

SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATION

TOPIC: PRACTICAL CHALLENGES OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT RESEARCH: ROLEPLAYER PERSPECTIVES

1. COORDINATOR – OVERVIEW (Cheryl Foxcroft)

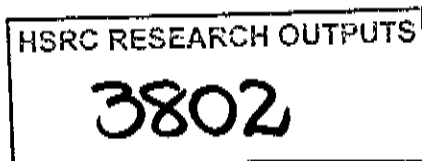
In light of the current findings from the psychological assessment needs analysis and the national concern regarding unfair testing practices, test developers need to address some of these concerns. However, due to practical challenges of psychological assessment research, such as funding, capacity and time constraints, input needs to be attained from the various stakeholders and public domains in the formulation of a research agenda to meet the unique psychological assessment needs of South Africa. During the symposium the key findings of the psychological assessment needs analysis will be discussed, followed by highlighting the practical challenges of conducting psychological assessment research in South Africa. Different perspectives from a range of roleplayers will be considered. First, test developers, then test distributors, and finally users from the academic community will provide their perspectives. The key outcome is to get an overview of a research agenda that would support both the needs of the academic community, as well as test developers, and improve links and networks between these two groups.

2. COORDINATOR – participant (Cheryl Foxcroft)

The coordinator will present the pertinent findings related to the HSRC from the psychological assessment needs analysis.

3. HSRC (Anil Kanjee, Cas Prinsloo & Jenny Povey) * ↳ Attached

The presenters will discuss the HSRC's research agenda, structures and the implications of limited government funding. A typical example of a test revision process in terms of the time taken and cost implications will be provided. From a national priorities perspective a priority list of tests to undergo revision will be provided for discussion.



4. MINDMUZIK (Frikkie Kriek)

The presenter will review the HSRC's market position and the tests that need to be revised. From a market perspective a priority list of tests to undergo revision will be provided for discussion.

5. UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES (Dr Mario Smith and Conrad Zygmunt)

The presenters will explore the role of universities and possible collaborations in terms of the revision of the HSRC's tests. Suggestions will be made with regard to the most frequently used HSRC's tests in the university context in terms of training and research that will require revision. From an educational and training perspective a priority list of tests to undergo revision will be provided for discussion.

6. WAY FORWARD (Cheryl Foxcroft)

The panel will then open up to the floor for suggestions and questions. The aim of the discussions will focus on a way forward for the HSRC in terms of revising the most currently used and nationally applicable tests to enable fair testing practice in South Africa at a cost effective price. It is anticipated that an agreed upon priority list from all stakeholders will be generated from the discussions and that collaborations will be formed to enable the HSRC to move forward in this process.

**Practical Challenges of
Psychological Assessment
Research:
An HSRC Roleplayer Perspective**

**Seminar Presentation at the PsySSA Annual
Congress on 22 Sept 2005 in Cape Town
(A Kanjee, CH Prinsloo & J Povey)**

Assessment Technology & Education Evaluation

ATEE



HSRC's Current Agenda / Situation

- **Loss of faith in psychological testing (fairness, bias, cultural relevance)**
 - **Hence, limited government funding**
 - **From former “national facility” to “limited action”**
 - **Dispersion of former capacity**
 - **Extent of attention required: revise, update, develop**
 - **Implications of extensive development (time, direct costs, labour costs – dependent on individual vs group; graphics/technicality/colour; apparatus)**
 - **Training implications: distributor has to train users**
- (Coverage, provincial representation?)**

Proposal(s)

- **National priorities: Entry- and exit-level, coherent human development perspective (poverty, unemployment, disability)**
- **Project proposals (developed two): overall maintenance and validation of current tests (model) ; ASB / SETT / School “Readiness” instrument**
- **Proposed collaboration model**
 - **HSRC / Mindmuzik serves as coordinating agency**
 - **To synchronise “local” / limited studies and collate into national products (revisions, re-standardisations, norming, validations)**
 - **MA and doctoral students, lecturers, NRF grants**
 - **Large-scale and new developments – to be dealt with on merit**
 - **Internal and external advisory committees**
 - **Relevance issues: culture, language, previously disadvantaged groups**
 - **Technical requirements: quality control, manuals, ethics, standards**



Priority list of tests to undergo revision

- **From feedback and needs analyses (university/teaching side, users, HSRC and its distributor)**
- **HSRC extracted tentative list for discussion of proposed tests to undergo revision:
JSAIS, SSAIS-R, ASB, CATS (VS, CDQ, SAVII, 19FI, DAT, JPQ, proficiency tests
- e.g., numeracy, literacy)**

Expectations

What do we want to get out of the debate?

- **Priorities, and an approach**
- **Support and national collaboration**

