International Society of the Rorschach & Projective Methods

Position paper of ISR on the issue of using the Rorschach during the COVID-19 pandemic.

by ISR Board
January, 2021

First, we would like to pass our condolences to those who have lost dear members of the family, colleagues and friends. We are facing a great loss all over the world.

The pandemic is not over; it is an ongoing situation, and what makes it worse is that we do not yet know when our lives will return to normal.

Considering this situation, ISR would like to make an announcement on our position regarding the use of the Rorschach in this unprecedented worldwide situation.

First, we need to face the fact that although Covid-19 is a worldwide pandemic, the situation in each country is significantly different. Some countries are under severe lockdown rules, while in others the government only requests people's self-restraint. The impact on the working conditions of psychologists likewise differs. In some countries face-to-face counselling is not permitted at all, while in others it can take place, as long as masks are worn and other precautions are taken.

The ISR is an international organization consisting of members from 20 countries, plus individual members from a further 13 countries. It is therefore impossible for the ISR to make recommendations that could be applied to all situations and countries in this pandemic or similar situations. The ISR can only release a position paper reaffirming its principles:
1/ The ISR is unchanged in its stance that the original cardboard cards are the only ones which can guarantee valid results.
2/ Remote testing should only be considered as a last resort in extreme circumstances, and if the Rorschach is administered remotely, this fact must be mentioned by the psychologist with a disclaimer stating that the results are not evidence-based and normative data could not be used.

Although Covid-19 is unlikely to be with us forever, it is likely that we will be faced with some other pandemic or similar challenge. We believe therefore, it would be wise for the ISR to prepare ahead for such a time and to start doing research and collecting data using our international network on the creation of digital cards and on how to do remote testing.