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Photographic self-portraits as a lens for observing individual traits in personality

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Photographic Self-portraits as a Lens for Observing Individual Traits in Personality

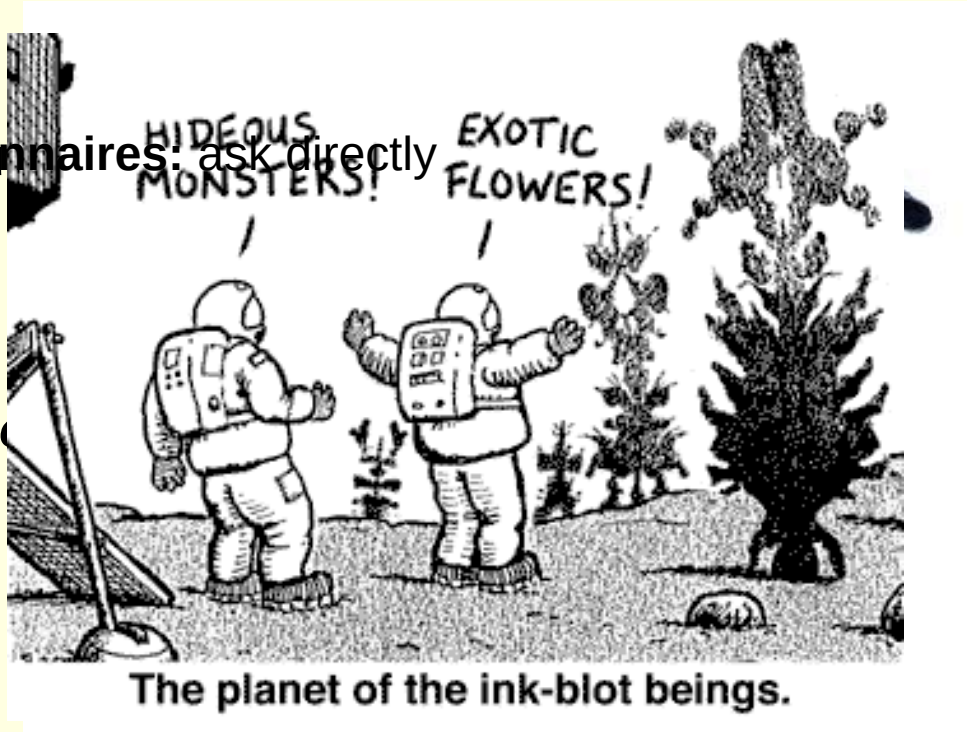
An Honors Thesis

By: Shannon Lavoie

PERSONALITY: the complex of all the attributes--behavioral, temperamental, emotional and mental--that characterize a unique individual

Questionnaires: ask directly

Ph

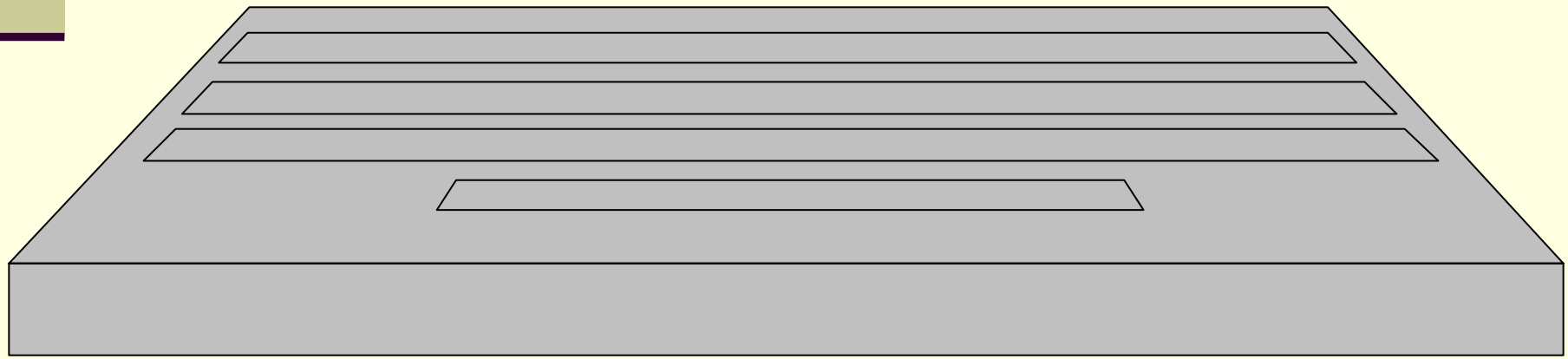


Rorschach Test: Less obvious, less predictable method

Is he Mr. Right or Mr. Right now?

What career is right for you?

What breed of dog are you?



Photographic Self-portraits

- **Goal:** Demonstrate how self-portraits relate to a broad range of personality characteristics.

Dollinger Study

California Adult Q-sort

NEO

Coding Process

- A) *friends / family*
- B) *self photos*
- C) *pets / animals*
- D) *alcohol / drugs*
- E) *group affiliation*
- F) *music / movies*
- G) *communication*
- H) *home*
- I) *sports (self participation)*
- K) *personal appearance*
- L) *academics*
- M) *food*
- N) *sex*
- 0) *personal objects*
- P) *jobs*
- Q) *hostility / aggression*
- R) *religion*
- S) *nature*

Factor Analysis

- Sex & Drugs
- Group Affiliation
- Home
- Friends/Family vs. Personal Interests
- Nature
- Internal vs. External Focus of Attention
- Fitness

Female Students

Sex & Drugs

+ intelligent, protective of others, enjoys sensuous experiences, see sexual overtones in situations, Internally consistent personality.

- self-defensive, seeks reassurance from others, fearful, avoids action, brittle ego, nervous, doubts adequacy as a person.

Home

+ seeks reassurance from others, feels lack of meaning in life, gives up when frustrated, deceitful, distrustful of others, moody.

- intelligent, initiates humor, energetic, prides self on being rational, assertive, ambitious.

Male Students

Fitness

+ Dependable, protective of others, gets things done, regards self as physically attractive, calm, expressive, satisfied with self, happy, charming

- Anxiety produces bodily symptoms, submissive, feels lack of meaning in life, gives up when frustrated, negativistic, fearful.

Nature

+ skeptical, self-defensive, blames others for mistakes, condescending, irritable, deceitful, self-pitying, hostile towards others.

- Arouses nurturant feelings in others, denies unpleasant thoughts / conflicts

Male / Female Picture Count

Female: + Critical, fastidious, energetic, rigid, assertive, nervous, upset easily, verbally fluent.

- generous, arouses liking in others, calm, appreciates humor, satisfied with self, happy, charming.

Male: + skilled at humor, is funny, arouses liking in others, socially perceptive, ambitious, happy, charming, communicates through actions, verbally fluent.

- anxious, thin-skinned, feels lack of meaning in life, negativistic, has doubts about adequacy as a person, self-pitying.

Discussion

- *Why use autographic photography as a Lens into the personality?*
- *What does this method add to pre-existing personality tests?*
- *How are age and gender clearly significant within this method?*