Highlights from MMPI History: A Timeline Perspective

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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 Meehl’s empiricist manifesto (Meehl, 1945).
First use of the MMPI with adolescents (Capwell, 1945).
1946 Development of the Si scale (Drake, 1946)
1948 First translations of the MMPI (Abe in Japan and Reda in Italy; two countries that a few years earlier had been at war with the United States
1951 Analyzing and predicting delinquency (Hathaway & Monachesi, 1951)

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1 The fifty timeline highlights were selected as events that had special influential significance and positive contribution to MMPI development. This is not a comprehensive listing of MMPI contributions and other important studies could have been included had space allowed.
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).

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)

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)

Publication of John Graham’s MMPI long-running and widely used interpretive textbook “The MMPI: A Practical Guide.”

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).

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

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


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

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

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

MMPI contributions after 1995 were not included in the selection process.

References


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


