

Highlights from MMPI History: A Timeline Perspective¹

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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.
- 1945 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)

Classic studies on semi-starvation effects among conscientious objectors (Keys, et al, 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 Lingo's Subscales (Harris & Lingo's, 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)
- 1962 Development of the first computer interpretation system at the Mayo Clinic by John Pearson and Wendell Swenson, (Pearson, Swenson, et al., 1965; Rome, Swenson, et al., 1962)
- 1963 Marks & Seeman's actuarial prediction providing an interpretive cookbook for MMPI codes with outpatients (MMPI cookbook) (Marks & Seeman, 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).

- Criteria for assessing inconsistent patterns of item endorsement (Nichols, Greene, & Schmolck, 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 new measures for substance abuse assessment (Weed, et al. 1992)
- 1995 Development of the Fp Scale (Arbisi & Ben-Porath, 1995)
- 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).
- 1998 Accuracy of MMPI-2 assessment by computer (Shores & Carstairs, 1998)
- Note: MMPI contributions after 2000 were not considered in the selection process.

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