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# What is Personality? Pt. 2

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PSY 249  
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# Announcements

- Check in 1: Radical Honesty due Tomorrow 11:59pm (24hr Grace period)
- Class slides available on course website under course materials tab
- Course website:  
<https://psych249.commons.gc.cuny.edu/>

## Question of the day

In small groups (2-5) answer/discuss the following question  
(You can also do this as a free write on your own)

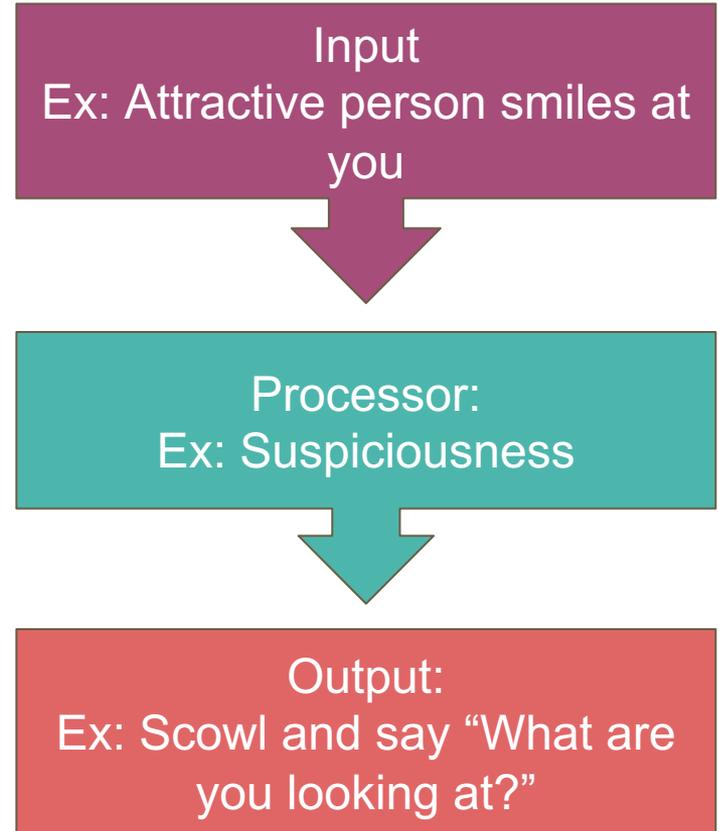
Do you think studying personality  
is a valuable endeavor? Why or  
why not?

# Personality is a Big Deal in Psychology

- Personality is one of the most predominant fields within psychology
- There are about 208 programs around the world with a personality emphasis
- Division 8 within the APA (Div of Social and Personality Psychology)
- Over 10,000 different grants and funds dedicated to funding personality related projects.
- Lots of corporate backing so there are also many job/ funded research opportunities

# How is personality understood in Psychology?

- Personality is understood as partly measurable but also highly individual.
- These measurable/Categorizable aspects are called traits
- Many psychologists believe there are universal traits shared by all humans such as “the need to belong somewhere/somewhat”
- Psychological mechanisms in which our traits are enacted

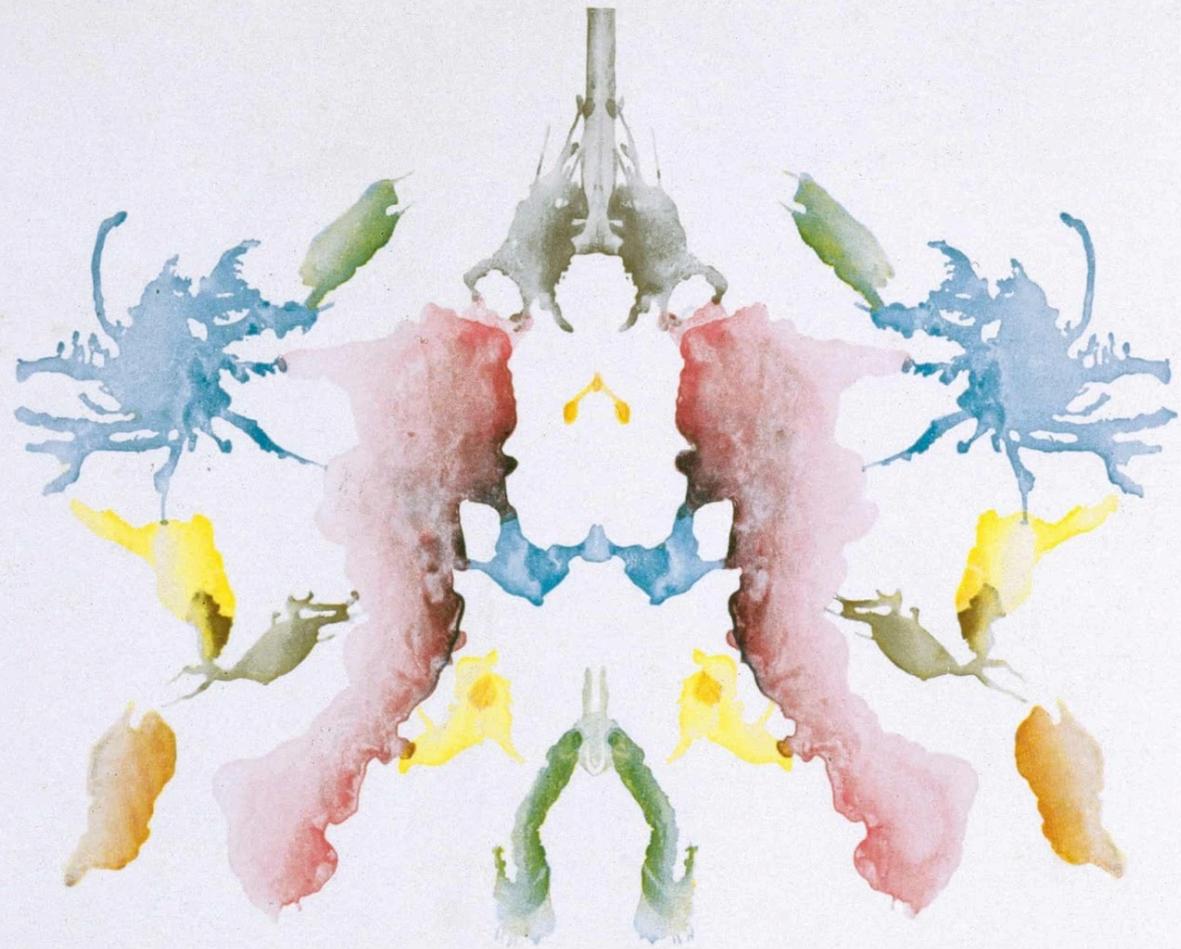


## Activity: Do we believe in Psychology?

In small groups please discuss the following questions:

1. Do you believe that there are personality traits shared by all human beings? Why or why not?
2. If you do believe that there are what is an example?
3. If you do not believe discuss what you feel some of the impacts of having no shared/universal traits are.





# How is Personality Measured and Assessed?

## Self-Report Tests

Neo Pi R (Big 5 test)

MBTI (Myers Briggs)

MMPI (Multiphasic PI)

16 PF (Personality Factor)

Eysenck Personality Questionnaire

## Projective Tests

Inkblot Tests

Thematic Apperception Tests

Graphology

Sentence completion test

Draw-a-Person test

House-tree-person test

# Psychology and Personality Tests

## Woodworth “Shell Shock” Test

1915

- Military puts more money into psychology and personality testing

## Rorschach “ink blot” test & Projective Measures

1920-30s

- Personality testing moves out of war/military into the privileged public sphere

## Myers-Briggs Type indicator

1960s

- Personality testing moves into the workplace and thus to the working class

## 5 Factor Model of Personality adapted

1990s

- Personality testing expands into a 400 million dollar industry.

A 2-billion-dollar industry expected to be 6.5 billion by 2027

# Why is Personality Important in Psych?

- Personality is the foundation of many different branches of psychology
- Essential to attempt to understand individual motivations, behavior, and differences to see bigger sociopolitical pictures
- Personality being measurable gives credit and resources to psychology as a field
- Allows clinicians to tailor their support to each indiv client
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# What we should be mindful of?

- Using “Personality” solely for profit
- Cultural bias
- Epistemological Violence
- Biased measures being used to create “standards” or norms.
- Setting a “universal standard”
- Centering Whiteness, Centering the U.S., Centering the West
- Continuing the Colonial Categorization process