functioning. The result is increased substantiation for the unique role of projectives in personality assessment as well as important implications for clinical work (Maria Fiorella Gazale & Barton Evans).

We have put together an exciting programme with leading specialists in the field.

Anna Buchheim: “Adult Attachment Projective Picture System (AAP) and Attachment “in action” in an fMRI Environment”

Anna Buchheim, Ph.D is Chair and Full Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Innsbruck, Austria where she conducts research into attachment, neuroscience, clinical psychology, psychotherapy, and psychoanalysis. Dr. Buchheim is also a practicing Psychoanalyst who received her certification from the International Psychoanalytic Association. Her work on the neuroscience of attachment has won prestigious awards from the René Spitz Association for Supporting Psychoanalysis; the Adolf-Ernst-Meyer-Prize for Psychosomatic Medicine (“*Measuring attachment representation in an fMRI environment*”) and the Paper Prize from the American Psychoanalytic Association (“*Changes in Prefrontal-limbic Function in Major Depression After 15 Months of Long-term Psychotherapy.*”)

Dr. Buchheim's talk will demonstrate the groundbreaking ways she has used the AAP in an experimental design and will illustrate neuroscience activation for individuals with unresolved attachment status. She will then present a clinical study of borderline patients where narrative data showed that fMRI findings were significantly more traumatic for BPD patients than for controls. Next, she will also share her AAP and neuroscience study of psychotherapy patients with recurrent major depression. This was the first study documenting neurobiological changes in circuits implicated in emotional reactivity and control after long-term psychodynamic psychotherapy. Last, Dr. Buchheim will describe a single case study using functional neuroimaging to monitor the psychotherapeutic process of a psychodynamic treatment. This present study provided evidence of the possible involvement of brain function in spontaneously enacted self-distancing defensive strategies, which may be of relevance in resistant patient reactions in the course of a psychoanalytic psychotherapy.

Emiliano Muzio: “*Mapping the Impact of Neuropsychological Dysfunction on Rorschach Performance*”

Emiliano Muzio, Ph.D., is President of The Finnish Rorschach Association and a Clinical Psychologist and Licensed Psychotherapist in private practice in Helsinki, Finland. His practice includes individual psychotherapy for adolescents and adults, psychological and neuropsychological assessment, therapeutic/collaborative assessment (TA), and cognitive remediation therapy (CRT) as well as supervising psychologists and other mental health professionals. This includes training psychologists in the Rorschach Comprehensive System in Finland since 2007. Dr. Muzio has taught psychology and neuropsychology since 1996, including the University of Paris, the University of Jyväskylä and the University of Helsinki. He worked in clinical positions in France and Finland, including clinical gerontology, traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury rehabilitation, adolescent psychiatry, and adult psychiatry. Dr. Muzio was Guest Editor on the forthcoming special section of *Rorschachiana* on Neuroscience and the Rorschach.

Dr. Muzio's presentation will embrace the idea that the Rorschach can be used to study brain-behavior relationships, which dates back to Hermann Rorschach's seminal work. Since then, there have been hundreds of published studies on and with the Rorschach in a wide range of neurological populations, including patients who had 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 within neuropsychology. This historical development made it possible to start looking at the Rorschach as a unique tool for exploring the neuropsychology of personality. One important consequence of this has been an increasing number of Rorschach studies using neuroimaging techniques in the past decade (fMRI, EEG...). Another notable

consequence of this can be seen in the interpretive emphasis on various perceptual-cognitive aspects of the response process in R-PAS (Meyer, Viglione, Mihura, Erard, Erdberg, 2011). The goal of this one-day seminar will be to draw on all of this accumulated knowledge to map the kind of impact that various forms of neuropsychological dysfunction can have on Rorschach performance. A 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.

Tomoki Asari: “*Neuroimaging and Projective Tests*”

Tomoki Asari, M.D. Ph.D. received his medical degree from Medical School of Tokyo University in 1996 and his Ph.D. in psychology in 2007. From 1996 to 2002, he worked as a psychiatrist and general physician. As soon as he began clinical practice in psychiatry, he became aware of the usefulness of the Rorschach test and participated in the group supervision held by Dr. Noriko Nakamura. In 2002, he began doctoral study in psychology and joined the Lab led by Prof. Yasushi Miyashita, one of leading neuroscientists in Japan, where he specialized in human functional MRI (fMRI). Soon Dr. Asari began the study focusing on brain activities during the performance of the Rorschach test in collaboration with Dr. Koji Jimura and Dr. Nakamura. In parallel with his own research, Dr. Asari participated in Dr. Jimura’s study addressed to the individual difference in brain activities using the Rorschach test as one of the psychological tests. This collaboration produced a number published articles as the first author as well as other articles written by Dr. Jimura. After finishing his Ph.D., Dr. Asari has worked as a psychiatrist for Fukui Memorial Hospital near Tokyo, where he treats a variety of psychiatric illnesses ranging from schizophrenia, mood disorder, dementia, to personality disorders, eating disorder, alcohol or drug dependence, dissociative disorder, complex PTSD, and developmental disorders. He continues using the Rorschach test as a highly useful diagnostic tool.

Dr. Asari’s presentation will review his research that demonstrates individual differences in brain activities using the Rorschach. He will also provide a Rorschach protocol and the history of a current case for Summer Seminar participants.

Barton Evans: Discussant

F. Barton Evans, Ph.D. is Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Associate Director of Outpatient Services and Director of Psychological and Forensic Assessment Services at East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine. He is a Life Fellow of the American Psychological Association’s Society of Clinical Psychology and Life Fellow of the Society of Personality Assessment. He is the author of three books, two of which are on the forensic use of the Rorschach. His most recent book with Dr. Robert Erard is *The Rorschach in Multimethod Forensic Practice*, which is due to be released in late 2016.

Conference Details

There is an early registration fee, so sign up fast, the number of places is limited!

Dates: July 23 to July 25 2016

Location : Genoa (Genova), Italy

Hotel: NH Marina Collection Genova (designed by famous architect Renzo Piano)

Room rates :

Rooms and suites with en suite bathrooms feature wood floors and harbor views, plus free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, minibars, and tea and coffee making facilities. Upgraded rooms have balconies. A contemporary restaurant with a terrace serves a complimentary breakfast buffet. There's also a bar, a gym and free parking.

The room rate per day arranged for participants is:

Superior Double room single use: 125 Euros + Tax per day per person 2 Euros

Superior Double room double use: 135 Euros + Tax per day per person 2 Euros

Please note that the hotel registration has to be done directly with the hotel.

http://www.nh-hotels.com/events/en/event-detail/31713/isr_summer_seminar.html

Anyone interested in staying more nights, the nights from 18 to 26 would be booked at the same meeting special price. To extend the stay, you have to write to c.armini@nh-hotels.com and s.iorio@nh-hotels.com asking to “*add the night of ... July to the reservation of Mr/Mrs...*” The confirmation will be based on the actual availability of the hotel for the requested nights.

Registration: via the registration form of the Summer Seminars flyer or online at rorschach.com

Registration and payment before **May 31, 2016:**

Registration fee: CHF 495.00 ISR-member, CHF 535.00 non-member

Registration after **May 31, 2016:**

Registration fee: CHF 540.00 ISR-member, CHF 580.00 non-member

We are looking forward to greet you in Genova!