Assessment and Classification

Assessing Psychological Disorders

- Purposes of Clinical Assessment
  - Understand
  - Predict
  - Plan
  - Outcome
  - Analogous to a Funnel
Assessment Concepts

Key Concepts in Assessment

- Reliability
  - Consistency in measurement
- Validity
  - Measuring what you think you’re measuring
- Standardization
  - Consistent use of a technique

The Clinical Interview and Physical Exam

- Clinical Interview
  - Most common clinical assessment method
  - Structured or semi-structured
- Physical Exam
The Clinical Interview

- Purpose: Understanding
- Mental Status Exam
  - Appearance and behavior
  - Thought processes
  - Mood and affect
  - Intellectual functioning
  - Sensorium

Mental Status Exam

Components of the mental status exam

Psychological Testing and Projective Tests

- Projective Tests
- Objective Tests
- Objective Intelligence Tests
Neuropsychological Testing

- Neuropsychological Tests
  - Assess broad range of abilities
    - My Soup Lacks Many Hot Peas
  - To understand brain-behavior relations
  - Not used routinely

Classification and Diagnosis

- Categorical Approach
  - If X, then Y; If not X, then not Y
- Dimensional approach
  - How much of X?
- Prototypical approach
  - How much of X does it take for Y?

The DSM-IV

- Basic Characteristics
  - Five axes
  - Clear inclusion and exclusion criteria
  - Categorized
  - Empirically grounded
The DSM-IV

- The Five DSM-IV Axes
  - Axis I – Most major disorders
  - Axis II – Stable, enduring problems
  - Axis III – Medical conditions
  - Axis IV – Psychosocial problems
  - Axis V – Global Assessment of Functioning

Example:

- Axis I: 300.30 Obsessive-compulsive disorder
  296.22 Major depressive disorder
- Axis II: 301.7 Antisocial personality disorder
- Axis III: None
- Axis IV: Recent divorce, unemployment
- Axis V: GAF = 55, Moderate symptoms (flat affect, unable to keep a job)

Unresolved Issues in the DSM-IV

- The Problem of Comorbidity
  - Simultaneous Disorders
  - Very common
  - Validity of separate diagnoses?
- Labeling issues and stigmatization (all classification systems)
Summary

- Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis
  - Obtain complete understanding of the client
  - Aid in understanding and ameliorating human suffering
  - Requires reliable, valid, and standardized information

- Dangers of Diagnosis
  - Problem of reification
  - Problem of stigmatization