'Hands that shed innocent blood' *Proverbs 6:17*

Back in 1967 the seniors in Classical High School were constantly being reminded not to do something that if everyone did that behavior; it would destroy society. Immanuel Kant might describe it as what a person 'ought' to do in a particular social setting and are referred to as Kant's Categorical Imperatives. These basic principles of morality are sometimes called 'eternal verities'.

This presentation will explore David Wechsler's subtests of Picture Arrangement and Comprehension and their ability to target anti-social behavior from adolescence to adulthood. Additionally, John Gittinger's development of his Personality Assessment System the (PAS), and his 'Responsibility Cluster' will receive much attention regarding its predictability of personalities and behaviors. Most of these cases discussed in this presentation will be the exact polar opposite of Kant's Categorical Imperative.

During World War One, David Wechsler worked with the [U.S. Army](#) in developing psychological tests to screen new draftees while he was studying under the close direction of the well-known psychologists, [Charles Spearman](#) and [Karl Pearson](#). Later in his career, Wechsler would become the chief [psychologist](#) at [Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital](#) in New York City. Wechsler is most famous for the popular intelligence tests that bear his name. The Wechsler subtests are based on Wechsler's philosophy that intelligence is "the global capacity to act purposefully, to think rationally, and to deal effectively with one's environment" (Krauskopf, & Saunders, 1994). The (WAIS) and then the (WISC) had a venerable history of

diagnosing psychiatric problems. Many psychologists consider them as the 'Greenwich Mean' of intelligence tests.

John Gittinger worked as a consulting psychologist for [CIA](#) during the time he developed the (PAS) from Wechsler's scales. Early publications describing his (PAS) appeared in academic publications but did not mention Gittinger's employer. Apparently, working covertly for 'the Company' was standard operating procedure. While the (PAS) has been used in other areas like education and clinical work, it was developed primarily for assessing personality types of world leaders, according to Krauskopf & Davis (1973). The focus for this paper will be on a brief pattern analysis and the clinical applications of the (PAS) and its ability to predict dangerous behaviors. According to Krauskopf & Saunders (1994), people who produce subtest patterns, which are significantly alike, should also show behaviors that are significantly alike. These behaviors will range from being a 'danger to self and others' to the extreme measure of being beyond evil to the very 'heart of darkness'.

Profiles of active shooters

Former Massachusetts State Police officer Todd McGhee says most active shooters have several things in common. Among their similarities are:

- Primarily, they have a 'lone wolf' personality. They are socially isolated, having few if any friends. Situational events in their lives have led them to become despondent and often depressed. Massachusetts State Trooper McGhee quotes from Professor Levin, who has authored several criminology books including, Extreme Killing: Understanding Serial and Mass Murder (2008). He states,

'They have feelings of alienation, bullying, and persecution, and they tend to blame others for their problems. There are individuals who want to get even with people in general'. Prof. Levin describes Cho Seung-Hui, the Virginia Tech. killer of 32 people, as sharing all of these characteristics.

- Police officer McGhee adds, 'They have had very little interaction with police or mental health providers. They are nontraditional criminals; they fear detection unless there is a suicide component to their plan.'
- Trooper McGhee further states, "As their world starts to unravel, they formulate a plan to target their persecutors. There is generally a loss that precipitated the attack and they have no place to turn for help when they get into trouble."
- Federal agents who investigated the Virginia Tech massacre described Cho Seung –Hui's profile as a 'collector of injustice' according to Levin. That phrase defines an individual who regards any personal misery as someone else's fault and views people in the world as out to get them. Levin states that Cho was not a sociopath like Ted Bundy because Cho had a conscience; however, Cho was depressed and angry from being bullied. Measuring a social conscience or a moral compass by using the Comprehension Subtest of the Wechsler will be discussed along with the terms sociopath and psychopath.
- Finally Trooper McGhee says, "They identify a place that has a high volume of people with little police presence," Schools, shopping centers, and mass transit terminals would all be prime targets.

Literature review

The following studies indicate that early warning signs of deviant behavior can be measured. They establish no causal link because they are post-facto studies but perhaps can serve as a smoking gun. However, the twin problems of prevention and intervention of active shooters remain a matter of public policy. In America, one is not rounded up for low scores in the Comprehension Subtest of the Wechsler. 'Violence has to be imminent before action is taken', according to Judge Napolitano, who is a retired Federal judge and has specialized in Constitutional law.

A brief explanation of this Wechsler Comprehension Subtest seems necessary at this point. Perhaps an example of a failed response on this Comprehension subtest would bring the gist of this subtest into 'reality' quickly. A test question from an examiner might read something like this:

Question: What is the thing to do if you smell smoke in a crowded theater?
Answer: "I would sneak out of the theater and watch them all burn."
Obviously, that answer is incorrect and would suggest the need for further in depth personality assessments.

Social Functioning as measured by
the Comprehension Subtest

Carole Anonick (1987) found that male adolescents who have been hospitalized and diagnosed with 'explosive behavior disorder' scored significantly lower from their clinical control group on the Comprehension Subtest. Also lower scores were found in this experimental group on the Comprehension Subtest when compared to their Picture Arrangement

Subtest scores. Additionally, she found that the males showed a significant weakness on the Comprehension Subtest when compared to the females. She concluded that a sound knowledge of societal norms contributed to higher scores on the Comprehension subtest.

Earlier, Alan Kaufman (1979) found that high performance on the Comprehension Subtest was correlated to the development of a 'conscience or moral sensibility'. Anonick's work also confirmed this along with Wechsler's study done in (1958). He found that 'adolescent sociopaths' obtained a significantly higher Performance Scale indexed IQ than the Verbal Scaled indexed IQ. Wechsler considered the Comprehension Subtest as a marker for juvenile delinquency. Hays et al. (1978) also found significantly higher Performance index scores than Verbal scores on the (WISC) with a group classified as 'juvenile murderers'. Finally, Campbell & McCord (1999) confirmed that subjects with strong performance in the Comprehension subtest -experienced fewer social problems than others.

Therefore because the Comprehension subtest is part of the verbal scales, a low score on the Comprehension subtest would depress that entire Verbal Scale index (VIQ) and result in the Verbal indexed scores being less than the Performance indexed scores (PIQ) on the Wechsler. Additionally, the (VIQ) is considered a better predictor of school achievement than the (PIQ) so low scores on the Comprehension Subtest should be a red flag for psychological examiners (Nicholson & Alcorn, 1993).

Former CIA psychologist John Gittinger might caution, however, against using just one subtest from the Wechsler Scales like Comprehension to

make predictions about human behavior. For Gittinger, the Comprehension Subtest is a card-carrying member of Gittinger's 'Responsibility Cluster', along with three other verbal subtests, Arithmetic, Information, and Similarities. According to Gittinger, the 'Responsibility Cluster' tells a psychologist how effectively the individual possesses a strong moral conscience and to what degree the individual has become socialized. Gittinger's (PAS) has been used in analyzing atypical behaviors within the interacting patterns for all of the Wechsler subtests.

Atypical behaviors like exploiting and injuring others resemble profiles in Prof. Levin's book on 'Serial Killers'. Levin describes murderers as 'extremely adept liars' or in other words, people who are very aware of social situations and are able to manipulate those events to their own advantage. For example, an individual who scored high on the Picture Arrangement subtest and scored low on Comprehension subtest might perceive social situations as an opportunity to exploit and victimize others. This would be exactly opposite the response of a good Boy Scout who correctly perceives a social situation and then helps an elderly or handicapped person cross a busy street. Individuals looking to exploit people could be considered not only a 'danger to others' but possibly 'sociopathic', which is a term from the pen of a criminologist like Prof. Levin. Destroyers of the social and moral fabric of society would meet with disdain from the pen of Immanuel Kant.

The preceding studies build a case for Wechsler's Comprehension and Picture Arrangement Subtests to predict behaviors both deviant and normal. The next section will discuss John Gittinger's (PAS). Gittinger

researched the Picture Arrangement (PA) subtest always within the context of his (PAS). Believing that a high score on the PA subtest indicates that a person innately has 'charisma', Gittinger built upon and stepped beyond Wechsler's groundbreaking research in measuring human intelligence. Gittinger's (PAS) is based on the view that behavior is determined by both heredity and environment and that human behavior is determined by an interacting system of traits that can be measured by all of Wechsler's subtest scales.

According to John Gittinger, one's ability on the Picture Arrangement Subtest is not only inherited but the greater the PA score; the more genetically endowed 'charisma' an individual possesses. However, (Krauskopf and Saunders, 1994) state that life events can and do serve to modify the original trait. In some cases, this compensation occurs so much that nearly the opposite behavior results from the original genetic inclination. However, a certain 'tension' is created within that individual as a result of extreme compensation.

Fascinating stories abound involving the use of the (PAS) during military predicaments around the globe. According to John Marks (1975), it was John Gittinger, who was summoned by the White House during the Cuban missile crisis to give his advice about Khrushchev's potential reaction to American pressure. In South Vietnam, Gittinger's mission was to diagnose and predict the personality traits of North Vietnam's leaders and its prisoners. He was charged with determining which captured North Vietnamese soldiers would be the best collaborators for U.S. Army Intelligence. This is according to Dr. Richard York, who summarizes,

'This would have been without the availability and use of Wechsler's batteries of assessments but Gittinger had an ability to read people in categories of his own theory. The general question being addressed was to what extent can observed behavior be characterized by the (PAS) theory (using the Wechsler tests), and what is the reversibility of that relation" (York, 1994).

Later, information on the psychological profile of the Shah of Iran was a subject of Gittinger's (PAS) and the subsequent hostage crisis in the 1970's. Gittinger analyzed several other Middle Eastern leaders for the 'Pickle Factory', his term for the assessment component of CIA. According to Richard York (1978), 'being a consulting psychologist for CIA was not always an easy fit between people in his academic world and John's operations at CIA.' The computer analysis of Gittinger's personality types with all of its 512 possible combinations being matched to Wechsler's profile configurations was both complex and novel for its day and certainly controversial on college campuses in the 1960's and 70's due to Gittinger's association with CIA. (York, 1986). Also because Gittinger believed that intelligence was an inherited trait and that environmental influences would either minimize or maximize those genetic attributes; the 'zeitgeist' for the (PAS) may have been further stifled on college campuses.

Most important to this paper's discussion of profiling personalities was Gittinger's third social dimension of his (PAS). Recall that relatively high scores on the Picture Arrangement Subtest revealed how well a person was able to adapt their social behavior to the demands of the culture they lived in, this is according to both Wechsler and Gittinger. This social dimension

of intelligence is called Role Adaptive (A) at one end and Role Uniform (U) at the other end of a continuum. Gittinger's social dimension corresponds to 'charisma,' or lack of it. He postulated that other people were naturally attracted to the (A) type while tending to ignore the role uniform or 'U' type of person (Marks & Saunders, 1969). Even though the Picture Arrangement Subtest is measuring a genetic characteristic, according to Gittinger, this trait could be modified later by life experiences but a genetic "U" type who compensated toward an "A" type was never socially as smooth as a genetic 'A' type.

Both Professors Wechsler and Gittinger also believed, the higher the Picture Arrangement subtest score the more socially role adaptive that individual would be. Gittinger would state, *'In the back of my mind was still the business of Wechsler talking about criminals having high Picture Arrangement - remember, higher than bright Harvard Students.'* Professor Levin described *serial killers* as astute observers of human behavior, so according to Gittinger and Wechsler, the subgroup of serial killers should score high in the PA subtest. If Levin were to research serial killers with high scores in the PA subtest, and then check for a correlation coefficient, he might find material for another book.

Perhaps the opposite case could be made for *active shooters* like Cho. He may have exhibited "U' type behavior while at Virginia Tech. The "U' type or role uniform individuals score relatively low on this PA subtest and do not pick up on visual social cues or perceptions. Misperceiving social situations can be dangerous to oneself and others. Cho had serious social perception problems according to Professor Levin. Cho believed that he was

the only sane person on the campus of Virginia Tech. Levin also believed that Cho was a victim of bullying first. Taking no argument with Levin's assessment, this writer raises an original research question regarding the (PAS) and murderers. The question is 'Can it be shown that serial killers and active shooters would display a different Wechsler subtest pattern when calculating the (PAS) on these two groups?' If so, pre-emptive treatment or intervention could differ accordingly for each group and it might offer a ray of hope.

Final Thoughts

Ethical Issues

According to Martin Buber, a Jewish theologian, who wrote in 1923, that when we treat people as an 'it' rather than as a 'thou' we devalue their life as well as our own. Buber suggests that when we recognize that others are made in the image of God and therefore a holy respect for that person's life should supersede treating others as objects or 'its'. Later, Buber would write a book with Carl Rogers, who was a humanistic psychologist. It was interesting to find that a link between Carl Rogers and John Gittinger even existed. 'While at the Human Ecology group, which was funded by CIA, Gittinger supervised much of the Society's other research in the behavioral sciences. He looked for ways to mesh their research with his theories and vice versa. Some, like Carl Rogers 'listened politely and did not follow up' according to Marks, (1975).

Peter Scazzero, (2006) a Christian theologian writes that growing as an emotionally mature Christian requires learning and practicing social skills such as listening with empathy, speaking respectfully and treating others as a 'thou' instead of an 'it' and thus concurs with Martin Buber regarding ethical behavior between individuals.

Presenting a seemingly different viewpoint, Jean-Paul Sartre described mankind as a 'useless passion' and Richard Dawkins saw humans beings as random dancing DNA. Richard Dawkins writes in his book, *River out of Eden* (1995) that 'DNA neither cares nor knows. DNA just is. And we dance to its music'. While I disagree with their philosophy of life, I think they have followed the logic of their beliefs and they state their positions boldly without compromise.

Ravi Zacharias, a Christian apologist, (2007) responds to Dawkins in his book, *Beyond Opinion*. He writes, 'Can you imagine telling a raped woman that the rapist merely danced to his DNA?' Zacharias further states, "the denial of a moral law based on the compulsion to deny the existence of God, ultimately results in the denial of evil itself". Zacharias' book entitled, *Beyond Opinion* may also be a wordplay on the words found in B.F. Skinner's book entitled, *Beyond Freedom and Dignity*. Written by the American [psychologist](#) [B. F. Skinner](#), his book argues that the belief in [free will](#) and the moral [autonomy](#) of the individual (which Skinner referred to as "dignity") hinders the prospect of using scientific methods to modify behavior for the purpose of building a happier and better-organized society, something Skinner called "cultural engineering".

It is my opinion, which is similar to Buber's and Scazzero's, that the more we devalue the life of our friends and acquaintances, the more we

devalue our own. Have we become a nation in which the value of human life and the way we treat our neighbors has become so degraded? Has the last 50 years in America displayed a bright and shining city on a hill? Francis Schaeffer (1983), the author of <u>How Should We Then Live</u> would just say 'no' to that question. Fifty years ago I was fifteen. When I compare my memory of how this country was then to how it is today, I would have to agree with Francis Schaeffer. While modern technology has advanced into a 'Brave New World', a return to the 'eternal verities' cries out as reasoned voices in the wilderness. <u>How Should We Then Live?</u> was the question asked by Francis Schaeffer in 1983 but the question was originally recorded by the Jewish prophet, Ezekiel, in chapter 33 verse 10. Again, one good way to begin living right would be not to abuse others as objects for one's personal gain. Martin Buber and Francis Schaeffer would agree with that ethic; Immanuel Kant would agree too, categorically.
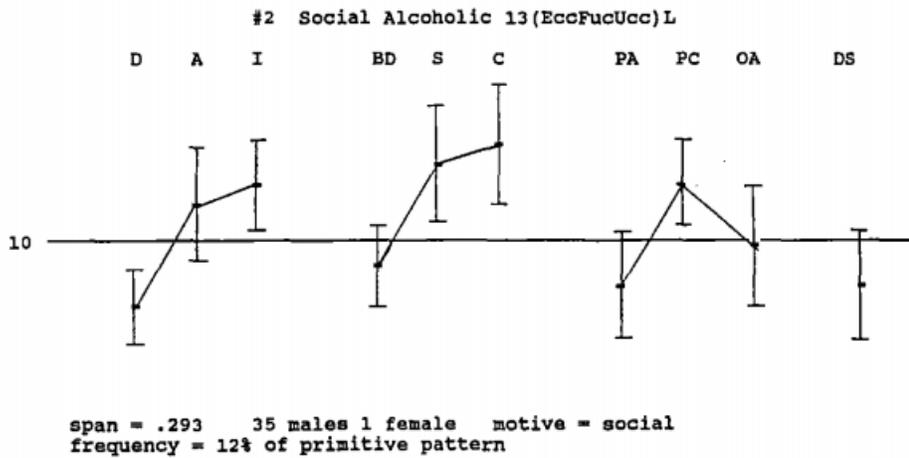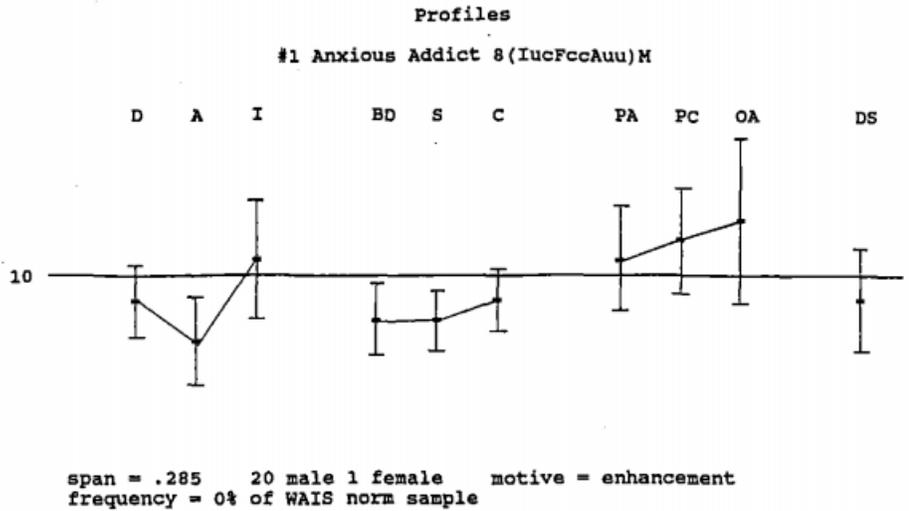
More than 65 years ago, David Wechsler had already considered and researched which comprehension questions to ask subjects taking his Comprehension Subtest. Those questions that best measured a social and moral conscience were selected. The (WISC) was published in 1949, the year I was born. Running out of a theater full of smoke to 'watch them all burn' would have been an unexpected and horrible answer for a subject to give on the Comprehension subtest in 1949. Now 65 years later from the development of the (WISC), Americans have witnessed an active shooter, who entered into a theater in Colorado to 'shoot them all up.' The former case in which the subject passively watches them all burn after running out of the theater might typify a sociopath. The latter case where the subject is an active shooter might typify a psychopath. Labeling these two groups

also depends on which academic discipline is doing the labeling. These two deadly circles may overlap but the psychopath is still the more dangerous of the two. In both of these two cases, a conscience is nowhere to be found.

With full disclosure, I have to admit that I considered Gittinger to be an eccentric genius. I was one of the fortunate few psych. majors at American International College in the late 1970's to have learned (PAS) from John himself. I believe that his personality assessment system proved useful for CIA and for many psychologists around the country. Perhaps it could be applied today for identifying serial killers and active shooters. Finally, the (PAS) course at A.I.C. would not have happened without the wisdom and perceptiveness of Prof. Richard Sprinthall. Professor Robert MacLachlan also deserves honorable mention as the primary instructor of the program at A.I.C. Thank you Drs. Stats and Mac for your guidance and thank you members of the 'Reality Club' for listening.

Appendices

PAS scatter plot analysis patterns of four subgroups – Anxious Addict, Social Alcoholic, Depressed and Repressed Anxiety.

Profiles

#1 Anxious Addict 8(IucFccAuu)M

D   A   I   BD   S   C   PA   PC   OA   DS

10

span = .285   20 male 1 female   motive = enhancement
frequency = 0% of WAIS norm sample

#2 Social Alcoholic 13(EccFucUcc)L

D   A   I   BD   S   C   PA   PC   OA   DS

10

span = .293   35 males 1 female   motive = social
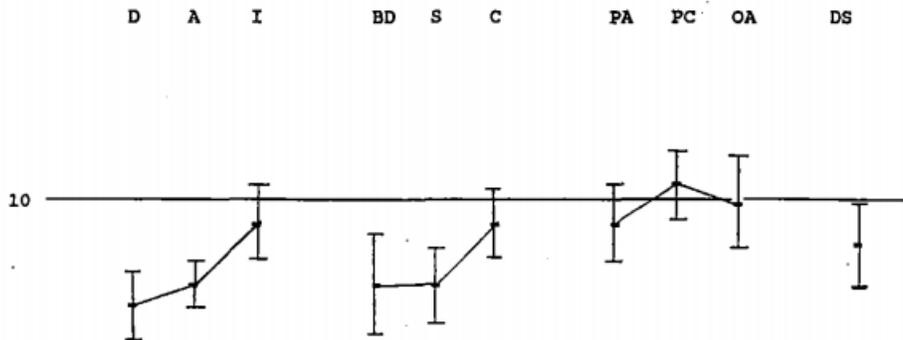frequency = 12% of primitive pattern

Taken from Krauskopf, C. & Saunders, D. (1994) "Why Do They Drink? Personality Assessment System Foundation Journal vol. VII

#3 Depressed 12.1(EucFucAuu)M

D   A   I   BD   S   C   PA   PC   OA   DS

10 ———
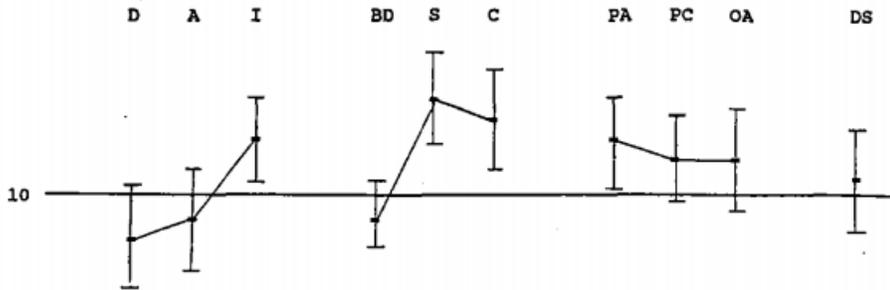
span = .260   3 males 16 females   motive = coping
frequency = 3% of primitive pattern

#4 Repressed Anxiety 9(EucFccAuu)M

D   A   I   BD   S   C   PA   PC   OA   DS

10 ———

span = .322   16 males 1 female   motive = coping
frequency = 8.6% of primitive pattern

Wechsler Intelligence scales:
The Verbal Scale:

1. Vocabulary: Define words such as nepotism.

2. Similarities: Explain how two concepts are similar, such as piano and harmonica.

3. Arithmetic: Solve word problems involving simple arithmetic, such as how long it will take a train to go 120 miles if it is traveling at 30 mph.

4. Digit span: Repeat a series of digits (from two to nine digits long) after hearing them, such as 9, 3, 5, 2, 7. Sometimes the test taker must repeat the digits in backward order.

5. **Information: Answer general knowledge questions from history, literature, and science, such as who wrote Hamlet.**

6. **Comprehension: Give detailed answers (showing the understanding of concepts) about why something is so, such as why clothing is sometimes made of cotton.**

Bolded print above is 'Gittinger's Responsibility Cluster' Heyman, M.N. (1985).

Wechsler Intelligence scales:

The Performance Scale:

1. Picture completion: Identify what is missing in a picture of a common scene, such as a picture of a house that is missing the front door.

2. Digit symbol: Learn a series of coded symbols that are associated with numbers, then write the appropriate symbols in a series of boxes, such as 1 , 2 #, 3 ↑, 4 ⊕, and so on.

3. Block design: Duplicate a red and white pattern shown in a picture by arranging cubes that have red, white, or half red and half white on each of their sides. For example, create a red cross on a white background by placing the cubes in the correct pattern.

4. Picture arrangement: Arrange a series of pictures (similar to cartoon panels) in the correct order to make a story, such as (1) a bird building a nest, (2) the bird sitting on an egg, and (3) the egg hatching.

5. Object assembly: Put pieces of a jigsaw puzzle together to form a recognizable object.

Italic print above is the PA subtest that Gittinger used as his 'primitive' measure in the social personality dimension, which ranged from Role Adaptive to Role Uniform. High scorers in this subtest are role adaptive individuals. Speed is a key factor in high scorers.

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