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INVESTIGATING RELIGIOSITY, AUTHORITARIANISM AND FUNDAMENTALISM IN TERMS OF THE RORSCHACH TEST VARIABLES

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INTRODUCTION: AIMS

Many researches investigated **fundamentalism** and **religiosity** by administering **self-report** tests.

HYPOTHESIS:

Fundamentalism and religiosity are related to personality

AIM:

The **main goal** of this research is ***to understand if the Rorschach test could be used in identifying personality's characteristics related to fundamentalism and religiosity.***

INTRODUCTION: AIMS

There are many **differences** between the Rorschach test and the self-report tests; Meyer (1997) studied them in details:

RORSCHACH

- Expectations are minimally defined
- Stimuli are novel
- Wide range of response options
- Required tasks:
 - Formulating perceptions
 - Deciding which perceptions to articulate
 - Responding
- Dissimulation and impression management affect engagement with task
- Better tool for assessing personality predilections which may or may not be evident in overt behavior or consciousness.

SELF-REPORTS

- Expectations are well-defined
- Stimuli are familiar
- Narrow range of response options
- Required tasks:
 - Deciding if traits are characteristic
 - Deciding how to present self
 - Responding
- Dissimulation and impression management affect reported responses
- Better tool for obtaining information about specific overt symptoms, events, and experiences

THE RESEARCH

METHOD: SAMPLE

Some self-report tests were administered to a sample of 182 students from the University of Milan.



36 of them were available to be also administered the Rorschach test and the Adjective Checklist.

The original sample (n=182)			→	The Rorschach sample (n=36)		
Gender	Age			Gender	Age	
		m	s.d.			m
M (n=42)	22,2	4,2		M (n=10)	21,8	4,3
F (n=140)	22,3	4,3		F (n=26)	23,3	4,4
$t_{(180)}=-0,19; p=0,85$				$t_{(180)}=-0,94; p=0,36$		

METHOD: SAMPLE

Comparison between the Rorschach sample and the original sample, in terms of age, gender and faith.

Variable: AGE					
	m	s.d.	t	d.f.	p
Original sample (n=146)	22,2	4,3	0,92	180	0,36
Rorschach sample (n=36)	22,9	4,3			

Variable: GENDER			Variable: FAITH		
Sample	Gender		Sample	Faith	
	M	F		Not-faithful	Faithful
Original (n=146)	32 (21,9%)	114 (78,1%)	Original (n=146)	61 (41,8%)	85 (58,2%)
Rorschach (n=36)	10 (27,8%)	26 (72,2%)	Rorschach (n=36)	17 (47,2%)	19 (52,8%)
$\chi^2_{(1)}=0,28; p=0,60$			$\chi^2_{(1)}=0,16; p=0,69$		



METHOD: INSTRUMENTS

The Rorschach test, the Adjective Check-List and four self-report tests were administered (n=36):

The Rorschach test ...

It was administered according to Exner method (2003) and a second examiner coded independently all the records: the ICC values (2-way, random model) ranged from 0,81 to 1.



METHOD: INSTRUMENTS

The Rorschach test, the Adjective Check-List and four self-report tests were administered (n=36):

The Adjective Check-List ...

METHOD: INSTRUMENTS

The Rorschach test, the Adjective Check-List and four self-report tests were administered (n=36):

The **Liht**, the **Social Dominance Orientation (SDO)**, the **QUEST** and the **INTRINS ...**

METHOD: ANALYSIS

The main goal of this research was to understand if the Rorschach test could be involved in evaluating the personality characteristics related to fundamentalism and religiosity.

Given that such a test takes so long to be administered and coded, we just focused on a **small sample of students**.

Finding some relations between its variables and the constructs of fundamentalism and religiosity, we could expect that a bigger and more fundamentalist/religious sample could be well described in terms of Rorschach variables.

METHOD: ANALYSIS

1) Are the self-report tests related to age, gender and faith?

➡ Pearson's correlations and t-tests

2) What are the relations among the self-report tests we used?

➡ Pearson's correlations

3) Is there any relation between the self-report scales and the variables/scales of the Rorschach test (and ACL)?

➡ Pearson's correlations

RESULTS – FIRST QUESTION:

Are the self-report tests related to age, gender and faith?

Variables: AGE and SELF-REPORTS

<i>r</i> (n=36)	QUEST	LIHT	INTRINS	DOMINANCE
AGE	0,00 (p=0,99)	0,22 (p=0,19)	0,08 (p=0,65)	0,12 (p=0,50)

Variables: GENDER and SELF-REPORTS

SELF-REPORTS (n=36)	MALES (n=10)		FEMALES (n=26)		<i>t</i> (34)	p
	<i>m</i>	s.d.	<i>m</i>	s.d.		
QUEST	106,2	13,3	103,1	15,2	0,56	0,58
LIHT	34,8	13,4	36,7	9,2	-0,49	0,63
INTRINS	20,3	3,1	19,7	3,9	0,44	0,66
DOMINANCE	47,6	13,5	44,5	14,1	0,60	0,56

**RESULTS – FIRST QUESTION:
Are the self-report tests related to age, gender and faith?**

Variables: FAITH and SELF-REPORTS						
SELF-REPORTS (n=36)	Not-faithful (n=17)		Faithful (n=19)		t ₍₃₄₎	p
	m	s.d.	m	s.d.		
QUEST	110,9	11,9	97,8	14,3	-2,97	0,01
LIHT	31,7	8,0	40,2	10,7	2,65	0,01
INTRINS	18,5	2,8	21,1	4,0	2,28	0,03
DOMINANCE	39,0	11,1	51,1	13,8	2,86	0,01



As expected, in our sample:

- 1) there is no relation between self-reports and age or gender;
- 2) there are differences between not-faithful and faithful people.

**RESULTS – SECOND QUESTION:
What are the relations among the self-reports?**

Variables: SELF-REPORTS				
r (n=36)	QUEST	LIHT	INTRINS	
QUEST				
LIHT	-0,56 (p=0,00)			
INTRINS	-0,51 (p=0,00)	0,45 (p=0,01)		
DOMINANCE	-0,27 (p=0,10)	0,30 (p=0,07)	0,11 (p=0,51)	



SDO is not related to the other scales;
QUEST is negatively related with LIHT and INTRINS;
LIHT and INTRINS are positively related.

**RESULTS – THIRD QUESTION:
Is there any relation with the Rorschach test and the ACL?**

QUEST:



- 1) There is no relation between QUEST and age or gender;
- 2) QUEST is negatively correlated with LIHT and INTRINS;
- 3) Faithful people score lower at QUEST than not-faithful

Rorschach (n=36)

<i>var</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
C	-0,40	0,02	Emotional behaviors that essentially are void of control	Emotional and relational problems, with a tendency to avoid affective stimulation
Afr	-0,40	0,02	Person's interest in experiencing or being around emotional stimuli	
H	-0,33	0,05	Person's interest in people; views of, and attitude toward, the social environment	

**RESULTS – THIRD QUESTION:
Is there any relation with the Rorschach test and the ACL?**

QUEST:



- 1) There is no relation between QUEST and age or gender;
- 2) QUEST is negatively correlated to LIHT and INTRINS;
- 3) Faithful people score lower at QUEST than not-faithful

ACL (n=36)

<i>Var</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
Mas	-0,41	0,01	Role-qualities such as ambition, assertiveness, and initiative associated with everyday notions of masculinity	Lack of ambition, assertiveness, and initiative; absence of behaviors that hurt others
Agg	-0,34	0,04	To engage in behaviors that attack or hurt others	

**RESULTS – THIRD QUESTION:
Is there any relation with the Rorschach test and the ACL?**

QUEST:



- 1) There is no relation between QUEST and age or gender;
- 2) QUEST is negatively correlated to LIHT and INTRINS;
- 3) Faithful people score lower at QUEST than not-faithful

4) Emotional and relational problems, with a tendency to avoid affective stimulation (Rorschach test)

5) Lack of ambition, assertiveness, and initiative; absence of behaviors that hurt others (ACL)

**RESULTS – THIRD QUESTION:
Is there any relation with the Rorschach test and the ACL?**

LIHT:



- 1) There is no relation between LIHT and age or gender;
- 2) LIHT is positively correlated with INTRINS;
- 3) Faithful people score higher at LIHT than not-faithful

Rorschach (n=36)

<i>var</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
PTI	0,47	0,00	Mediational and ideational difficulties: disorganization in cognitive functioning	Low clarity of thinking and problems with reality test
DQ+FQ-	0,46	0,00	The more the stimuli are complex the more the person has problems in cognitive functioning	
MQ-	0,36	0,03	Thinking is peculiar or disturbed; it may be due to a preoccupation that interfere with mediation or clarity of thinking	
FM	0,37	0,02	Ideational activity related to unmet need states; it can interfere with attention	Unmet need states that lead to anxiety, tension and discomfort
YF	0,37	0,03	Experiences of anxiety, tension and discomfort for which the person has little or no explanation are quite probable	
Adjes	0,34	0,04	Experienced stimulation (not situational)	

**RESULTS – THIRD QUESTION:
Is there any relation with the Rorschach test and the ACL?**

LIHT:

-  1) There is no relation between LIHT and age or gender;
2) LIHT is positively correlated with INTRINS;
3) Faithful people score higher at LIHT than not-faithful

ACL (n=36)

<i>Var</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
Cps	-0,61	0,00	The desire to do and think differently from the norm, and a talent for originality	Desire to do and think similar to the norm;
Dom	0,39	0,02	To seek and maintain a role as leader in groups, or to be influential and controlling in individual relationships	tendency to seek a role as leader in groups

**RESULTS – THIRD QUESTION:
Is there any relation with the Rorschach test and the ACL?**

LIHT:

-  1) There is no relation between LIHT and age or gender;
2) LIHT is positively correlated with INTRINS;
3) Faithful people score higher at LIHT than not-faithful

4) Low clarity of thinking and unmet needs that lead to anxiety, tension and discomfort (Rorschach test)

5) Desire to do and think similar to the norm (ACL)

**RESULTS – THIRD QUESTION:
Is there any relation with the Rorschach test and the ACL?**

INTRINS:



- 1) There is no relation between INTRINS and age or gender;
- 2) INTRINS is positively correlated with LIHT;
- 3) Faithful people score higher at INTRINS than not-faithful

Rorschach (n=36)

<i>var</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
Sum Y	0,45	0,01	Situational stress associated with feelings that are prompted by a sense of helplessness	Situational stress and mental activity (provoked by need states) that may interfere with attention
FM+m	0,40	0,01	Mental activity provoked by need or demand states, which is not in the direct focus of attention	
es	0,38	0,02	Experienced stimulation	
DQ+	0,45	0,01	The quality of processing usually is adequate	Problems in thinking (and low clarity), especially when the stimuli are complex
DQ+FQ-	0,38	0,02	The more the stimuli are complex the more the person has problems in cognitive functioning	
WSum6	0,35	0,03	Issue of clarity or peculiarity in thinking	
AG	0,43	0,01	The person anticipates interpersonal exchanges as marked by some form of aggressiveness or competitiveness	Anticipation of interpersonal exchanges as marked by aggressiveness or competitiveness

**RESULTS – THIRD QUESTION:
Is there any relation with the Rorschach test and the ACL?**

INTRINS:



- 1) There is no relation between INTRINS and age or gender;
- 2) INTRINS is positively correlated with LIHT;
- 3) Faithful people score higher at INTRINS than not-faithful

ACL (n=36)

<i>Var</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
Agg	0,56	0,00	To engage in behaviors that attack or hurt others	Relational problems, characterized by aggression and need for attention
Aut	0,43	0,01	To act independently of others or of social values and expectations	
Exh	0,40	0,01	To behave in such a way as to elicit the immediate attention of others	
Dom	0,32	0,05	To seek and maintain a role as leader in groups, or to be influential and controlling in individual relationships	

**RESULTS – THIRD QUESTION:
Is there any relation with the Rorschach test and the ACL?**

INTRINS:



- 1) There is no relation between INTRINS and age or gender;
- 2) INTRINS is positively correlated with LIHT;
- 3) Faithful people score higher at INTRINS than not-faithful

4) Situational stress, mental activity, issue of clarity in thinking and anticipation of interpersonal exchanges as marked by aggressiveness and competitiveness (Rorschach test)

5) Relational problems, characterized by aggression and need for attention (ACL)

**RESULTS – THIRD QUESTION:
Is there any relation with the Rorschach test and the ACL?**

SDO:



- 1) There is no relation between SDO and age or gender;
- 2) SDO is not correlated with the other self-reports;
- 3) Faithful people score higher at SDO than not-faithful

Rorschach (n=36)

<i>var</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
MQ-	0,45	0,01	Thinking is peculiar or disturbed; it may be due to a preoccupation that interfere with mediation or clarity of thinking	Issue of clarity or peculiarity in thinking, especially when the stimuli are complex
DQ+FQ-	0,37	0,03	The more the stimuli are complex the more the person has problems in cognitive functioning	Anticipation of interpersonal exchanges as marked by aggressiveness or competitiveness
AG	0,55	0,00	The person anticipates interpersonal exchanges as marked by some form of aggressiveness or competitiveness	Issue of clarity or peculiarity in thinking, especially when the stimuli are complex

**RESULTS – THIRD QUESTION:
Is there any relation with the Rorschach test and the ACL?**

SDO:

-  1) There is no relation between SDO and age or gender;
2) SDO is not correlated with the other self-reports;
3) Faithful people score higher at SDO than not-faithful

ACL (n=36)

<i>Var</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
Exh	0,46	0,00	To behave in such a way as to elicit the immediate attention of others	Relational problems, characterized by aggression and need for attention
ABA	-0,39	0,02	To express feelings of inferiority through self-criticism, guilt, or social impotence	
Dom	0,31	0,05	To seek and maintain a role as leader in groups, or to be influential and controlling in individual relationships	

**RESULTS – THIRD QUESTION:
Is there any relation with the Rorschach test and the ACL?**

SDO:

-  1) There is no relation between SDO and age or gender;
2) SDO is not correlated with the other self-reports;
3) Faithful people score higher at SDO than not-faithful

4) Issue of clarity in thinking, especially when the stimuli are complex and anticipation of interpersonal exchanges as marked by aggressiveness and competitiveness (Rorschach test)

5) Relational problems, characterized by aggression and need for attention (ACL)

CONCLUSIONS

The main goal of this research was to understand if the Rorschach test could be involved in evaluating the personality characteristics related to fundamentalism and religiosity.

Our findings support this idea:

- For each scale there are some significant correlations with some Rorschach variable/indices
- Some of the correlations we found seem to be confirmed by the Adjective Check-List
- Most of the results we found seem to make much sense from a theoretical point of view

CONCLUSIONS

- QUEST:**
- Emotional and relational problems, with a tendency to avoid affective stimulation (Rorschach test)
 - Lack of ambition, assertiveness, and initiative; absence of behaviors that hurt others (ACL)



People who believe in God, but with a strong predisposition to be doubtful, tend to be “rationale”, to avoid affective stimulation and to think and reason much more than to feel.

Their faith is not driven by emotions but by thoughts.

CONCLUSIONS

- LIHT:** - Low clarity of thinking and unmet needs that lead to anxiety, tension and discomfort (Rorschach test)
- Desire to do and think similar to the norm (ACL)



The (LIHT) fundamentalism might be a strategy to overcome the lack (face the issue) of clarity in thinking.

Avoiding complexity and doubts might be a solution both for the ideational issue and for the anxiety, tension and discomfort related to unmet needs.

CONCLUSIONS

- INTRINS:** - Situational stress, mental activity, issue of clarity in thinking and anticipation of interpersonal exchanges as marked by aggressiveness and competitiveness (Rorschach test)
- Relational problems, characterized by aggression and need for attention (ACL)



The need and the desire to believe in God is related to cognitive and affective stress and to relational problems. This feature seems to be mostly related to situational stress.

CONCLUSIONS

- SDO:** - Issue of clarity in thinking, especially when the stimuli are complex and anticipation of interpersonal exchanges as marked by aggressiveness and competitiveness (Rorschach test)
- Relational problems, characterized by aggression and need for attention (ACL)



The personal attitude toward the Social Dominance Theory reflects the attitude toward others and the expectations about others' behaviors in own personal life.

CONCLUSIONS

The **Rorschach** test could be much useful in understanding and identifying **fundamentalism** and **religion**.

LIMITS:

sample size
assumption of linearity of relations
absence of high scores

FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

bigger samples
homogeneity of sample
fundamentalists or religious people