



Storytelling, Narrative, and the Thematic Apperception Test (Assessment of Personality and Psychopathology)

By Phebe Cramer PhD

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The Thematic Apperception Test (TAT) is a systematic approach to storytelling that offers insight into the unique psychological reality of each individual. This book integrates a variety of interpretive approaches to the TAT to illuminate the meaning of narratives and explore their clinical implications. Informed by psychodynamic theory and empirical research, the book addresses such topics as the ways narratives reveal different personality organizations; how stories change over the course of therapy; the influence of age, gender, and defense mechanisms on narratives; and the use of the TAT in clinical studies. A new preface to the paperback edition situates the book within the contemporary landscape of personality research.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This work is the most comprehensive, original, and creative integration of clinical and empirical approaches to the TAT yet produced. It begins with an emphasis on the multi-modal perspectives inherent in the depiction of the TAT as a narrative, interactive event between story-teller and story-interpreter. The remainder of the book then enacts this conception of narrative by providing multiple, overlapping reviews of the vast array of clinical and empirical investigations of personality using the TAT. Her clinical interpretations of TAT protocols are brilliant and provide outstanding material for the practitioner and teacher alike. Her scholarly review of the reliability and validity of the technique and, more importantly, her critique of the way conventional psychometric standards have misunderstood the essence of the TAT are of great significance in the recent debate about the merits of various assessment procedures. The work is also compelling in its ability to give equal and lucid emphasis to both the clinical/psychodynamic and social psychology/achievement traditions that have historically intertwined as the two primary configuration of TAT use since its introduction 60 years ago. This book is beautifully written, clinically astute, and extraordinarily well documented. It will no doubt be the standard TAT reference for many years to come." -- Steven Tuber, Ph.D., ABPP, Director, Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology, City College Graduate Center, New York

"The book provides a masterful synthesis of half a century of work on the TAT, placing it in the context of storytelling and narrative approaches to understanding individuals and clinical groups. Dr. Cramer does a particularly good job of integrating interpretative and empirical approaches to the TAT, showing how the interpretation of life narratives and the rigorous psychometric assessment of life narratives can be part of the same enterprise." --Drew Westen, Ph.D., Chief Psychologist, The Cambridge Hospital, and Associate Professor, Dept of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School

"This is a scholarly achievement written in a clear and lucid fashion. Its encyclopedic coverage will be of inestimable value to clinicians and researchers alike. Dr. Cramer also provides a historical background with varied theoretical conceptualizations of Storytelling and Narratives to aid the student in appreciating this age old form of communication." --Carol Eagle, Ph.D., Head, Child and Adolescent Psychology, Montefiore Medical Center; Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

"This book is a valuable resource for psychology students at any level who are learning the foundations of projective testing, and it is destined to become standard reading for doctoral students who are enrolled in projective assessment courses....Should be required reading for every clinician who will be administering and interpreting the TAT."

(Psychiatric Services 2004-06-04)

From the Back Cover

This volume is about a particular kind of storytelling: the Thematic Apperception Test (TAT). A systematic approach to storytelling, it provides clinicians with an effective method for investigating those original and highly personal themes that constitute the unique personality of each individual. This book illuminates the meaning of narratives and explores their clinical implications by integrating a variety of interpretive approaches to the TAT that are informed by psychodynamic theory and empirical research. The book opens

with an overview of the history and development of the TAT. Chapters discuss the importance of context in storytelling, and the relationship between the storyteller's narrative and the story interpreter's narrative in the process of explicating TAT stories. Several psychodynamically informed approaches to interpreting the TAT are placed in a narrative context and illustrated using stories from college students, children, and patients. The ways that stories transform over time are brought to life in an in-depth analysis of both the narratives from the psychiatric patients and information on the course of their treatments. How narratives can reveal different personality organizations is considered, as are the ways in which stories change according to age, gender, or as a result of defense mechanisms. The final section of the book concentrates on the use of the TAT for research studies. Factors that can confound or disrupt these studies are discussed, such as possible ethnic or gender bias in selection of TAT pictures and the influence of the length on the story. Applying contemporary ideas about narrative thought to the TAT, this book is valuable reading for psychologists who use the TAT or any narrative material, such as biographies or interviews, for clinical or research purposes. It also serves as a text for a range of advanced courses in clinical psychology, research methods, and personality assessment.

About the Author

Phebe Cramer, PhD, is Professor of Psychology at Williams College, in Williamstown, Massachusetts, and a practicing clinical psychologist.

Users Review

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Betty Terry:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled Storytelling, Narrative, and the Thematic Apperception Test (Assessment of Personality and Psychopathology). Try to make the book Storytelling, Narrative, and the Thematic Apperception Test (Assessment of Personality and Psychopathology) as your friend. It means that it can to be your friend when you sense alone and beside those of course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortuned for yourself. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , let me make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

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Terrie Delgadillo:

The ability that you get from Storytelling, Narrative, and the Thematic Apperception Test (Assessment of

Personality and Psychopathology) could be the more deep you looking the information that hide within the words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to know but Storytelling, Narrative, and the Thematic Apperception Test (Assessment of Personality and Psychopathology) giving you joy feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood by means of anyone who read it because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. So it is easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this specific Storytelling, Narrative, and the Thematic Apperception Test (Assessment of Personality and Psychopathology) instantly.

Linda Cooper:

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