Introduction to the Round Table

This Round Table co-chaired by Victor Molin and Edward Aronow began with Victor Molin comparing the French System for scoring the Rorschach with John Exner's Comprehensive System. Molin began his presentation by speaking to efforts to establish complementarity between the two systems. He pointed out that although there might be some areas of overlap between the two systems, there is a question of terminology and categories that are used in each system. The examples he used to describe the differences between the two systems did not clarify his thesis of difference. Later, C.E. Mattler of Finland gave a summary outline of the Comprehensive System but no such explanatory description was given regarding the French System. Thus, it was difficult to evaluate the validity of Molin's contention that the French System appears to be more discriminating in its scoring than the Comprehensive System.

Image formation and images formed a significant topic in the Round Table. Phil Eufberg of the United States described the development of hypervigilant images while Lucia Coelho (Brazil) and Odile Hassin (Canada) spoke about mental images on the Rorschach. Mrs. Coelho discussed how images are a representation of underlying emotional processes based on knowledge the subject has of the world. The subject not only constructs images but also verbalizes what he or she constructs. Odile Hassin elaborates on linguistic issues in this regard. According to Hassin, the only access we have to the contents of what an individual sees on the Rorschach is through his or her verbalizations. This verbalization may not be a true replication of the individual's internal experience. What an individual reports depends on his/her personality characteristics and how the individual perceives the test. These issues, however, are not insurmountable.
Dr. Paul Lerner (USA) discussed the experiential aspect of the Rorschach. Sensitive to the subtle nuances and diagnostic implications of the patient-examiner relations enables the examiner not only to minimize the problems addressed by Husain but also to maximize the inference potential and diagnostic implications of the patient-examiner relationship. Being cognizant of this aspect allows the examiner to empathize with the patient’s total experience.

In discussing the index from the Comprehensive System, Phil Erdberg (USA) illustrated how this index is supported and well grounded in psychodynamic theory by being the criticism the Comprehensive System is more empirical unsuppressed by sound theoretical understanding.

Edward Acron (USA) proposed a way of using the Rorschach that raises significant theoretical and practical issues. He suggests using the Rorschach cards as stimuli for free association much as one would use a dream. This procedure raises many questions. For example, why use the ink blots to encourage free association when so many other sources for free association are available? But of greater importance, would this use spoil or contaminate using the Rorschach inhibiting for traditional Rorschach analysis, re-test, evaluation, comparative analysis and research?

This Round Table raised significant questions which will need to be discussed in future meetings when there is more time for such discussion.

136 Round Table 4: Methodological Approaches of Rorschach Analysis
Introduction

Système de Compréhension est purement empirique et dénué de compréhension théorique du son.

Edward Arrow (É.-U.) propose un usage du Rorschach quilève le rideau sur d'importantes questions théoriques et pratiques. Il suggère l'utilisation des cartes du Rorschach comme un stimulus pour l'association libre de la même manière que quelqu'un aurait utilisé un rêve. Cette procédure suscite beaucoup d'interrogations. Par exemple, pourquoi utiliserait-on les taches d'encre pour encourager l'association libre lorsqu'on dispose d'un grand nombre d'autres sources à cet effet? Mais le plus important encore est de savoir si cet usage des taches d'encre ne portera pas préjudice à l'analyse traditionnelle du Rorschach, sa confirmation, son évaluation, son analyse comparative et sa recherche?

Cette table-ronde suscita de nombreuses questions qui devront être le thème d'un débat lors d'une prochaine rencontre et lorsque nous disposerons de plus de temps pour une discussion de cette envergure.