

E-411 PRMA

LECTURE 19: CLINICAL AND COUNSELING ASSESSMENTS

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CLINICAL AND COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

Both focus on preventing, diagnosing, and treating behavior

clinical - focus on severe pathologies

counseling - focus on "everyday" behaviors (less severe)

Marriage, family, school, career problems

MENTAL DISORDERS

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM)

Diagnoses are based on five dimensions

A set of diagnostic criteria indicates symptoms that must be present (and how long) as well as a list of other symptoms, disorders, and conditions that must be ruled out

Low inter-clinician reliability

What is a disorder is debatable

References to homosexuality as a disorder completely removed in 1986

Culturally-defined

DSM - V

Completed in 2013

Methods to account for culture

Uses continuous (i.e. severity) rather than binary measures
(i.e. have the pathology or not)

Some personality disorders still treated categorically

Disorders on the "fence" (e.g. caffeine/internet use disorder)

Much more can be found on their [website](#)

Manual provides no advice on treatment

Assessment should be multidisciplinary (**biopsychosocial
assessment**)

**WHAT MIGHT THESE
PSYCHOLOGISTS BE INTERESTED IN
USING TESTING FOR?**

METHODS

Interviews

Tests (any that we've described thus far)

Case histories

INTERVIEWS

HOW DO THEY DIFFER?

Structured/Unstructured

Tone

Content

Interviewer

State of interviewee

Is it a stress, cognitive, collaborative interview?

STANDARD INTERVIEWS

- Demographic data
- Why are you here
- Past and current medical history; family medical history
- Past psychological history
- Past professional advice
- Current psychological state

MENTAL STATUS EXAM

- Appearance, behavior
- Orientation
- Memory
- State of senses and psychomotor abilities
- State of consciousness, affect, mood, personality
- Thought control & processes
- Intelligence, insight, judgment

**WHAT MIGHT BE SOME
PSYCHOMETRIC ISSUES WITH
INTERVIEWS?**

**HOW CAN YOU COMBAT THIS AND
WHAT VALIDITY EVIDENCE WOULD
YOU PRESENT?**

CASE HISTORY DATA

- Biographical and related data about an assessee
- Hospital records
- School records
- Military records
- Employment records
- Shed insight into assess and understanding assessee's behavior

APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT OF ADDICTION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Could assess with a test and/or interviews

MMPI-2-RF has three scale to measure substance abuse

MacAndres Alcoholism Scale, the oldest, distinguishes
alcoholics from nonalcoholics

Could use role-play to assess likely behavior

Major ethical issues include consent and paying for research
participation

FORENSIC ASSESSMENT

Assessment in a legal context

Often clinician called in to provide evidence about assessee
(often a defendant)

Assessee may want to lie

Provide expertise without actually assessing someone (i.e.
hypotheticals)

Provide expertise about a test (comment on
validity/reliability)

PSYCHOLOGICAL REPORTS

After an assessment, the psychologist must write up a report

Reports are sometimes vague and people willing accept these descriptions (Barnum effect)

Statistical and computerized methods used to assess the report and predict behavioral responses

Computers often do a better job predicting than the clinician

Could be used to improve validity and reliability in clinical settings?