

A Call for Case Submissions

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In February 2003 we described *JPA*'s new Clinical Case Applications (CCA) section and encouraged readers to submit interesting personality assessment case material for publication (Meyer, 2003; Nichols & Handler, 2003). We also described what we hoped to see in contributions, including a novel expectation that we thought would enhance the quality of case submissions. We asked for each submission to include a section with comments from an external source who was present during the assessment, received assessment feedback, or reviewed the author's case material (e.g., the client himself or herself, the referral source, a person significant to the client, an attorney or judge involved in a forensic case). We wanted these comments to focus on the content, implications, and/or experience of the assessment process.

The commentary section was designed to serve two related goals. First, we thought it would put a personal face on the assessment and help illustrate how applied assessment is an idiographic, interactive, collaborative process with consumers. Second, we thought it would allow someone who may disagree with the assessment clinician to comment on the clinician's assessment-based impressions in the real-life context where they were being applied.

We still maintain our hopes and aspirations for the CCA section, believing our goals were on target for optimally serving *JPA* readers. However, we recognize that writing up assessment case material can be quite challenging and intimidating on its own without the added requirement of commentary from an external source. Given that we have received just a trickle of submissions to the CCA section, we fear that our lofty hopes may have set the bar too high. Rather than encouraging high quality submissions, our novel requirement may have discouraged some skilled clinicians from preparing a case presentation. It also led us to reject several valuable and illuminating case-focused submissions

because the authors could not obtain external input for the commentary section. This is undesirable.

Because we have a strong wish to see high quality case material published in *JPA*, we think it may be time to relax our expectations. Although we will give preference to case submissions that contain commentary from an external source who was party to the assessment, this is now an option rather than a requirement.

Thus, we again invite clinicians to submit thoughtful case illustrations from their applied work. We welcome case material on a variety of topics, including submissions that could fall under the following three headings, each of which may eventually become formal CCA subsections: *Classic Cases*, *Diagnostic Puzzles*, and *Therapeutic Impasses*.

Desirable submissions can come in many forms. As suggested above, they may provide assessment data that illustrate the prototypical or classic presentation for a particular condition, describe baffling test results or difficult referral questions that are eventually resolved, or highlight the role of skilled personality assessment in helping clinicians and clients overcome therapeutic impasses or invigorate stalled treatment. In addition, desirable submissions may articulate the assessment clinician's inference processes, illustrate strategies for linking nomothetic research findings to idiographic clinical inferences, show how to carefully think through consistencies and inconsistencies across types of tests, illustrate procedures to systematically seek evidence that can disconfirm an inference, demonstrate ways to collaborate effectively with clients and others who are affected by the assessment, or illustrate how final impressions and recommendations are shaped through a collaborative discussion of the findings. Desirable submissions also may highlight ethical dilemmas, illustrate the sophisticated use of a specific testing instrument, illuminate ways to contend with

ambiguities or uncertainties that are regularly encountered in assessment practice, or help others learn what to avoid by sharing mistakes and faulty inferences.

If you are a sharp personality assessment clinician with an eye for the kind of detail that can lead to insightful case material, we hope you will seriously consider preparing a submission for the CCA section so students and your assessment colleagues can learn from your experiences. Each of us will be happy to discuss possible submissions or to assist prospective authors in other ways. We can be reached by email at gmeyer@utnet.utoledo.edu, davemult@aol.com, or bhhandler@aol.com.

References

- Meyer, G. J. (2003). Editor's introduction. *Journal of Personality Assessment, 80*, 1–2.
- Nichols, D. S., & Handler, L. (2003). Introduction to the Clinical Case Applications section: Its purposes and scope. *Journal of Personality Assessment, 80*, 4–6.

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