Highlights from MMPI History: A Timeline Perspective
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1939  Discussion on personality assessment and “psychopathic inferiors” and an early indication of the development of a new multi scale personality inventory to improve on existing tests. The new test would address a number of mental health problems and do away with some of the difficulties in attempting to use the existing inventories in the clinic Hathaway (1939).

1940  First journal publication on the Multiphasic Schedule (Hathaway & McKinley, 1940)

1943  Time Magazine announcement of the broad use of the MMPI.

Applications of the MMPI in medical assessment (Schiele et al., 1943)

1944  Established the value of the MMPI in personnel selection (Abramson, 1944)

1945  Abramson (1945) conducted research showing the value of using the MMPI in personnel selection in the military.

Meehl’s “empiricist manifesto” (Meehl, 1945) detailed and established the empirical method in scale construction.

First use of the MMPI with adolescents (Capwell, 1945).

1946  Development of the Si scale (Drake, 1946)


1947  Simulated patterns on the MMPI (Gough, 1947).

1948  First translations of the MMPI (Abe in Japan and Reda in Italy;

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two countries that a few years earlier had been at war with the United States

1951 Analyzing and predicting delinquency (Hathaway & Monachesi, 1951)

1952 First factor analysis of the test establishing the factor structure of the MMPI scales (Welsh, 1952)

1954 Meehl’s article on clinical versus statistical prediction establishing the actuarial prediction approach in psychology (Meehl, 1954).

1955 Work by Reitan contributed to the inclusion of the MMPI in neurological assessment (Reitan, 1955).

Empirical validation of code types (Halbower, 1955).

Development of the Harris Lingoes Subscales (Harris & Lingoes, 1955)

1956 Factors in test translation (Sundberg, 1956).

1958 Fulkerson, Sells, and Raynor (1958) studied the use of the MMPI in the psychological evaluation of pilots.

1960 First comprehensive interpretation text for the MMPI (Dahlstrom & Welsh, 1960)


1963 Marks & Seeman’s actuarial prediction providing an interpretive cookbook for MMPI codes with outpatients (MMPI cookbook) (Marks & Seemen, 1963).

1965 Gilberstadt & Duker (MMPI cookbook) for inpatients. (Gilberstadt & Duker, 1965)

1965 Block’s study dispelling the power of response sets (Block, 1965)

Establishment of the Symposium on Recent Developments in the Use of the MMPI that has brought new research and clinical interpretation strategies to psychologists for 40 years.

1966 Wiggins’s content scale interpretation approach (Wiggins, 1966)
Gottesman & Shields’ MMPI study on the genetics of schizophrenia and personality (Gottesman & Shields, 1966).

Strength of actuarial methods in psychological assessment (Sines, 1966)

1967 Development of the first Narrative MMPI interpretive program with Roche Laboratories (Fowler, 1967)

1968 Craig MacAndrew developed the MAC Scale-- a highly successful addiction proneness scale

1969 First public discussion of the need for an MMPI revision by a panel of MMPI experts at the 5th MMPI Symposium on Recent Developments in the Use of the MMPI in Minneapolis, MN.

1970 First International Symposium on Recent Developments in the MMPI (Mexico) highlighting international use of the MMPI.

1972 Changing perspectives in objective personality assessment (detailed discussion on the need for and factors in the revision of the MMPI (Butcher, 1972)

1972 Campbell provided a thoughtful and methodologically sound critique of factors pertinent to revising a standard psychological test.

1976 Developed a rigorous methodology for MMPI translation (Butcher & Pancheri, 1976)

1977 Established a system for the classification of profiles in criminal offenders (Megargee, 1977)

1978 Innovative clinical programming that integrated the MMPI into chronic pain treatment programs (Fordyce, 1978)

1981 The MMPI revision and data collection began after many years of discussion: The MMPI-2 Revision Committee was comprised of James Butcher, John Graham, W. Grant Dahlstrom. Auke Tellegen joined the Committee a few years later in the data analysis stage.

1985 Predicting behavior with the MMPI in job applicants (Beutler, 1985).

1988 Malingering assessment in psychological tests (Schretlen, 1988).

1989 MMPI-2 was published –20 years after the need for a revision was established at the 5th Annual Symposium on Recent Developments in the Use of the MMPI (Butcher, Dahlstrom, Graham, et al., 1989).

1990  Development of the MMPI-2 content scales (Butcher, Graham, et al 1990)

1991  Research verified the validity of MMPI-2 indices (Berry, Baer, & Harris, 1991; Graham, Watts, & Timbrook, 1991).

1992  MMPI-A was published (Butcher, Williams, et al., 1992)

1992  Therapeutic Assessment (test feedback in therapy) demonstrated to be an effective treatment strategy (Finn & Tonsager, 1992).

1992  Delineation of the new T scores for MMPI-2 (Tellegen & Ben-Porath, 1992)


1995  Development of the Fp Scale (Arbisi & Ben-Porath, 1995)

1995  Development of the Superlative Self Presentation (S) scale (Butcher & Han, 1995).

1995  Importance of validity indicators in MMPI-2 evaluation (Bagby, 1995).

1995  Established the continuity of MMPI code type correlates in the MMPI-2 (Archer, Griffin, & Aiduk, 1995).

1998  Accuracy of MMPI-2 assessment by computer (Shores & Carstairs, 1998)

Note: MMPI contributions after 2000 were not considered in the selection process.

References


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Campbell 1972


Reitan, R. M. (1955). Affective disturbances in brain-damaged patients; measurements with the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory. *Archives of Neurology & Psychiatry, 73*, 530-532.


