

“What’s wrong with me?” Trauma, resilience and the creation of art: An unusual response to the Rorschach in a collaborative therapeutic assessment

PRESENTERS:
DIANE SANTAS, PHD, ANNE GILL, MPS,
& JILLIANN DALY, PHD

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025 FROM 6:30PM - 8:00PM

LIVE VIA ZOOM

This workshop explores the Rorschach findings of a 63-year-old woman with a history of complex trauma. Struggling with distress, self-criticism, and disconnection, she sought to understand her challenges—including the possibility of Autism. Her assessment journey, framed by the question “What’s wrong with me?”, highlighted the therapeutic potential of collaborative assessment.

While multiple methods were used, the Rorschach uniquely captured her experience, presenting challenges such as excessive verbalization and hyper-focus on visual details. Notably, her artistic renderings of the inkblots provided a more coherent expression of her inner world than her verbal responses.

The presenters will discuss how the test deepened diagnostic understanding and revealed unexpected resilience. Participants will explore trauma’s impact on Rorschach responses, the role of collaborative assessment in fostering insight, and how artistic expression can enhance clinical understanding and engagement.

MUST REGISTER BY:
9:00PM ON MAY 13

Click or
Scan QR
Code



Email: Hadas Pade with
registration questions at
hpade@wi.edu.

Cancellations by May 9 will get a
full refund.

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address to qualify for discount.)

General Admission: \$20

Please contact us in advance if
you require special
accommodations on the day of
the workshop.



CE Credits: 1.5 CE Hours

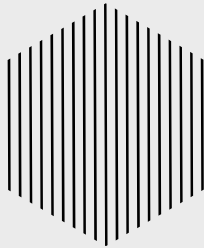
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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe two key elements of a collaborative therapeutic assessment when working with a neurodivergent client who has experienced trauma.
- Explain key indicators of trauma and potential Autism spectrum characteristics evident in the R-PAS.
- Identify and analyze signs of resilience in the client's history as manifested through their artwork.

LEARNING LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

This workshop is useful for psychologist with limited experience in the field.



ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

Dr. Diane Santas has been in full-time independent practice in the California Bay Area for almost 40 years, doing collaborative therapeutic assessments and therapy with children, teenagers and adults. She is an Assistant Clinical Professor at UC Berkeley, supervising graduate students in their assessments, and she has also supervised assessments at The Wright Institute as an Adjunct Clinical Faculty member. Dr. Santas completed the Therapeutic Assessment Immersion course in Austin (2017), and has presented at the Society for Personality Assessment and at the Collaborative Therapeutic Assessment Conferences.

Anne Gill worked as a creative arts therapist in an outpatient program for adults with dual diagnoses for over fifteen years before deciding to pursue her doctorate degree at The Wright Institute. She is currently in her predoctoral internship at Alameda Family Services where she is providing short-term therapy to families, adults, and couples.

Dr. Jillian Daly graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1990 with a Ph.D. in counseling psychology. She went on to complete a two-year post doc in neuropsychological assessment at San Francisco General Hospital, where the Rorschach test was an expected part of the standard battery. After becoming licensed, she has worked as a neuropsychologist in a number of settings, including private practice, inpatient settings, and outpatient clinics. She has also been teaching Personality Assessment, including the Rorschach, as an adjunct faculty, on and off, since 1997.