

Why the Statement “The Rorschach is Invalid” is Invalid

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It is not uncommon to hear academics, clinicians, students, and even people with no psychology training confidently assert that “The Rorschach is invalid.” But even the staunchest professionals who describe themselves as ‘the Rorschach critics’ do not say the test is invalid. As these critics stated in 2005, “Even psychologists who are critical of the test generally agree that some scores from various Rorschach systems can be helpful for detecting thought disorder, diagnosing mental disorders characterized by thought disorder, measuring dependency, and predicting treatment outcome” (p. 105).¹

In fact, for the past 30 years, systematic research has consistently supported the overall validity of formal scores derived from the Rorschach task as equivalent to those derived from the most popular self-report personality test, the MMPI.² In 1999³ and 2001⁴ the critics argued for a moratorium on the use of the Rorschach until each individual scale had conclusive meta-analytic evidence for its validity. In 2015, based primarily on the systematic reviews and meta-analyses of

¹ Garb, H. N., Wood, J. M., Lilienfeld, S. O., & Nezworski, M. T. (2005). Roots of the Rorschach controversy. *Clinical Psychology Review, 25*, 97-118.

² Meyer, G. J., & Archer, R. P. (2001). The hard science of Rorschach research: What do we know and where do we go? *Psychological Assessment, 13*, 486-502.

³ Garb, H. N. (1999). Call for a moratorium on the use of the Rorschach Inkblot Test in clinical and forensic settings. *Assessment, 6*, 313-317.

⁴ Garb, H. N., Wood, J. M., Nezworski, M. T., Grove, W. M., & Stejskal, W. J. (2001). Toward a resolution of the Rorschach controversy. *Psychological Assessment, 13*, 433-448.

⁵ Mihura, J. L., Meyer, G. J., Dumitrascu, N., & Bombel, G. (2013). The validity of individual Rorschach variables: Systematic reviews and meta-analyses of the comprehensive system. *Psychological Bulletin, 139*, 548-605.

⁶ Wood, J. M., Garb, H. N., Nezworski, M. T., Lilienfeld, S. O., & Duke, M. C. (2015). A second look at the validity of widely used Rorschach indices: Comment on Mihura, Meyer, Dumitrascu, and Bombel (2013). *Psychological Bulletin, 141*, 236-249. [See also: Mihura, J. L., Meyer, G. J., Bombel, G., & Dumitrascu, N. (2015). Standards,