

THE USE OF RORSCHACH SCALES IN DISTINGUISHING ROMAN  
CATHOLIC CLERGY SEX-OFFENDERS FROM NON-OFFENDERS  
ON NARCISSISM, DEPENDENCY, IMMATURITY, AND  
SEXUALIZATION

A DISSERTATION  
PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE  
CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY,  
ALLIANT INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

In Partial Fulfillment of  
The Requirements for the Degree

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

By

Lorien J Newsome

2011

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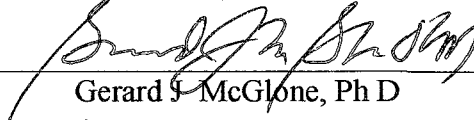
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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

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## ABSTRACT

This study sought to determine whether a sample of clerical sex offenders ( $n = 138$ ) were more narcissistic, dependent, immature, and sexualized relative to a sample of clerical non-offenders ( $n = 80$ ), and in that way, resemble non-clerical sex offenders. Groups were compared on the Lerner's Defense Scale (LDS), the Rorschach Oral Dependency Scale (ROD), the Comprehensive System Food variable, the Rorschach Maturity Index (RMI), and the Rorschach Sexualization Scale (RSS). The secondary purpose was to test the criterion validity of two of the thematic Rorschach scales (the LDS and the ROD) using the MCMI Narcissistic and Dependent scales, thus assessing their generalizability to a clerical population. It was hypothesized that offenders would produce more narcissistic, dependent, immature, and sexualized records than controls. Additionally, Rorschach and MCMI scales were hypothesized to converge after controlling for cross-method response style. Results revealed that sexually offending clergy were more dependent than non-offending clergy on all Rorschach and MCMI measures. Surprisingly, they were also more open, demonstrated more complex information processing and cognitive maturity than non-offending clergy. No significant differences were found between groups on measures of narcissism and sexualization. Continuous analyses revealed that as predicted, LDS scores converged with MCMI Narcissistic scale scores when response style was accounted for. Conversely, the measures of dependency did not converge. A variety of exploratory analyses were also conducted. Implications of the findings, limitations of this study, and future recommendations are discussed.

## DEDICATION

First and foremost, to my mom and best friend, Dr Connie Zucker, who walked along side me every step of the way, and provided her unfailing support, guidance, and confidence

To my dad, Charles Newsome, III, who ignited my interest in the psychology of criminal behavior, and offered his continuous praise and encouragement

To my brother, Chuck Newsome, IV, who inspired me to reach for the stars, helped me appreciate the beauty in learning, and taught me to believe in myself

To my Uncle Marty, who steadfastly believed in me, and gave me the encouragement to fulfill my dreams

To my grandparents, Charles and Karen Newsome, and Herb and Virginia Zucker, who were constant sources of support through this whole process Grandma and Papa, your example of kindness, generosity, and commitment will not be forgotten

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION AND LITERATURE REVIEW

Given the historical prevalence and seriousness of sexual abuse by clergy (McGlone, 2003a, Terry, 2008), it is critical that we gain a better understanding of characteristics of these offenders, so that prevention and treatment efforts can be informed. The development of reliable and valid measures capable of detecting key personality features in this population is therefore essential. Although many studies have examined sex-offenders, the research is limited on clerical sex-offenders, especially with regard to personality characteristics. In addition, most research has been conducted using self-report measures, which are highly susceptible to response manipulation, and thus may be of limited use in assessing forensic populations (Bridges, Wilson, & Gacono, 1998, Gacono, Evans, & Viglione, 2008, Haywood, Grossman, Kravitz, & Wasyliw, 1994). Performance-based measures, such as the Rorschach, are less easily manipulated, and therefore may offer a clearer picture of underlying personality issues (Gacono & Evans, 2008, Grossman, Wasyliw, Benn, & Gyorkoe, 2002).

The minimal available research, and extrapolation from research with non-clerical offenders suggest social immaturity, identification with children or adolescents, lack of intimacy and mutual, mature interpersonal relationships, narcissistic or dependent traits, and sexual deviance or preoccupation (Bridges, et al, 1998, Bryant, 2002, Doren, 2002, Levin & Stava, 1987, Morgan & Viglione, 1992). In addition, Rorschach protocols of



sex offenders in general tend to show signs of elevated sexual preoccupation as compared to non-sex offenders, yet there is no available data on sexual preoccupation and clergy offenders (Morgan & Vighione, 1992)

In 2001, Gerard McGlone, a Jesuit priest and CSPP-SD graduate, completed his dissertation on sexually offending and non-offending Roman Catholic clergy. He used the Rorschach, MCMI, and various other measures to assess narcissism and dependency, in addition to other characteristics. He compared the groups on Exner's Comprehensive System (CS) structural (non-thematic) variable, r (reflection responses), as an indicator of narcissism, and T (texture responses) as an indicator of dependency. He found no significant differences for these variables between the groups. This negative finding suggests that these measures may not be sensitive or specific enough to detect the expected group differences in narcissistic and dependent traits. Groups were also compared on MCMI-II and III narcissistic and dependent scales. As predicted, offending clergy scored higher on the Dependent scale than non-offending clergy. In contrast, lower levels of narcissism were found in the offending clergy than in the non-offending clergy. This unanticipated finding may be attributed to limitations of self-report measures, as well as the broad definition this measure offers of narcissism.

Additional sexual offender research suggests the presence of more implicit, primitive, orally dependent features, and immaturity (Bridges, et al, 1998, Levin & Stava, 1987). The Rorschach Oral Dependency Scale (ROD, Bornstein & Masling, 2005) has become a heavily used and supported thematic measure of such characteristics. Similarly, Exner's CS food response captures some of these response qualities (Bridges, et al, 1998, Exner 2003). Some studies examining narcissism in sexual offenders

suggest that measuring the commonly used narcissistic defenses of idealization and devaluation may be critical (Bridges, et al , 1998, Cooper, Perry, & Arnow, 1988) Lerner's Defense Scale (LDS, Paul M Lerner, 1991) is a Rorschach thematic measure designed to be sensitive enough to detect differences in defensive functioning Lastly, although the sexual preoccupation, or sexualized thought content, found with sexual offenders has been measured in the past, it has been limited in its ability to detect the subtle or covert sexual content believed to be more indicative of problems (Bridges, et al , 1998) The Rorschach Sexualization Scale (RSS, Morgan & Viglione, 1992) has been recommended to better detect the subtle sexualized content found in this population

This current study had two main objectives The first was to build upon previous research to determine whether clerical sex offenders are more narcissistic, dependent, immature, and sexualized relative to non-offenders, and in that way, resemble non-clerical sex offenders The secondary purpose was to test the criterion validity of two thematic Rorschach scales (LDS and ROD), thus assessing their generalizability to a clerical population and adding to the current pool of research on assessment of clerical sex offenders

### **Clarification of Terms**

Due to the variety of subgroups among sex offenders, and the various terms used to describe them, a clarification of terms is necessary According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV, American Psychiatric Association, [APA], 1994), a Pedophile is "an individual who is attracted to a prepubescent child under the age of 13" (p 528) In contrast, Ephebophiles are individuals who are sexually attracted to post-pubescent minors of about ages 14-18 The term Ephebophile is not a

diagnostic term, but rather a classification commonly used in to distinguish this group from pedophiles (McGlone, 2003b, Terry, 2008) The distinction is an important one, as some estimate that up to 80% of Roman Catholic priest offenders fall into this second category, and this percentage is much higher than is typically found in sex offenders, although prevalence rates found in the literature are highly variable (McGlone, 2003b, Cimbalic & Cartor, 2006) For the purposes of this research, the term ephebophile should be interpreted synonymously with hebephile, which is another term commonly used in the literature to classify perpetrators who have interest in and/or have sexually offended against victims between ages 13 and 17 (Doren, 2002, Greenberg, Bradford, & Curry, 1993)

There is some disagreement about the definition of sexual offender The inconsistency is a result of jurisdictional legal distinctions, as well as the failure of the DSM-IV-TR to provide sufficient diagnostic categories to allow for accurate classification of the vastly different typologies of sex offenders (Doren, 2002, Geffner, Franey, & Falconer, 2003) For the purposes of this research, a sexual offender is simply one who has committed a sexual offense of any kind

In contrast to non-clerical offenders, very few priest sex offenders would be categorized as rapists A rapist is one who engages in the act of "Rape" as outlined in California Penal Code, Title 9, Chapter 1, Sections 261 and 262 (State of California, 2009) According to this law, Rape is "an act of sexual intercourse accomplished with a person," against a person's will, under a variety of possible circumstances, which generally include the use of "force, violence, duress, menace, or fear of immediate and unlawful bodily injury on the person or another "

The Paraphilia, NOS diagnostic category, one that is often assigned to rapists, is often additionally used to classify Ephebophiles, as they do not easily fit into a clear diagnostic category (Doren, 2002, McGlone, 2003b). In addition to being classified into Pedophilia or Paraphilia, NOS diagnostic categories, further distinction between such sexual offenders is often made based on the sexual offender's gender preference, whether there is incest versus non-specific victim selection, and exclusivity (sexual attraction only toward child victims) versus non-exclusivity (sexual attraction exhibited toward both children and adults, Geffner, et al., 2003).

Often, researchers use the term Pedophile incorrectly to classify all child molesters, despite the fact that an offender may molest a child, yet not meet criteria for Pedophilia (Marshall, 2006). The term Child Molester was used in this study to describe perpetrators who have sexually offended against at least one minor, or an individual under the age of 18. It is important that the distinction be made between those individuals with sexual fantasies or urges toward children or other minors, who have not necessarily acted out their desires (pedophiles or ephebophiles), and those who have committed the physical act(s). On the other hand, some overlap between groups naturally exists. For example, some child molesters also have pervasive sexual urges and/or fantasies about minor children, while others do not. This latter group may engage in sexual activity with a minor despite the victim's being a non-preferred sexual partner. In this case, the victim may be chosen based on convenience or accessibility, rather than being an object of sexual attraction. Indeed, according to Seto (2008), pedophiles only make up about one-half of those men who sexually offend against minors.

## Literature Review

### Non-Clerical Sexual Abuse

**The prevalence and context of sexual abuse.** Critical to understanding clerical sex offenders, is to first have an understanding of sexual offenders in general. Sex offenses clearly have been found to occur at high rates, despite variability in reports due to inconsistent reporting, lack of definitional clarity, and low rates of victim reporting (Geffner, et al, 2003). In fact, some researchers have estimated that fewer than 5% of sex abuse cases are ever reported to law enforcement, and less than 3% are adjudicated (Geffner, et al, 2003).

According to the U S Department of Justice statistics (Snyder, 2000), 66.9% of all sexual abuse incidents occurring between 1991 and 1996 had minor victims. Approximately 34% of all sexual assault cases had victims under the age of 12, yet age 14 was the most common victim age. Although the distinction between child molesters and pedophiles has not consistently been made in the sexual offender literature, these statistics can provide an estimation of the prevalence of sexual offenders who have at some point chosen a minor as their victim. Most victims of sexual assault know their assailant prior to the offense, with child and adolescent victims in particular being more likely to have an existing familiar or close relationship with the perpetrator (Snyder, 2000).

In reviewing prevalence rates of sex offenses as a whole, female victims are much more common than males, accounting for 86% of all sexual assault victims reported between 1991 and 1996 (Snyder, 2000). As victim age increases, so does the likelihood of the victim being female. As such, 73% of victims under the age of 12, and 82% of

victims ages 13 through 17 were female. The highest risk, or modal age for sexual victimization of a female is age 14, whereas for males, it is age four.

Sexual offenders as a whole are much more likely to be male than female, and they typically range in age from teens to midlife, with the average offender being middle-aged (McGlone, 2001b, Murray, 2000). As a general rule, as the age of the offender increases, so does the age of the victim. For example, it is more common for sexual offenses against minors to be committed by minor perpetrators than adults. Likewise, adult victims of sexual assault are more likely to be perpetrated against by other adults (Snyder, 2000).

Another important concept to keep in mind when it comes to examining sexual offenders is that this group is highly heterogeneous. The various subgroups of sexual offenders differ greatly from one another in both type of offenses committed and personality characteristics. Furthermore, the subgroups are not mutually exclusive, such that offenders commonly display multiple types of sexually deviant behavior, and therefore could be placed in more than one subgroup (Abel, Becker, Cunningham-Rathner, & Mittelman, 1988, Gothard, 2008). These phenomena complicate the classification and understanding of sexual offenders, and should be considered when evaluating research in this area.

**The prevalence and context of child sexual abuse.** On average, there are approximately 100,000 child sexual abuse cases substantiated by child protective service agencies in the United States annually (Geffner, et al., 2003). It is important to consider however, the fact that victims of sexual abuse often do not report the crime. For example, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) in 1996 found that only 31%

of sexual abuse victims reported their victimization to a law enforcement agency (Snyder, 2000) Furthermore, child victims are less likely to report these crimes than adult victims (Cimboric & Cartor, 2006, London, Bruck, Wright, & Ceci, 2008)

Although child sexual abuse continues to be a serious problem, it appears that such cases have steadily declined over the last couple of decades Based on nationwide data from Child Protective Service (CPS), from 1992 to 2000 alone, there was a 40% decline in substantiated sexual abuse cases, with the number of cases dropping from approximately 150,000 to 89,500 during those years, however, experts have yet to determine exactly what has accounted for this change (Finkelhor & Jones, 2004) A number of hypotheses have been generated about the possible causes for the decrease in sexual abuse, such as conservatism within CPS, exclusion of extra-familial cases, changes in data collection methods, less reporting due to fear, and a decrease in unresolved older cases, however, most evidence points toward a true decline in such incidents of abuse

Despite this encouraging trend, these statistics were published just as the sudden increase in reporting of clerical sex abuse cases was beginning, therefore, these figures would have been affected by those cases, and thus they likely underestimate the true abuse rate McGlone (2001b) summarized the findings of several studies, shedding some light on the pervasive nature of sexual offenders Although recidivism rates among sex offenders in general are high, pedophiles commonly have even higher rates as a subgroup, with their number of victims often reaching into the hundreds Ephebophiles, by comparison, tend to average three to 12 victims

Similar to other types of sexual offenders, most pedophiles and child molesters are male. Unlike some other types of sexual offenders, pedophiles are less likely to resort to threats, force, or violence to obtain sexual contact with their victim, instead, they tend to rely on friendship, trust, grooming, and or persuasion of their victims to get them to comply (Murray, 2000). The typical case of pedophilic abuse takes place in a familiar context, in which the victim knows the perpetrator prior to the offense (McGlone, 2003b, Seto, 2008). When the abuse is not perpetrated by a family member, single episodes of abuse and the use of force are more common (Dube & Hebert, 1988).

Although some pedophiles and child molesters prefer one gender and a specific age range of victim, most pedophilic perpetrators have interest in both males and females, and those perpetrators without exclusive preferences tend to have younger child victims (M. A. Ames & Houston, 1990, Murray, 2000). Research on child molesters conducted by Greenberg, Bradford, and Curry (1993), found that 33% of offenders chose only male victims and 44% exclusively targeted females. Twenty-three percent acknowledged having molested both male and female victims.

Pedophiles that have an exclusive interest in children tend to have more victims than those who also have sexual interest in older individuals (McGlone, 2003b, Levenson, Becker, & Morin, 2008). Similarly, pedophiles who target young victims of their own sex may be more likely to recidivate (Murray, 2000). Although reports vary, it appears that the average age of a victim of child molestation is typically between ages seven and ten, with male victims being somewhat older than female victims (Dube & Hebert, 1988, Finkelhor, Hotaling, Lewis, & Smith, 1990, Murray, 2000). Ephebophiles



typically have fewer victims than pedophiles and more male victims (McGlone, 2003b, Levenson, et al , 2008)

This study, like most sex offender studies, only included child molesters who have also been diagnosed with Pedophilia or Paraphilia, NOS. Pedophiles or those with Paraphilia, NOS who had not acted on these urges were not included, as a sample of this kind would be almost impossible to identify. This is an important fact to keep in mind, as the act of molesting a child does not necessarily indicate a sexual disorder, as they are currently defined in the DSM-IV-TR (American Psychiatric Association, [APA], 2000), however, often when a sexual offender is being treated, a diagnosis is assigned based on the offense that brought the offender to treatment.

As a specific pervasive interest is not a requisite of child molestation, sometimes sexual partners are chosen by offenders for reasons other than age preference. For example, a non-pedophilic offender may choose a child victim when they are influenced by substances, because they may exhibit antisocial traits, such as lacking in concern with regard to the wellbeing of a child, or they may simply have limited sexual opportunity, and make a selection based on access or availability (Bryant, 2002, Seto, 2008)

### **Clerical Sexual Abuse**

**Overview of the problem.** By 2003, shortly after the stories of sexual abuse by the clergy were growing in the media, there were already reports that as many as 1,000 children in one state alone had been sexually abuse by clergy over recent decades (Geffner, et al , 2003). Although media coverage of clergy sexual abuse cases began around the mid 1980's, the surge of cases being reported did not come until 2002. After previously hidden church documents were discovered, many victims of childhood sexual

abuse, now adults, began to come forward ("Pope, in dramatic move, comforts sex abuse victims," 2008)

As with other sex offenses, it is difficult to discern the true prevalence rates of sexual abuse within the Catholic Church. Similar problems exist with low reporting rates, and the reports that are available are inconsistent and often are produced or controlled by interested parties. One such major source of information, the John Jay Report (2004), is the largest descriptive study published to date on clerical sexual offenses. The report was commissioned by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and was based on surveys completed by Roman Catholic dioceses in the United States. According to this report, 4,392 U.S. priests, all male, were formally accused of sexual abuse occurring between 1950 and 2002. This pool of accused priests consisted of both diocesan priests (those incardinated to one of the 195 Catholic Church dioceses) and religious priests (who belonged to one of the 140 religious institutes, Smith, Rengifo, & Vollman, 2008)

Researchers have estimated that as a whole, four to six percent of U.S. priests are thought to have sexually offended between 1950 and 2002 (Bryant, 2002, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 2004, VanWormer, 2007). As of 2007, over 900 Catholic priests had formally been proven to be child molesters. Compared to sex-offenders in the general population, priest offenders tend to be older, more educated, somewhat less likely to be repeat offenders, and more likely to be ephedophiles (Kafka, 2004, Langevin, Curnoe, & Bain, 2000, Loftus & Camargo, 1993)

Although figures illustrating rates of offending by priests are useful, recent research has found surprising differences among priests with regard to offending

behavior, particularly between diocesan and religious priests. Currently, approximately 68% of all U.S. priests are diocesan, and the other 32% are religious priests. Between 1950 and 2002, however, an estimated 77% of the identified clerical sexual offenders were diocesan priests, and only 23% were religious priests—with the diocesan priests representing a disproportionately high number of offenders (Mercado, Tallon, & Terry, 2008). Further, prevalence rates of sexual offenders among these groups have been estimated at 4.2% for diocesan priests and only 2.7% for religious priests (Smith, et al., 2008). Clearly, diocesan priests have more commonly been the perpetrators of sexual abuse. In addition, the diocesan priests have represented a greater portion of the offenders with the most victims (greater than ten, Mercado, et al., 2008). These findings could be at least partially explained by how religious priests' relational needs might be met much more out in the community, whereas diocesan priests spend much more time working independently of their peers, and therefore might suffer interpersonally. Moreover, diocesan priests tend to have more opportunity for offending, due to their often long-held and independent positions in a single location, where they establish strong ties and relationships of trust with the members of their church and community.

In addition to the issue of underreporting, when examining the prevalence of child sexual abuse cases by clergy, one also should consider that many reports were made to church authorities over the years that went uninvestigated (Cimbalic & Cartor, 2006, VanWormer, 2007). In addition, some allegations, once acknowledged, were criminally dismissed due to legal statutes and in some cases deaths of alleged offenders. In fact, only 3% of percent of priests against whom allegations were made were convicted, and about 2% served prison sentences, nearly 40% received treatment instead

(Terry, 2008) Therefore, the number of verified cases is likely a vast underestimation. Victims of sexual abuse by clergy may be even less likely to report abuse, as there is such a high number of male victims, and males are less likely than females to disclose sexual abuse (Bryant, 2002, Cimboric & Cartor, 2006). The decision whether to report sexual abuse within the context of the church produces a unique predicament, as religious leaders are in special positions of power and trust (McGlone, 2003b, Van Wormer, 2007). Not only could victims have fear around potentially not being believed, but the acknowledgment of the abuse by this representative of God produces conflict with the victim's faith. One positive outcome of the vast amount of publicity and attention that has surrounded the problem of clerical sexual abuse in recent years is that victims have been much more likely to come forward, and their allegations taken seriously than they was the case in the past.

According to the John Jay Report (2004), as of 2002, there had been 10,667 victims of clerical sexual abuse over the past 50 years in this country. The most common victims of clerical sexual abuse were boys between ages 11 and 14, with more than 40% fitting this description (Terry, 2008). Most victims were male (81%), and approximately 70% of clerical sexual abusers had only male victims (Perillo, Mercado, & Terry, 2008). Researchers speculate that the reason for the higher proportion of male victims in the Catholic Church compared to other contexts is likely because of the availability of this demographic in the church. In fact, there were no altar girls until 1994, long after most of the abuse reportedly took place (Terry & Ackerman, 2008).

Most incidence of clerical sexual misconduct occurred in a private place, most commonly the residence of the priest (41% of cases) Other common locations were at the church, the victim's home, in school, or in a car (Terry, 2008)

Although the mean number of sexual abuse victims per clerical offender was 2.7, approximately 53% only had 1 victim (Perillo, et al , 2008) Of note, however, is that one victim did not necessarily mean one incident of abuse The period of abuse for those with one victim lasted on average 1.58 years, but ranged from one to 21 years (Terry, 2008) These offenders were more likely than those with more victims to have a female victim and to abuse someone in the 15-17 year old age range This group was also less likely to have identified psychological or personality problems, their acts were considered less severe, and they were more likely to admit to their abusive behaviors

Conversely, the more victims an offender had, the younger the victims were and the higher the percentage of male victims (Terry, 2008), however, victim pools still varied Only approximately 3% of the offenders had allegations of 10 or more victims, however, those persistent offenders were responsible for approximately 26% of all cases of the clerical sexual abuse against children In all of these cases, victim choices were not specific in gender or age This unique group of offenders also tended to begin sexually offending sooner after ordination than less persistent offenders Whereas the average lag in time between ordination and abuse onset among clerical abusers was 11 years, offenders with 10-19 victims began within four years, and those with 20 or more victims, within their first year on average (Terry & Ackerman, 2008)

On closer examination of the data from the John Jay Study (2004), it was found that most priests who sexually abuse have no identifiable pathologies or paraphilias

Specifically, only an estimated 2% of the priest offenders in that study could be classified as pedophiles, which researchers defined as multiple abusive acts against only pre-pubescent children. Just over 10% could be classified as ephebophiles (again, based on acts committed, Tallon & Terry, 2008). Further, only 16% of clerical offenders specifically targeted victims based on either age or gender. It appears then, that although approximately 12% of the clerical offenders targeted a specific age group, the other 88% were apparently driven to offend based on factors other than pathology. Most priest offenders were in fact versatile in their selection of victims. Therefore, the vast majority of these offending priests would not meet any diagnostic criteria, which leaves the problem of how to classify clerical sexual offenders.

In addition, in contrast to research on non-clerical sexual offenders, which suggests that more fixated offenders (those who consistently target a particular age range) pose a much greater risk of sexual recidivism, the clerical offenders that could be classified as fixated had less victims than those who offended against a greater variety of individuals (Mercado, et al, 2008). Therefore, those classified as pedophilic or ephebophilic did not represent the offenders with the most victims (Terry & Ackerman, 2008).

On the positive side, allegations, and apparently frequency, of sexual abuse within the Roman Catholic Church are on a downward trend. Over 300 instances of child sexual abuse by clergy reportedly took place each year from 1968-1980. By the mid 1990's however, these incidents decreased to less than 50 cases per year (John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 2004). The peak of known incidents of sexual abuse cases in the Catholic Church came in the late 1970's. In fact, approximately 10% of all priests

ordained from 1970 to 1975 had allegations of sexual abuse, followed by a significant decline (Terry, 2008). These priests would have entered the priesthood in the 50's or 60's. The mean age of onset of abusive behaviors by clergy was 39 years, and on average, there was an 11 year time period between when a priest was ordained and when their abusive behaviors began (Terry & Ackerman, 2008). This lag in time allowed for increased opportunities for the priest to be alone with children. The delay further suggests that situational factors were largely at play, rather than intense urges that would have likely been acted on sooner.

The question of why so many cases occurred during the 1970's remains. Researchers are just beginning to examine why these rates were so high and why they have since declined. Although at this point we can only speculate, it is possible that preventative measures have helped to decrease incidents of abuse, perhaps by the creation of laws on abuse reporting, increased public awareness of the problem of abuse and consumer rights. For example, it wasn't until the 1970's that federal and state laws were enacted requiring the reporting of child abuse by persons in specified professional roles. Despite the new laws, it was not until the mid 1980's, when a greater appreciation of the implications of child abuse began to grow (Smith, et al, 2008). In 1993, the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act created a database of statistics of child abuse, and data collected nationwide could be compiled and published annually. The advancement of public knowledge likely has continued to increase the timely detection and reporting of cases.

Sexual abuse by Roman Catholic clergy has not been contained within the United States, despite most media reports focusing on American victims. The exact prevalence

is too difficult to determine, however, 18 countries in all have had formal child sexual abuse charges filed against priests, with Ireland and Australia receiving the most attention outside of the U S. As of 2004, 11 bishops worldwide resigned due to the exposed sexual abuse ("Impact of sex scandals felt worldwide," 2004)

Although the focus of this study was Roman Catholic clergy sexual offenders, it is important to point out that the problem of sexual offending among clerics is by no means limited to the Catholic Church (McGlone, 2003a, McGlone, 2003b). In fact, most sources examining religious abuse, have reported similar, and in some cases, higher rates across denominations (Brown, n.d., Spicuzza, 2000). In addition, there is no evidence that the prevalence of sexual offenders is higher within religious institutions than elsewhere (Bryant, 2002, Spicuzza, 2000)

Moreover, incidents of sexual abuse within religious institutions do not appear to be any higher than in other institutions of trust, perpetrated by educators and therapists (Holroyd & Brodsky, 1977, Kardener, Fuller, & Mensch, 1973, Pope, Levenson, & Schover, 1979, Shakeshaft, 2004). For example, according to a synthesis of available research on sexual abuse from the Department of Education (Shakeshaft, 2004), prevalence of sexual abuse among students ranges from 4 to 20%, rates that, like other abuse statistics, are assumed to be underreported. Based on these percentages, more than 4.5 million U.S. students are estimated to be subject to sexual misconduct by an employee of a school sometime between kindergarten and 12th grade. The number of offenders in educator roles is not understood, however, it is thought to be lower than the number of victims, as it is assumed that at least some portion of the offenders have more than one victim. Teachers and coaches are most commonly identified as the offenders



Available studies regarding sexual abuse by therapists are dated, however, it has been estimated that between 7 and 10% of therapists have engaged in sexual activity with a current or past patient (although ages were not specified, Kardener, et al , 1973, Pope, et al , 1979) Characteristics of offenders are similar across educators, therapists, and clerics, in that they have been mostly respected professionals, abuse has been driven mostly by situational factors (not pedophilic), and grooming techniques were used rather than force or threats

The problem of obtaining a complete picture of both sexually offending and non-sexually offending clergy is exacerbated due to the limited access granted to this population Not only are clergy members themselves hesitant to participate in such studies, but cooperation of the religious institutions employing these individuals is limited (McGlone, 2003b)

**Possible explanations for sexual abuse by clergy.** There are a variety of explanations that have been proposed in the past in an attempt to identify causes of sexual abuse by the clergy As a full description of each argument would go beyond the scope of this text, summaries of some of the central arguments are provided instead

***Celibacy.*** One argument that has been posed by researchers in an attempt to explain why priests sexually offend is that they are sworn to a life of celibacy Without the ability to engage in natural sexual relationships with other adults, priests are thought to seek other means to satisfy their need (Bryant, 2002, Robinson, 2007, Terry & Tallon, 2004) Although this hypothesis may be popular in the media, studies have found no evidence that celibate clergy are any more likely to commit sexual offenses than non-

celibate clergy (Bryant, 2002) Indeed, the celibacy theory would not account for the high rates of sexual offending across other denominations

***Homosexuality*** Sexual preference has been examined in clerical sex offenders as a possible explanation of the seemingly high rate of offenses against minors, and males in particular Although some theories, and the church itself, have proposed that homosexuality is related to clerical sexual offenses (Grochowski, 2005, Terry & Tallon, 2004), most of the available research indicates no solid evidence of this connection (Bogaert, Bezeau, Kuban, & Blanchard, 1997, Bryant, 2002) In fact, in a study examining 388 pedophiles in the general population over a period of 14 years, a mix of heterosexuality, homosexuality, and bisexuality were found Furthermore, differences were found between the factors that determined sexual preference toward children and their sexual preference toward adults This lends support to the idea that one's sexual preference is not directly linked to one's desire for children of either sex (Bogaert, et al , 1997, Seto, 2008)

As discussed previously, the number of male sexual abuse victims associated with the church may at least partially be explained by convenience rather than by preference for male victims (Bryant, 2002) The Catholic Church has historically been male-dominated Until 1994, only males were allowed to become altar servers (altar boys) These boys served as assistants to the priests or bishops, primarily during mass, and formed a pool of trainees from which future priests and seminarians were recruited Sexual offenders within the church may have found altar boys (as many victims were) to be more accessible than females, yet not necessarily more desirable Availability rather

than sexual preference may therefore account for the higher rates of males victims in Catholic clerical sexual abuse cases

*Sexual abuse history* A history of sexual abuse is common among sexual offenders, and even more so among child molesters. Results of a meta-analysis by Jespersen, Lalumiere, and Seto (2009) of 12 studies comparing adult sexual offenders and other adult offenders revealed that sexual offenders were more likely than other offenders to have a history of sexual abuse. Furthermore, the sexual offenders with child victims were more likely than those with adult victims to have a sexual abuse history. Group differences found in these analyses stood, regardless of whether they were based on self-report or other sources.

In another study examining groups of pedophiles and hebephiles, 42% of pedophiles and 44% of hebephiles endorsed a sexual abuse history of their own during their childhood. In addition, there was a correlation between the age at which they claimed to be sexually abused and the age of victim that they prefer sexually (Greenberg, et al., 1993). A review of multiple studies by McGlone (2001b) presented evidence suggesting that pedophiles may conversely have higher rates of sexual abuse histories than hebephiles.

According to a review of records at St. Luke Institute, a major treatment center for clerical offenders, approximately 30% of male child sexual abusers reported an abuse history of their own (Bryant, 2002). This same review revealed that over 50% of treated clerical sexual offenders at the institute reported being victims of past sexual abuse. The available research suggests that there may indeed be a link between previous sexual abuse and child molestation, although other factors clearly come into play (Terry &

Tallon, 2004) Interestingly, 19% of McGlone's normative clergy (2001b), included in the current study, reported a history of sexual abuse This rate however, is consistent with the sexual abuse rate in the general population (Cimboic & Cartor, 2006)

*Alcohol use.* Alcohol abuse has also been cited as a contributor, or at least an associated factor in general sexual offenses and molestation of children Two studies comparing adult rapists and child molesters with other adult offenders have found higher rates of alcohol abuse among the sexually offending individuals than the other offenders (Abracen, Looman, & Anderson, 2000, Looman, Abracen, DiFazio, & Maillet, 2004) No differences were found, however, between rapists and child molesters in terms of alcohol abuse Other offenders were more likely to engage in abuse of other forms of substances than were the sexual offenders Another study by Rada (1976) found alcohol use to be associated with as high as 50% of general child sexual abuse cases

Clerical sexual offenders have been found to have a similar prevalence of alcohol consumption surrounding the offense(s) (Langevin, et al , 2000) While 10% of normative clergy included in McGlone's (2001b) and the current study reported having undergone treatment for alcoholism, another study examining clerical sexual offenders found that 47% had alcohol-related problems (Falkenhain, Duckro, Hughes, Rossetti, & Gfeller, 1999) Based on the available research, it appears likely that alcohol abuse may play a role in child molestation Abuse of other substances has been found at much lower rates, and do not appear to be a significant contributing factor (Langevin, et al , 2000)

*Abuse of power* Clerical sexual abuse, like other abuse perpetrated by those in a position of authority and trust, takes place in a relationship of power and dominance Religious leaders are often viewed by lay people as special, strong, and closer to God

As McGlone (2001a) pointed out, Catholic priests, a result, are commonly believed to have a special moral or ethical position, and an ability to rise above normal human vulnerabilities, temptations, and sins. Such beliefs place tremendous pressure on clergy to meet perhaps unrealistic expectations, and may prevent them from forming intimate and mutually supportive relationships with others. Revealing weaknesses or personal needs may challenge their position of authority. McGlone (2001a) reiterated the possibility posed by numerous researchers, that incidents of clerical sexual abuse might be fueled by an attempt by the cleric to gain power or control over another individual to combat an inner sense of powerlessness.

### **Considerations for Personality Assessment**

**Self-report measures** Available research on the personality characteristics of clerical sexual offenders, as well as sexual offenders in general, is clearly limited, and what is known about this population has been determined primarily based on the results of self-report measures (Bridges, et al., 1998, Gerard, Jobes, Cimboic, Ritzler, & Montana, 2003). The most commonly used measure assessing this population has been the MMPI.

Self-report measures have the inherent limitation of being based on the examinee's awareness and perception of the truth, in addition to being restricted to what the individual is willing or able to disclose (Berant, Newborn, & Orgler, 2008, Bornstein, 2002, Gacono, Evans, et al., 2008, G. J. Meyer, 1996, G. J. Meyer, 1997, 1999). Some researchers have also pointed out that studies using self-report tools have rarely controlled for the effects of institutionalization or impression management, which is a particularly crucial issue when assessing sex offenders or other forensic samples (Levin

& Stava, 1987) This limitation is a serious one, in that if manipulated to a large extent, the measure may only serve to identify one's style of responding, rendering the potential clinical information invalid (Bannatyne, Gacono, & Greene, 1999, Bornstein, Rossner, Hill, & Stepanian, 1994, Gacono, Evans, et al , 2008, Ganellen, 1994) Self-report measures are therefore considered by a number of researchers to have very limited use with forensic populations, which have consistently been found to respond with high levels of defensiveness and/or deception (Gacono, Evans, et al , 2008, Haywood, et al , 1994)

**Performance-based measures and the Rorschach.** As a performance measure, the Rorschach provides the examiner with a unique behavioral sample and other personalized information under standardized conditions that cannot be obtained through self-report, interviews, diagnoses, and ability measures (Donald J. Viglione, 1999) Additionally, the Rorschach has been found to add incremental validity to information that may be obtained from self-report measures (Bornstein, 2002, Gacono, Evans, et al , 2008) The Rorschach not only assesses personality differently than self-reports, it is also able to pick up on information that the examinee is either unwilling to admit or unable to access consciously (Donald J. Viglione, 1999) Indeed, the measure has been found to be particularly useful in contexts where the examinee is more likely to make an attempt at false presentation (Gacono, Evans, et al , 2008, Grossman, et al , 2002) In contrast to self-report measures, one's effort to present themselves in a false light or minimize their problems has consistently failed to have much influence on Rorschach scores (Bornstein, et al , 1994, Brems & Johnson, 1991, Ganellen, 1994, Ganellen, Wasyliw, & Haywood,

1996, Grossman, et al , 2002, Donald J Viglione, 1999) In forensic settings then, it is easy to see how the Rorschach can add considerable value to the validity of test results

Still, few studies assessing personality traits of pedophiles and other sex offender groups have used the Rorschach Furthermore, as Bridges, Wilson, and Gacono (1998) pointed out, other common limitations of the available studies include (a) sex offenders being grouped together, rather than broken down into more homogeneous subgroups, allowing for valid comparison, and (b) failure of the studies to offer appropriate groups for comparison

**Response style.** An additional limitation in previous Rorschach research has been the scarce mention of response style Often response style has been viewed as a participant's deliberate manipulation of test data, however, it is important to recognize that style of responding can also be impacted by an individual's genuine self-perception or character structure (G J Meyer, 1999) Simply put, one's response style can be influenced by their cognitive flexibility, productivity, defensive operations, honesty, spontaneity, and sophistication, among other things (McGuire, Kinder, Curtiss, & Viglione, 1995, G J Meyer, 1999, G J Meyer & Viglione, 2008, Viglione, 1999) At the level of test data, response style is generally viewed on a continuum ranging from open and disclosing to more to defensive and constricted

Response style has been found to have an impact on one's overall test results Psychometrically, response style can be a potential source of method variance, or systematic error in test data Previous research has found that examination of response style is particularly relevant when using data from more than one method of assessment to assess a similar construct, this is because the characteristics that make participants

respond in a particular way to one method (e.g. self-report) are generally different from those that make the participants respond in a particular way to another (e.g. performance measures, G. J. Meyer, 1999, D. J. Vighione, 1996). For example, an optimally open response style on a self-report measure might be influenced by a participant's insightfulness and willingness to be forthcoming, whereas on a performance measure, it might be influenced more by the participant's level of cooperation and engagement with the task. Because of such differential effects, concordance in style of responding has been found to moderate the relationship between Rorschach and self-report profiles (Craig, 2008, McGuire, et al., 1995, G. J. Meyer & Vighione, 2008, Donald J. Vighione, 1999).

Previous research has repeatedly identified the best measure of one's response style to be the first factor of a test, or the score or set of scores that accounts for the greatest amount of variability on the given measure (G. J. Meyer, 1997, 1999, G. J. Meyer, Riethmiller, Brooks, Benoit, & Handler, 2000). In fact, studies that have compared the use of factor 1 with profile or validity indices (R, Lambda on the Rorschach, and L, F, and K on the MMPI) to represent response style have found factor 1 to significantly increase convergence between scales measuring similar constructs, whereas profile scores have been less successful (G. J. Meyer, 1999, G. J. Meyer, et al., 2000).

A prime example of an attempt to remove shared variability to enhance scale's construct validity can be found in the use of the Restructured Clinical Scales (RCS) of the MMPI-2 (Tellegan, et al., 2003). The RC scales were created largely by use of factor analysis, which identified items that loaded less heavily on a demoralization factor



Demoralization was hypothesized to be a shared but non-specific construct among the criterion groups used to develop the clinical scales. This shared set of characteristics was thought to systematically influence responding across all of scales, and in that way would diminish the internal validity of the unique scales. By removing the items that loaded higher on this factor, the resulting scales had less shared variance, and an enhanced ability to detect the core components unique to each scale. Accordingly, these scales have been found to have higher construct validity than the clinical scales (Hoelzle & Meyer, 2008, Kamphuis, Arbisi, Ben-Porath, & McNulty, 2008)

Complexity, a variable that has recently been introduced as part of the new Rorschach Performance Assessment System (RPAS, Dean, 2005, G. J. Meyer, Viglione, Mihura, Erard, & Erdberg, 2010, D. J. Viglione, Meyer, & Mihura, 2010), has been found in its earlier form (R-Engagement) to closely represent the first factor on the Rorschach, to a much greater extent than R or Lambda alone, with factor loadings of .93+. The first factor itself has been found to account for approximately 25-30% of the total test variance (G. J. Meyer, 1997, 1999, G. J. Meyer, et al., 2000). The Complexity variable is derived from a variety of CS variables that together, are believed to measure cognitive flexibility, engagement, and productivity on the Rorschach (Viglione, 1999). See Appendix E for complete details.

With regard to self-reports, the first factor and best measure of response style on the MMPI has been found to be best represented by Welsh's Anxiety Scale (A), with factor loadings of approximately .95, and by the Disclosure (X) modifying index on the MCMI, with loadings of approximately .97. The MCMI's first factor itself has been found to account for approximately 55% of the total test variance (G. J. Meyer, 1997,

1999, G J Meyer, et al , 2000, Retzlaff, Sheehan, & Fiel, 1991b) Because of its substantial influence on test results, and its particular importance when examining constructs via multiple methods of assessment, consideration of response style in studies assessing such constructs is essential

### **Personality Characteristics of Non-Sexually Offending Clergy**

The available data describing psychological characteristics of normative Roman Catholic clergy or other religious personnel is clearly limited (Gamino, Sewell, Mason, & Crostley, 2007, McGlone, 2001b) Most research that has been conducted with clergy or priests have examined screening procedures, and have not included a psychological description of those already accepted into the priesthood (Malony, 2000, Plante & Boccaccini, 1998)

Of the studies that are available on personality features of priests, primarily self-report measures have been used Review of this literature suggests a heterogeneous group (you will find that just about every group is heterogeneous), with some contradictory findings Some studies, which have used the MMPI-2, Millon Index of Personality Styles (MIPS), 16 PF, and clinical interview, have found priest personality profiles to be stable and consistent with the general population (Gamino, et al , 2007, McGlone, 2003b, Plante & Manuel, 1996), while others suggest a profile unique to priests Specifically, the available research, using clinical interview, the MMPI, MMPI-2, and the 16PF, suggests that priests have a tendency toward perfectionism (in an idealized sense), anxiety, introversion, naivete, social responsibility, interpersonal sensitivity, strong need for affection, defensiveness, repression, rationalization,

narcissistic traits, and difficulty coping with frustrations (Dunn, 1990, Gerard, et al , 2003, Meloy, 1986, Plante, Aldridge, & Louie, 2005, Plante & Lackey, 2007)

Additionally, McGlone (2001b) found that 59% of the non-offending priests, in the same sample used in this study, had sought prior psychological treatment. Main reasons for this treatment reported by the priests were depression or anxiety, sexuality or intimacy problems, work conflicts, and problems with alcohol use. In general, their concern about social acceptance and approval was consistent with those in the general population. This minimal available data was collected via self-report measures, and is limited in that respect. Clearly, there is a need for further research in this area.

### **Personality Characteristics of Clerical and Non-Clerical Sexual Offenders**

As most clerical sex offenses are perpetrated against minors (John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 2004, McGlone, 2001), the primary focus of this section is on these types of offenders versus those who sexually offend against adults.

**Personality characteristics of non-clerical sexual offenders.** Pedophiles have been found by multiple researchers to share a particular set of personality features. Those commonly identified include social introversion, dependency, shyness, poor self-esteem, sensitivity, depression, arrested psychosexual development, narcissism, emotional immaturity, and limited ability or fear around functioning in romantic heterosexual adult relationships (M. A. Ames & Houston, 1990, Levin & Stava, 1987).

Child molesters have also been found to be overly sensitive or fearful of negative evaluations around their ability to interact with adult women (Overholser & Beck, 1986). When compared to rapists and non-sex offending prisoners, child molesters were found to be less assertive. Deficits in what have been characterized as heterosocial skills have

also been examined as potential contributors to a perpetrator's desire to engage in sexual relationships with children. Heterosocial skills have been described as those behaviors necessary for men to interact comfortably in social and sexual interactions with adult women (Hayes, Brownell, & Barlow, 1983). Researchers have measured these skills by examining interactional style, such as voice quality, conversational skills, and expression of affect, all of which have been found to be deficient in child molesters.

Previous Rorschach research examining pedophiles as compared to violent sex offenders has found that pedophiles tend to produce records with higher Lambdas, they have either Introversive or Ambivalent styles, and they produce a greater number of space (S) responses (Bridges, et al., 1998, Gacono, Meloy, & Bridges, 2008). These findings suggest that as expected, pedophiles are likely to present as somewhat guarded. They also may oversimplify their environment in order to cope, and their problem-solving strategies are either driven primarily by logic rather than emotion, or they use inconsistent coping strategies (Exner, 2003, G. J. Meyer, Erdberg, & Shaffer, 2007). In addition, they tend to be resistant or oppositional toward others, although this may be carried out in a passive fashion.

A substantial level of dysphoric rumination has also been found in pedophilic offenders as compared to other groups of offenders, as indicated by higher DEPI Rorschach scores (Gacono, Meloy, et al., 2008). This finding is consistent with other research suggesting that pedophiles tend to be less antisocial than some other criminal offenders. Sexual offenders in general have been found to produce records with more responses (higher R's) than other groups of criminal offenders (Bridges, et al., 1998, Gacono, Meloy, et al., 2008). Consistent with other groups of criminal offenders,

pedophiles tend to be rather unsophisticated and rigid in their thinking, and as such, produce Rorschach records with higher levels of WSum6 (Bridges, et al , 1998, Gacono, Meloy, et al , 2008) Another major Rorschach finding, consistent with other literature, is that pedophilic offenders have higher rates of narcissism than non-patients, as suggested by their egocentricity index pointing to either poor self-worth or excessive self-involvement (Bridges, et al , 1998) In addition, Rorschach evidence of dependency has been found in pedophiles using measures including the CS food response and the Rorschach Oral Dependency Scale (ROD, Bridges, et al , 1998, Huprich, Gacono, Schneider, & Bridges, 2004)

Falkenhan (1999) summarized literature assessing child sexual offenders using the MMPI Not surprisingly, a number of scales were found to be elevated, including 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9, suggesting a heterogeneous group An MCMI study which compared groups of child molesters, adult rapists, and non-sexually offending criminals found that compared to the other two groups, child molesters were higher on Passive-Aggressive, Dysthymia, and Anxiety scales (Chantry & Craig, 1994) Furthermore, the child molesters had a one-point modal code, which peaked at the Dependent scale, and compared to the non-sexually offending criminals, molesters scored higher on Dependent and Avoidant scales

**Personality characteristics of clerical sexual offenders** A number of questions have been raised and characteristics assessed, yet a limited amount is known about the personality characteristics that distinguish sexually offending clergy from non-offending clergy (Falkenhan, et al , 1999, McGlone, 2001b, Plante & Aldridge, 2005) What is known is that compared to sex-offenders in the general population, priest offenders tend

to be less antisocial (Kafka, 2004, Langevin, et al , 2000), however, the most prominent finding among clerical sexual offenders is features of narcissistic and dependent personality disorders (Bryant, 2002, McGlone, 2001b) These characteristics have important implications for treatment and can guide future assessment of this population, and therefore need to be assessed further (Bridges, et al , 1998)

Minimal Rorschach research has been conducted with clerical sexual offenders, however, few such studies exist One study examining interpersonal relatedness of this population found that clerical sexual offenders have more pathological and non-adaptive patterns in their interpersonal relationships as compared to non-sexually offending clergy (Gerard, et al , 2003)

Using the same sample that was used in this current study, Ryan, Baerwald, and McGlone (2008) compared the cognitive mediation abilities of clerical sexual offenders and non-sexually offending clergy on the Rorschach Their study revealed that the clerical sexual offenders had distorted cognitions, or more unusual and unconventional thinking patterns than non-offending clergy, as measured by CS variables Xu% and X+% Those individuals who had Extratensive coping styles, or those who are more likely to use their feelings or intuition to cope, produced records indicating more distortions in their thinking (Exner, 2003, Ryan, et al , 2008) Moreover, pedophilic offenders had more distorted thinking than ephebophilic offenders The researchers argued that this distorted thinking may lead to misinterpreting situations or misreading interpersonal signals, as is often thought to occur in the relationships of molesters

Falkenhain et al (1999) conducted a cluster analysis of Roman Catholic sexual offenders based on self-report measures of personality including the MMPI-2, NEO-PI-R,

and the MCMI-II. Most priest offenders were not found to have severe psychopathology. Of those that did, two primary groups emerged. The largest cluster (42.3% of participants) was described as sexually and emotionally underdeveloped, and its members were characteristically passive, dependent, introverted, sexually disturbed, socially awkward, and emotionally over-controlled. The highest average MMPI-2 scale elevations were 2, 5, 6, and 10. In addition, MCMI-II Dependent and Compulsive Personality Style scales exceeded cut-offs, and high scores were produced on the NEO-PI-R Agreeableness and Neuroticism scales.

The second largest cluster (35.1% of participants) identified Falkenhain and colleagues was described as hostile, immature, self-indulgent, narcissistic, socially withdrawn, interpersonally rigid, and conflicted around sexuality and dependency. The highest average MMPI-2 scale elevations were 2, 4, 6, and 7. MCMI-II Dependent, Compulsive Personality Style, and Schizoid scales all exceeded psychiatric means. Again, the highest NEO-PI-R scale elevations were Agreeableness and Neuroticism. This group was also characterized as rather undefended, due to the members' open and honest validity scores on the MMPI-2 and MCMI-II measures. The two smaller clusters were described as (a) defended, or faking good (17.5% of participants), and (b) much more psychiatrically disturbed than the other groups (5.2% of participants). Immaturity, dependency, and conflicted interpersonal functioning were found in all clusters or groups.

Other MMPI studies assessing clerical sexual offenders have found elevated rates of defensiveness (scales L, K, and R), mistrust (Scale 6), unusual thinking (Scale 8), isolation and withdrawal (D2), inhibition of aggression (HY5), and irritability and little concern for others (MA3) to be characteristic of this group (Plante & Aldridge, 2005).

This available literature on clerical sexual offenders seems to suggest that this population shares similar characteristics with child molesters in the general population. Again, defensiveness, immaturity, dependent and narcissistic traits, and otherwise impaired interpersonal functioning appear to be defining characteristics of this group.

**Narcissistic characteristics** The construct of narcissism has been conceptualized in different ways. From a diagnostic, and more behavioral viewpoint, the DSM-IV-TR (APA, 2000) describes narcissism as a pattern of grandiosity, lack of empathy, and need for admiration. Examples of narcissistic personality features are provided, which include (a) an exaggerated sense of self-importance, (b) preoccupation with idealized fantasies about oneself, (c) a need for admiration by others, (d) a sense of entitlement, (e) interpersonally exploitive and/or willingness to use others to meet own needs, (f) lack of empathy for others, (g) feelings of envy, and (h) arrogance.

From a more psychoanalytic perspective, narcissism is described as a personality organization, in which one maintains their self-esteem by receiving external affirmation (McWilliams, 1994). H. D. Lerner (1988) added that self-centered grandiosity, fluctuating self-esteem, and an inability to have mutually loving relationships are key characteristics of narcissistic individuals. According to psychoanalytic theorists, these individuals are plagued by a need for perfection, even if in an idealized or false sense. This need often leads to avoidance of emotional expression, or any sense of weakness or dependence on another person. Admission of interpersonal needs or personal shortcomings would inevitably bring about a sense of shame (McWilliams, 1994). Indeed, even early theorists suggested that narcissistic defenses serve the function of compensating for such feelings of inferiority.



According to the psychoanalytic perspective, or more specifically, object relations theory, the narcissistic individual's internal experience consists of a set of polar ego states, or beliefs about the self. These states include positive feelings, such as a sense of superiority, pride, vanity, contempt, and self-righteousness, and also negative feelings such as envy, inferiority, and emptiness. Kernberg (1975) described these polar ego states as grandiose and depleted senses of self. He explained that narcissistically organized individuals are unable to operate in the gray area in between, and instead, they are only able to see themselves and others as all good or all bad. This polarization leads to unrealistic expectations that are placed on themselves and others.

The narcissistic individual uses a variety of defenses, however the most commonly used are the primitive idealization and devaluation defenses (H. D. Lerner, 1988, McWilliams, 1994). The primitive defenses are distinguished from more sophisticated defenses, as they are indicative of a developmentally lower level of defensive functioning (P. M. Lerner, 1998). Idealization is described as the denial of undesirable characteristics of either the self or other, and the enhancement of that same individual. This defense is often seen as linked to grandiosity or envy. Devaluation, conversely, is associated with more pathological forms of narcissism, and is described as the depreciation, or lessening of the value or importance of the self or other. This defense is also associated with envy, as well as passive-aggressiveness.

Narcissism may be expressed differently based upon the functioning of these defenses, which may change over time. Specifically, the narcissist may feel unrealistically positive or negative about themselves or others. This distinction depends on whether they see themselves or the other in an idealized fashion, where perfection is

considered to be achieved, or in a devalued fashion, where the individual falls short of meeting these unrealistic expectations. As McWilliams (1994) pointed out, these defenses complement each other, in that when the self is idealized, then others are devalued, and vice versa. Lerner (H. D. Lerner, 1988) agreed with this assertion, adding that the grandiosity associated with the narcissist can be either subtle or hidden through self-deprecation and shyness, or blatant and overtly expressed. However narcissism is displayed, this individual will clearly have difficulty initiating and maintaining mutually caring relationships, and will have difficulty achieving a sense of satisfaction in a variety of areas in life.

**Narcissism in non-clerical sexual offenders** There is substantial evidence in the literature suggesting that pedophilic sexual offenders tend to have narcissistic personality traits, such as an elevated self-focus and grandiosity (Bridges, et al , 1998, Gacono, Meloy, et al , 2008). Similar to other groups of criminal perpetrators, pedophiles have been found to produce Rorschach records with a high number of reflection (Fr+rF) responses as compared to the general population, suggesting an elevated level of self-interest and pathological narcissism (Bridges, et al , 1998, Gacono, Meloy, et al , 2008, G. J. Meyer, et al , 2007). The Rorschach reflection response (r) qualitatively can be thought of as a measure of narcissism in that the individual reports an image on the Rorschach as being mirrored, or its value is exaggerated, as some indication of inflated self-image (Exner, 2003).

Despite these higher levels of narcissism found in sexual offenders, other researchers have suggested that pedophiles may in fact experience a damaged sense of self when their narcissistic defenses fail. Bridges, Wilson, and Gacono (1998) suggest

that this failure of defenses may partially account for the pedophile's feelings of inadequacy in adult intimate relationships, and thus his turning to children for sexual gratification. The researchers found that pedophiles, compared to other offenders and normals, simultaneously displayed signs of primitive grandiosity, a damaged sense of self, and higher susceptibility to negative affect—a combination characterized as suggestive of failing narcissistic defenses (Bridges, et al , 1998)

**Narcissism in clerical sexual offenders** Despite the limited amount of research available on clerical sexual offender personality features, a few studies have found mixed evidence of narcissism. Like non-clerical sexual offenders, clerical sexual offenders tend to lack a capacity for normal empathy, have narcissistic traits, and impaired interpersonal functioning (Bryant, 2002, Falkenhain, et al , 1999). They have also been found to show higher rates of narcissistic features when compared to non-sexually offending clergy (Gerard, et al , 2003)

In previous Rorschach research by McGlone (2001b), selected Exner CS variables (2005) were used to measure narcissism in terms of human representations and egocentricity among the same clerical sample used in the current study. McGlone compared two groups of Roman Catholic clergy sexual offenders (pedophiles and ephebophiles) with a normative group of Roman Catholic clergy on Exner CS structural variable, r (reflection responses), as an indicator of narcissism. He found no significant differences for this variable between the groups. McGlone (2001b) also compared these same groups on the MCMI-II and III Narcissistic Scale. In contrast to what was predicted, lower levels of narcissism were found in the offending clergy than in the non-offending clergy.

In contrast, the Mutuality of Autonomy Scale (MOA) was used to measure Rorschach narcissistic responses in another clerical sample by Gerard et al (2003). In that study, the frequency of Narcissistic Responses (NAR), based on levels 3 and 4 of the MOA, were used to measure narcissism. That study found a higher level of narcissism in clerical sexual offenders compared to clergy being treated for some other psychological disorder, although the differences were not significant. Moreover, Lagan (2009) recently compared sexually offending and non-offending clergy, consisting of the same sample used in the current study, on the MOA NAR scale. In his study, both pedophilic and ephhebophilic clergy produced significantly higher NAR scores compared to the non-offending clergy, suggesting more narcissistic object relations among the offenders. Other clerical research using the MMPI found a large portion of clerical offenders to exhibit narcissistic traits (Falkenhain, et al , 1999).

**Limitations of previous narcissism research** McGlone's (2001b) negative finding for the selected Rorschach Exner variables suggests that these measures may not be sensitive or specific enough to detect the expected group differences in narcissistic traits. In fact, Exner (1995) explained the comprehensive system reflection variable is not to be considered a direct measure of narcissism, and therefore, the variable may lack the specificity necessary to have picked up on potential true group difference. Other researchers assessing this variable have also noted that it appears to measure introversion and introspection more than the grandiosity and self-centeredness associated with narcissism (Gacono, Meloy, & Heaven, 1990). The unanticipated finding with regard to the MCMI Narcissistic scale may be attributed to limitations of self-report measures, as well as the broad definition this measure offers of narcissism.

As discussed earlier, narcissism can be expressed in different ways based upon the individual's defensive functioning. As such, the individual may have an idealized or grandiose sense of self, while those around them are devalued, or conversely, the individual may display self-deprecation and envy toward others. The fact that previous studies have not accounted for these conflicting presentations may account for their inability to find higher levels of narcissism in sexually offending samples. Accounting for the possibility of a devalued sense of self may be of particular value when assessing populations of incarcerated or indicted persons, whose defensive functioning and presentation may in fact be different from when they are free and engaging in criminal behaviors.

As discussed previously, additional research suggests that examining idealization and devaluation can be critical in identifying narcissistic personality features found in this population (Bridges, et al , 1998, Cooper, et al , 1988, Paul M Lerner, 1991). These defenses are associated with the object relations of individuals with narcissistic and antisocial personality characteristics, such as lack of victim empathy (Cooper, et al , 1988, McWilliams, 1994). Some researchers question whether CS scores alone can sufficiently capture these characteristics or defenses, they suggest that analysis of Rorschach thematic content may add to its utility, as thematic scales tend to be more sensitive to measuring defense mechanisms (Cooper, et al , 1988). Thematic content on the Rorschach is content that the examinee provides within their response which contains themes, or particular content areas, which are understood to represent areas of unconscious preoccupation. Thematic content is typically measured by counting the

occurrence of such content across all responses. This method can be contrasted with structural summary variables, which are calculated based upon an algorithm.

**Lerner's Defense Scales (LDS)** Developed based primarily on earlier ideas of Kohut (1971) and Kernberg (1975), Lerner's Defense Scale (LDS, Paul M. Lerner, 1991, P. M. Lerner & H. E. Lerner, 1980) is specifically designed to assess primitive defenses on the Rorschach, including idealization and devaluation. As discussed earlier, these defenses are believed to be strongly associated with narcissistic personality organization (H. D. Lerner, 1988, McWilliams, 1994). These subscales assess these Rorschach themes, as they are found through responses involving human content, as defined by Exner (Exner, 2003). Responses that contain such human content are assessed further for the precise figure described by the examinee, the way in which the figure is described, and any action associated with the figure (Paul M. Lerner, 1991). Each response is coded for presence or absence of idealized and devalued percepts separately. Additionally, each idealized or devalued percept is rated on a continuum denoting the severity of distortion of the human response.

These subscales have distinguished between groups with and without narcissistic personality. They have also shown sufficient convergent validity ( $r = .31$ ) with self-report measures of narcissism, as well as excellent interrater reliability ( $r = .94-.96$ , (Hilsenroth, Fowler, Padawer, & Handler, 1997, Hilsenroth, Hibbard, Nash, & Handler, 1993, Paul M. Lerner, 1991).

**Dependency and immaturity** Like narcissism, the construct of dependency has been defined in different ways. The DSM-IV-TR (APA, 2000) describes dependent personality traits as dismissive, clinging behaviors and fears of separation in a variety of

contexts that may include (a) indecisiveness and excessive need for reassurance, (b) a need for others' assistance in multiple areas of life, (c) agreeableness for fear of loss of support, (d) trouble initiating tasks for lack of confidence in self, (e) excessive attempts to acquire nurturance from others, (f) fear and avoidance of being alone, (g) jumping quickly into another relationship when one ends, and (h) having unrealistic fears of abandonment

Another way that theorists have conceptualized dependency stems from Freud's classic psychoanalytic model, where he discussed the association between early stages of development and personality characteristics in later life. In particular, Freud believed that dependency in later life could be linked to events that occurred during the oral stage of psychosexual development (Bornstein & Masling, 2005, Burger, 2004). Freud believed that behaviors are driven by a central set of needs. As a child develops, they may either have their needs properly fulfilled, or they may experience frustration, deprivation, or overindulgence. If any of the latter occur, they will develop into an adolescent and adult who has preoccupation or personality dysfunctions related to the stage in which the difficulty occurred (Masling, 1986).

The oral stage is considered particularly important in development according to psychoanalytic theory. Because it is the earliest stage of development, from birth to approximately 18 months, it is a person's first opportunity for experiencing interpersonal relationships (Burger, 2004). The infant's first connection to the world and others is through the mouth. Activities of the mouth and those objects related to it (i.e., caregivers) give pleasure and reduce anxiety. Attitudes toward food are developed during this period, as well as attitudes toward caregivers and food providers (Masling, 1986).

Although infants are initially helpless and completely dependent on others, they soon are able to take an active role in influencing the behaviors of their caregivers and those around them. They will use their mouth to communicate their needs, and ultimately build their concept of interpersonal effectiveness this way.

According to this psychoanalytic model, the dependent person continues to rely excessively on others for nurturance and support. In addition, they will remain in an orally fixated state, remaining preoccupied with components of the oral stage, such as the mouth, food, or comforting objects, throughout adulthood (Bornstein & Masling, 2005). Note that according to Masling (1986), the operational definition of oral dependency refers to both oral activities (e.g., eating) and organs (e.g., mouth), and nurturant and dependent behaviors. Orally dependent adults can experience difficulties in their interpersonal relationships and/or develop an unhealthy dependence on non-human objects, such as substance, alcohol, or food.

**Dependency and immaturity in non-clerical sexual offenders** Child molesters in general have been found to be socially insecure and immature (Gerard, et al., 2003). A review of literature on child molester personality characteristics indicated that key characteristics of this group include passivity, dependency, awkwardness of interpersonal relationships, and lack of assertion (Okami & Goldberg, 1992).

In Rorschach research, frequency of texture (T) responses has often been used to measure dependency needs and expression of such needs (Exner, 2003). The idea behind the texture response is that describing an image on the Rorschach in tactile terms symbolizes one's openness to and need for emotional and physical closeness. According to Exner's original norms (N=600), the T frequency should be interpreted as follows:



T=0—the individual expresses needs for closeness differently than others, and they may be more guarded or distant than those who provide T responses, T=1—the individual acknowledges their needs for closeness in ways similar to most people, and the person tends to be amenable to close relationships, T>1—this individual may have strong needs for closeness that have gone unmet. Exner reported that between 75-80% of non-patient samples provide at least one T response per record and most only provide one.

More recently, studies have found T to occur much less frequently in the records of non-patient samples than what was reported by Exner (G. J. Meyer, et al., 2007, Shaffer, Erdberg, & Haroian, 2007, Wood, Nezworski, Garb, & Lilienfeld, 2001). For example, a study by Shaffer et al. (2007) using 283 non-patients, found a very different distribution of T responses, with 74% of the sample providing T=0, and 8% providing T>1. Therefore, in their study, only 18% of non-patients provided T=1. Similarly, examination of internationally-based norms from 21 adult samples collected from 17 countries reveals that T=0 was found in 57% of records, T=1 in 28%, and T>1 in 15% of records (G. J. Meyer, et al., 2007). Findings of these and similar studies suggest that Exner's CS data may over-pathologize individuals based on the interpretations of their T responses.

Cassella (1999) applied attachment theory to the T response using a sample of 79 adult non-patients, and found that T=1 was associated with a secure attachment style, T=0 was associated with an avoidant style, or those lacking secure attachment styles, and T>1 was associated with a preoccupied or anxious/ambivalent attachment style.

In a Rorschach study by Bridges, Wilson, and Gacono (1998), researchers failed to find significant differences in texture responses between the sexual offenders and non-

sexually offending criminals, however, they reported that both offending groups had higher than normal  $T=0$  (62% of pedophiles and 68% of other criminals) and  $T>1$  records (20% of pedophiles and 15% of other criminals) In light of more recent reference samples, it appears that these findings regarding texture responses may not carry much meaning In addition, evidence that some criminal offender groups tend to produce more  $T=0$  and  $T>1$  (with the exception of psychopaths), and less  $T=1$  Rorschach records than non-patient groups has been presented by Gacono, Meloy, and Bridges (2008), however, similar findings reported by these researchers regarding pedophiles should be interpreted with caution, as newer reference samples suggest that pedophile records may not greatly differ from normals in terms of T responses

Despite the problematic evidence of dependency in pedophiles and other sex offenders with regard to the Rorschach T response, other, more promising evidence of dependent traits has been found using other Rorschach variables measuring food responses or other orally dependent content For example, Bridges et al (1998) found that pedophiles were more likely to display primitive dependency needs, as suggested by elevated Exner CS food responses, than were non-sexual offending criminals Sexual offenders have been found to be drawn to others, as indicated by their higher levels of dependency, however, they are simultaneously ineffectual in achieving relationships due to their tendency toward self-focus, and their difficulty relating to and understanding others (Gacono, Meloy, et al , 2008)

Another study by Huprich, Gacono, Schneider, and Bridges (2004) used the Rorschach Oral Dependency Scale (ROD) (Bornstein & Masling, 2005) to compare groups of psychopaths, perpetrators of sexual homicide, and non-violent pedophiles on

oral dependency As the researchers predicted, non-violent pedophiles were found to be more orally dependent than the non-pedophilic groups

One study which summarized MMPI profiles of child molesters also lent support to the theory that these offenders have disturbed interpersonal functioning and deficient social skills, experience feelings of insecurity, and are passively dependent (Cimboic, Wise, Rossetti, & Safer, 1999)

**Dependency and immaturity in clerical sexual offenders** According to Bryant (2002), clerical sexual offenders, like non-clerical sexual offenders, also tend to lack the appropriate social skills expected of their age group In Bryant's view, the clerical offender molests minors due to social immaturity and identification with these adolescents In contrast to pedophiles however, ephebophiles have been found to be more psychosexually mature (Rossetti, 1990)

Religious affiliation has also been discussed in terms of oral dependence Freud, for example, explained one's religious interests as a longing for protection from a source outside one's self Indeed, as Masling (1986) pointed out, the orally dependent individual seeks external aid to cope with his problems The protection and cared-after feeling provided by one's belief in God can be very comforting, thus individuals who see themselves as helpless may be more likely to turn to religion than those with a more internal locus of control Ryan et al (2008), whose study used the same Rorschach data used in the current study, further suggested that clergy who are more dependent on interpersonal relationships for coping (Extratensive) tend to have greater difficulty with appropriate reasoning and judgment (XA% and WDA%), particularly when those relationships are not fulfilling

The few studies that have assessed dependency in clerical sexual offenders produced mixed results. Gerard et al. (2003) compared groups of clerical sexual offenders and clerical non-offenders with other psychological disorders on the Rorschach CS measure (t) texture and (fd) food responses. In that study, clerical sexual offenders were found to produce significantly more T>1 records (39%) than clerical non-sexual offenders (20%). This finding appears to hold up against the recently published international norms indicating 15% of T>1 records in the general population (G. J. Meyer, et al., 2007). In the same study, protocols absent of texture responses (T=0) were conversely, more common in the non-sexually offending group. Thirty percent of sexually offending clergy provided T=0 records, which compared to the more recent norms described earlier, is actually quite low. The greater number of T>1 records among clergy offenders suggests a tendency toward strong unfulfilled needs for closeness, or a preoccupied, anxious/ambivalent attachment style. Additionally, the sexually offending clergy produced records with more food responses than the non-sexually offending clergy.

In 2001, McGlone used the Rorschach to examine the clerical sample used in this study, incorporating the Exner CS variable T (texture responses) (Exner, 2005) as an indicator of dependency (McGlone, 2001b). He compared the two groups of sexually offending Roman Catholic clergy (pedophiles and ephebophiles) with the normative group of Roman Catholic clergy on the number of texture responses given. He found no significant differences for this variable between the groups on T as a whole, however, a large difference was found between groups specifically with regard to T>1. As such, secondary analyses showed that 8.8% of non-offending clergy, as compared to 25.9% of

sexually offending clergy produced records with  $T > 1$ . His findings therefore further suggest attachment and dependency problems among sexually offending clergy. McGlone further compared these same groups on the MCMI-II and III Dependent Scale (McGlone, 2001b). As predicted, offending clergy scored higher on the Dependent scale than non-offending clergy. It should be noted however, that despite this significant finding, Dependent scale scores were still below the clinical cut-off level.

A number of other studies using the MMPI have found dependency and passivity to be key characteristics among clerical sexual offenders (Falkenhain, et al., 1999, Loftus & Camargo, 1993). Despite the mixed finding on dependency in clerical sexual offenders, evidence still suggests the presence of these features, and a number of limitations in the current literature need to be addressed.

Limitations of previous dependency and immaturity research. McGlone's (2001b) negative finding for the Rorschach Exner CS texture variable suggests that this measure may not be sensitive or specific enough to detect the expected group differences in dependent traits. Furthermore, results from studies that have found sexual offenders to differ from other groups on  $T$  could be misleading, and may not be reflective of true differences. Another consideration is that the construct of dependency needs to be conceptualized differently. Considering the large amount of research suggesting primitive dependency and immaturity in child sexual offenders, and in clerical sexual offenders, perhaps more implicit dependency traits need to be assessed.

**Rorschach Oral Dependency Scale (ROD)** The Rorschach Oral Dependency Scale (ROD, Bornstein & Masling, 2005) has become one of the most widely used measures of implicit dependent traits, and has been described as an elaborate and valid

approach to studying interpersonal dependency (Exner, 2003) The scale, created by Bornstein and Masling (2005), consists of 16 categories, covering various types of responses indicative of oral dependency (See Appendix A) Each Rorschach response is coded for presence or absence of orally dependent percepts, and multiple categories may be applied to a single response A proportion for the orally dependent percepts is then calculated based on the total number of responses in the record

Based on means collected from 21 studies using the ROD, the average college student produced an orally dependent proportion of .13 with no gender differences In other words, an average of 13% of the Rorschach responses produced by college students contained orally dependent themes, regardless of gender Psychiatric samples produced an average proportion of .12 for men and .10 for women (Bornstein & Masling, 2005) The scale has demonstrated sufficient predictive validity ( $r = .40$ ) with dependent-related behaviors Strong interrater reliability has also been consistently found, with Kappa's typically greater than .80 Additionally, the ROD has been compared to self-report measures of dependency, with the overall correlation being .29 (Bornstein & Masling, 2005)

**Exner food variable (Fd).** Other researchers add that the immature dependency needs found in individuals with pedophilic interests should also elevate the CS food responses on the Rorschach Indeed, pedophiles have been found to produce significantly more food responses than non-sexually offending criminals (Bridges, et al , 1998) With the exception of extraordinarily long records, the presence of one or more CS food responses in an adult record suggests a dependent personality style which may affect one's relationships with others (Exner, 2003, G J Meyer, et al , 2007) Indeed, it is

highly unlikely to find a food response in an adult record, however, they are not uncommon in children's records. According to Exner (2003), an individual who scores high on this variable is likely to rely on others for support, nurturance, and direction. They are likely to have a somewhat immature or naive view of relationships, often placing excessive expectations on others and putting their own needs ahead of others. The food response has been found to be a valid indicator of primitive dependency traits, and a high proportion of food responses have been found in samples displaying a number of passive and dependent features (Exner, 2003).

**Rorschach Maturity Index (RMI)** The Rorschach Maturity Index (Stanfill, 2010) is a new quantitative, multivariable scale that was recently developed to measure maturity and development across a sample of children, adolescents, and adults based on mean differences from Rorschach normative data. It is thought that this scale might be a sensitive measure of the immature processing and also be related to the identification with children of pedophilic clerical offenders. The initial RMI validation study found the scale capable of statistically distinguishing between child and adult samples. In addition, the RMI was capable of predicting age with great accuracy in a sample non-patient children (ages 8 to 16,  $n = 86$ ) and adults (ages 26 to 45,  $n = 87$ ),  $\text{Partial } R^2 = .38$ . Further, the RMI was tested on a larger sample ( $N=374$ , ages 8 to 79) and was found to be correlated with age ( $r = .39$ ).

**Sexualized thought content.** Increased sexualized thought content, or preoccupation with sexuality or sexual activity has been found to be associated with sexual disturbance and an increase in recidivism among child molesters (Morgan & Viglione, 1992, Prentky, Lee, Knight, & Cerce, 1997). Furthermore, sexual disturbance

or deviance has been described as an enduring trait that is resistant to change, and has been pinpointed as one of the strongest factors associated with child molestation and sexual reoffense rates (Gacono, Meloy, et al , 2008, Rice & Harris, 1997) Sexual preoccupation has been found to be higher in groups of sexual offenders compared to comparison groups, in both clerical and non-clerical samples (Bridges, et al , 1998, Gerard, et al , 2003, Morgan & Vighione, 1992)

The Rorschach provides a unique means of exploring such intrusive sexualized thoughts, particularly as admission of their existence and persistence is unlikely, especially in the context of litigation (Gacono, Evans, et al , 2008, Vighione, 1999) Furthermore, the Rorschach is less invasive than other methods used to measure sexual deviance in the past, such as phallometric testing (Gacono, Meloy, et al , 2008)

Sexual responses in non-clerical sexual offenders. The idea behind the Rorschach sexual response is that according to psychoanalytic theory, on an internal level, primitive sexualized themes should not come into consciousness under normal conditions (Morgan & Vighione, 1992) Further, if sexual imagery does come to mind, social taboos and desire for approval on an external level, should prevent these sexualized thoughts from being verbalized in a neutral assessment context Rorschach content has been shown to be more easily altered than structural information (Exner, 2003), that is, thematic imagery or specific content is generally easier for one to withhold in their responses than are less face valid pieces of data In addition to the average person's proposed ability to control these sexual references, sexual offenders commonly have an even larger motivation to suppress sexualized thought in a forensic context When these



sexualized references are still expressed on the Rorschach then, and they often are, it suggests the significance of the responses

Previous Rorschach studies have primarily used Exner's Sex Content (Sx) score to measure sexualized thought among pedophiles and other groupings of sexual offenders (Gacono, Meloy, et al , 2008, McCraw & Pegg-McNab, 1989, Morgan & Viglione, 1992) Overall, results have indicated that the presence of sexual thought content is relatively specific to sexual disturbance (McCraw & Pegg-McNab, 1989, Morgan & Viglione, 1992, Donald J Viglione, 1999) Sexualized responses as measured by this variable, are rare among normal adult records, with greater than one Sx response typically indicating preoccupation, depending on the length of the record (Exner, 2003, G J Meyer, et al , 2007) In fact, only about four percent of non-patient adults from the CS (N=600) normative data produced any sexual response (Morgan & Viglione, 1992) Although the international data (N=1067) indicate a slightly higher frequency of such responses, the presence of more than one Sx response was still rare (Exner, 2005, G J Meyer, et al , 2007) In addition, sexual offenders have been found to provide significantly greater numbers of sexual responses on the Rorschach than normative groups (Bridges, et al , 1998, Morgan & Viglione, 1992) Beyond its use in research, the Sx score is also commonly used by practitioners to assist in understanding a clients' sexual adjustment and impulse control (Morgan & Viglione, 1992)

**Sexual responses in clerical sexual offenders** As sexualized thought content has been found to be associated with sexual deviance, child molestation, and recidivism of sexual offenses, it is clearly important to assess for this phenomenon in clerical sexual offenders One previous study conducted by Gerard et al (2003) used the Rorschach

Sexualization Scale (RSS), a thematic scale designed to measure sexualized thought content, to distinguish between groups of clerical sexual offenders and clergy being treated for other psychological disorders. Clerical sexual offenders were found to produce a significantly higher number of sexualized responses, particularly on subscales of gender-related confusion and general sexual references.

**Limitations of previous sexual response research** Although Exner's Sx response has proven to be useful, in that it is specific in identifying sexual deviance, it is limited, in that it is scored only for narrowly classified group of obvious and overt sexual responses, which include sexual organs, activities, or functions (Exner, 2005, Morgan & Viglione, 1992). Despite its ability to distinguish between sexually offending and normative groups, it has failed in previous studies to differentiate between sexual offenders and other offender groups (Bridges, et al , 1998, Morgan & Viglione, 1992). Morgan and Viglione (1992) have offered the explanation that more subtle sexualized content better predicts sexual problems, and the CS Sx score may lack the sensitivity necessary to detect these expected group differences. In addition, being that the CS sex response only offers a single broad measure of sexual content, it does not offer any specific information about the type of sexual response(s) given, therefore, it would fail to identify any patterns of sexual imagery that may emerge in a record or group of records. In turn, the CS Sx score limits insight into the type of intrusive sexualized thoughts being experienced.

Due to these limitations of the CS sex response, researchers have suggested that a broader measurement of the construct is needed—one that may include a larger array and more subtle sexualized content (Bridges, et al , 1998). For example, identifying thematic

content related to gender confusion, sexually suggestive references, and thought disturbances related to sexual content may provide a more valuable source of information (Morgan & Viglione, 1992)

**Rorschach Sexualization Scale (RSS).** With limitations of the CS sexual content measure in mind, Morgan and Viglione (1992) developed a thematic Rorschach scale, the Rorschach Sexualization Scale (RSS), designed to measure a broader variety of sexual responses, and to have greater sensitivity to subtle sexualized responses. The scale was developed as a list of both overt and subtle sex response categories gathered from available literature that expanded on the CS Sx score. Once developed, the scale of then 15 items was tested on a sample of sexual and other criminal offenders.

Unlike the CS Sx response, the RSS was able to distinguish between groups of sexual offenders and other non-sexually offending criminals on the total number of sexual responses given (sexual deviance), with a large effect ( $w^2 = .27$ ) (Morgan & Viglione, 1992). This finding speaks to the good discriminative validity of the scale. The more subtle sexualized scores were found to account for considerable variability beyond that accounted for by the CS Sx score, providing support for the scale's discriminative power. This research also provided data indicating acceptable interrater reliability ( $r = .8$ ). Further research by Viglione, Morgan, and Kabban (1997) led to a revised RSS scale, which includes 19 overlapping categories in addition to a set of summary scores (See Appendix B). Each Rorschach response is coded for the presence or absence of each category, and more than one category may apply to each response. As noted previously, other researchers have used this finalized scale, and have demonstrated

its ability to discriminate between clerical sexual offenders and other clergy (Gerard, et al , 2003)

### **Statement of the Problem**

There is limited research available on personality characteristics of clerical sexual offenders, as most research has focused on the larger population of sexual offenders. In addition, studies have often failed to distinguish between subgroups of sexual offenders (i.e. by type of sexual act or victim choice) and to offer appropriate comparison groups. The current study addressed these issues by exploring whether Roman Catholic clergy offenders demonstrate some of the characteristics associated with non-clerical sex offenders. Furthermore, this research distinguished between pedophilic and ephebophilic subgroups of Roman Catholic clergy child molesters, as well as provided an appropriate comparison group of non-offending Roman Catholic clergy.

The research that does exist on clerical offenders has primarily used self-report tools to measure characteristics. This study used the Rorschach, a performance measure, to address this problem. Existing research on clerical offenders has also been limited around personality characteristics in particular. This study assessed for key personality components found in the sample, thereby adding to the available literature in this area.

The limited available research using Rorschach with this population has almost exclusively used CS variables. This study addressed this issue by using three thematic Rorschach scales. Additionally, valid and reliable measures are needed that may detect these important traits in clergy sex offenders. This study addressed this issue by determining if these scales can effectively measure the key personality traits found in clerical sex offenders. This study attempted to further validate two Rorschach thematic

scales (LDS and ROD), and thereby clarify the constructs that they measure. Lastly, previous Rorschach research has often failed to account for the impact of response style on results of construct validity analyses. This study addressed this issue by examining the response styles of clergy sexual offenders and non-offenders, and the impact of this style on the variables measured in this study.

### **Conceptual Hypotheses**

#### **Hypotheses Examining Between-Group Comparisons**

- 1 The combined group of offenders (Ephobophiles and Pedophiles) will score higher on Rorschach measures of narcissism, dependency, and sexualization than will the control group of non-offending clergy.
- 2 The Pedophilic group will score higher on Rorschach measures of narcissism, dependency, and sexualization than will the Ephobophilic group of sex-offenders.
- 3 The Pedophilic group will score lower on a measure of maturity than will the control group of non-offending clergy.

#### **Hypotheses Examining Convergent Validity**

- 4 LDS Idealization and Devaluation composite scores will be associated with scores on the MCMI-II or III Narcissistic Scale after controlling for response style.
- 5 ROD composite scores will be associated with scores on the MCMI-II or III Dependent Scale after controlling for response style.

### **Exploratory Analyses**

This study also explored differences across groups on individual thematic scale items to determine whether any specific components of a given construct differ between

offender and non-offender clergy. Further, incremental validity of thematic Rorschach scales over MCMI scales was tested where applicable. Lastly, several Rorschach CS variables were examined across groups.

## CHAPTER II

### METHOD

#### **Participants**

This study used archival data from an existing data set that was collected by Gerard McGlone in 2001. This data set has also been used in two more recent studies, which were published in the *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma* (McGlone, 2003b), and in the *Journal of Clinical Psychology* (Ryan, et al., 2008).

This study included data from two separate groups: (a) identified sexually offending clergy, and (b) self-reported non-sexually offending clergy without evidence of sexual deviance. The data for the sexually offending group consisted of Rorschach and MCMI records of 138 sexually offending clergy that were collected from a Catholic treatment facility in Washington, DC. All offenders were selected to ensure that they only carried one diagnosis of either Pedophilia or Paraphilia, NOS. These offenders were administered Rorschach and MCMI-II or III tests by staff at the institute as part of the standard evaluation. Members of this group were identified clearly as sexual offenders who were admittedly undergoing treatment for sexual abuse of a minor. These records were further broken down into subgroups of pedophilic (n=72) and ephebophilic (n=66) offenders, based on the offenders' diagnosis (Pedophilia or Paraphilia, NOS—the diagnosis given to ephebophiles). Thus, the distinction between the pedophilic and ephebophilic groups was determined clinically from self-reported descriptions of offenses.

or avowed sexual interests and legal or religious proceedings or reports. In McGlone's (2001b) study, data from 158 offender records (n=79 pedophiles, n=79 ephebophiles) were included, however, 20 of the original records were unaccounted for by the time this current study took place. Additionally, of the remaining 138 offender files, only 133 had complete demographic data, Rorschach, and MCMI records available. Five files containing Rorschach data were unable to be matched with their respective demographic data and MCMI records, and thus only Rorschach data were analyzed for these participants.

Data from the non-offending group consisted of Rorschach and MCMI-III records of 80 clergy with no known sexual paraphilias, who volunteered and were assessed for the original study by McGlone (2001b). This group had no known paraphilias or legal issues around sexual offending, and when asked, none admitted to any sexually deviant fantasies.

All participants in the sample were over the age of 21, and the mean age across groups was 55. The offender group consisted of individuals from 34 states and seven countries. The control group was made up of clergy from several large dioceses across the United States. Demographic information was collected indicating comparable groups.

Of those who initially agreed to participate in the McGlone study as part of the non-sexually offending sample, three individuals were ultimately removed, leaving his sample with 80 participants. Two participants were unable to meet due to scheduling conflicts, and the other was prevented from participating by his supervisor, as he had already begun treatment for sexually offending against a minor. A review of records for



the current study revealed that only 79 of the original 80 control files contained all demographic data, Rorschach, and MCMI records. One file with available Rorschach CS coding and an MCMI record was unable to be matched to demographic data or a raw record for Rorschach thematic coding, thus only Rorschach CS and MCMI data were analyzed for this participant.

Minimum sample sizes for the two major phases of this study were identified by use of Cohen's power table (Cohen, 1992). To ensure adequate statistical power (.80) across all analyses, necessary sample size was determined based on an alpha level of .05 and moderate effect sizes, which would suggest clinical importance. Based on these criteria, 156 participants were needed for the between-group comparisons, and 85 for the continuous analyses. In this archival data set there were 138 sexual offender records and 80 non-offender records, for a total of 218 records.

### **Protection of Human Participants**

This study adhered to the ethical guidelines for the Protection of Human Participants set forth by Alliant International University's Internal Review Board (IRB). All participants in the control group collected by McGlone (2001b) were provided with a thorough review of the purpose of the study, their rights as volunteers, and their ability to discontinue participation at any time. They each signed an informed consent and were debriefed following their participation. Identifying information was removed from the data after it was originally collected to preserve confidentiality. It is nearly inconceivable that physical or emotional harm came to the individuals whose assessments were used in the current study, as all records have no information that could connect them to particular individuals.

## Measures

**Rorschach** Uncoded Rorschach records from McGlone's (2001) research were obtained and relevant scales were coded for use in the current study

**Overall test description** The Rorschach Inkblot Method (1921) is a performance-based task designed to measure a large range of personality, perceptual, self, interpersonal, and problem-solving characteristics (G J Meyer & Viglione, 2008) As the Rorschach is one of the most widely used measures of personality in the United States, and as such, familiarity with the method is expected, an in depth description of the measure will not be provided here As it is relevant to this study however, it is important to note the sufficient evidence of the Rorschach's utility and sound psychometric properties (Weiner, 1996) As Viglione (1999) pointed out, decades of research supports the test's usefulness in predicting and evaluating outcomes, conceptualizing cases, and facilitating treatment planning

As was discussed in Chapter I, and is of particular importance in the current study, the Rorschach has been found to contribute unique information and add incremental validity to self-report measures (Gacono, Evans, et al , 2008, Donald J Viglione, 1999) In addition, it has consistently been shown to be resilient against attempts at false presentation (Gacono, Evans, et al , 2008, Grossman, et al , 2002), which is particularly relevant when assessing forensic samples Meta-analysis has also shown that the Rorschach has high temporal consistency (averaging  $r = .65$ ) for over three years, particularly when assessing trait-like characteristics (G J Meyer & Viglione, 2008) Also relevant here is that inter-rater reliabilities have been found to produce

kappas averaging above .80. Specific scales or variables need to be additionally assessed on an individual basis with regard to their reliability and validity.

The Rorschach, as it was administered according to standard CS procedures (Exner, 2005), can produce records varying greatly in length. The number of responses one gives can have an impact on interpretation, particularly with regard to content or thematic variables, whose scores are determined simply by frequency (McGuire, et al., 1995, G. J. Meyer & Viglione, 2008). As administration of the Rorschach records was completed prior to this study, response length could not be controlled via administration procedures.

***Response style*** As discussed in Chapter I, the literature suggests that response style might moderate the relationship between performance and self-report scores of the same or similar constructs (Berant, et al., 2008, Bornstein, 2002, Craig, 2008, McGuire, et al., 1995, G. J. Meyer, 1996, G. J. Meyer, 1997, 1999, G. J. Meyer, et al., 2000, G. J. Meyer & Viglione, 2008, Donald J. Viglione, 1999). Specifically, the modest or even negative correlations that have often been found in research comparing Rorschach and self-report scores are found to increase as the alignment of response styles across methods increases. By controlling for response style, a form of method variance, a clearer picture of the constructs that each test measures can be gleaned.

In this study, Complexity was used to measure response style on the Rorschach. As discussed in Chapter I, the Complexity Composite is a newer scale that has been introduced by Viglione and colleagues as part of the RPAS (Dean, 2005, McGuire, et al., 1995, G. J. Meyer & Viglione, 2008, G. J. Meyer, et al., 2010, Donald J. Viglione, 1999, D. J. Viglione, et al., 2010). Also as previously discussed, use of a similar composite,

based on an earlier version of Complexity, has been found to successfully measure response style on the Rorschach (G J Meyer, 1997, 1999, G J Meyer, et al , 2000) The Complexity score is determined by the proportion of a pre-determined set of CS structural variables present in a record These variables include measures of location, developmental quality (DQ), determinants, and contents (See Appendix E for exact formula) A complexity score was calculated for each response and then a total for each protocol was determined Higher scores are indicative of greater motivation, openness, investment, productivity, integration, and sophistication (Donald J Viglione, 1999)

Earlier research (G J Meyer, 1997, 1999, G J Meyer, et al , 2000), examining the moderating effects of response style on the relationship of Rorschach data with that of other methods (primarily the MMPI) has generally used the following strategy (which will be referred to here on out as *concordant response style analysis* for consistency and clarity) (1) correlations are examined between scores on a given construct collected using two methods of measurement, (2) high (open responders) or low (constricted responders) cases on the response style measures of each test are identified using percentiles as cut-points (typically the top and bottom third of the distribution in a dataset), (3) cases are matched based on similarly ranked response styles across the measures, (4) correlations are rerun only including concordant cases, or those similar in their style of responding (either high or low disclosing), and finally (5) correlations obtained in the original analyses are compared with those obtained when only including cases with concordant response styles

Using this concordant response style method, Meyer and colleagues (1997, 1999, 2000) repeatedly found that when participants responded similarly across methods,

regardless of being constricted or open disclosers, their scores on similar constructs across methods were positively correlated, whereas when styles were non-concordant, or dissimilar, construct scores across methods were either unrelated or negatively related. Further, Meyer (1997) attempted to partial out response style from the correlations using the entire dataset, and found the approach unsuccessful in increasing convergence between scores. This finding suggests that response style is not a linear function of personality characteristics, but rather it should be understood more as a categorical variable determined by a broader set of characteristics.

Despite the relative success of this method, there are noteworthy limitations which have been pointed out in the literature. One flaw (G. J. Meyer, 1997, G. J. Meyer, et al., 2000) is that although response styles across methods were uncorrelated initially, the method of selecting only cases that fall in the upper and lower thirds of both response style distributions forces scores to correlate on that dimension. In turn, this matching technique forces correlations between any other scales that correlate with the response style measures. This phenomenon naturally runs the risk of creating misleading results with inflated correlations. Another limitation is that by selecting only cases with concordant response styles for use in the analysis, sample sizes are diminished substantially (G. J. Meyer, et al., 2000), decreasing the power in the analyses.

In answer to the limitations of the method described above, researchers have suggested a different method, using multiple regression, to test for the moderating effects of response style on the relationship of Rorschach data with that of other methods (Aiken & West, 1991, Berant, et al., 2008). The use of multiple regression allows for the inclusion of all subjects in the analysis, and provides a more sophisticated way of

examining the moderating effects of response style in convergent validity analyses. Using this method, hierarchical multiple regression is used to determine the ability of the independent variable (Rorschach construct), the potential moderator (response style), and the interaction between the two to predict the dependent variable (MCMI construct). If an interaction is present, simple slope analyses are used to determine the specific differential influence of the moderator on the prediction of the dependent variable across the independent variable (Aiken & West, 1991, Berant, et al., 2008).

Berant and colleagues (2008) used this regression method to compare Rorschach scores with scores assessing similar constructs by several self-report measures, however, they measured response style by use of an independent self-disclosure scale. Although findings support the utility of this method, in contrast to findings of previous studies (G. J. Meyer, 1997, 1999, G. J. Meyer, et al., 2000), these researchers found that only participants that responded more openly converged on construct scores across methods. These findings suggest that influential differences between more open and closed response styles on convergence should be examined in the future. This phenomenon was also explored in the current study.

In the current study, the recommended multiple regression procedure was used to examine potential moderating effects of response style on convergent validity. More specifically, response styles on the Rorschach and MCMI (measured by Complexity and Disclosure) will be tested as potential moderators for the prediction of MCMI Narcissistic and Dependent scales by Rorschach LDS and ROD scales respectively. Further, the concordant response style analysis method used by Meyer and colleagues was also replicated for comparison.

Following is a description of each Rorschach scale used in this study

***Lerner Defense Scale (LDS)*** Two subscales of the Lerner Defense Scale (LDS), Idealization and Devaluation, were used in this study to measure narcissism on the Rorschach. As described in Chapter I, the LDS was developed by P. M. Lerner and H. E. Lerner (1980, Paul M. Lerner, 1991) to thematically measure defensive functioning on the Rorschach. Psychometrics for this scale are provided in Chapter I. Among the defensive subscales are the idealization and devaluation measures, which are thought to be measures of narcissistic personality organization (H. D. Lerner, 1988, McWilliams, 1994). As the coding procedure is independent from administration, it was able to be applied to the archival records obtained for this study.

Coding instructions for the Idealization and Devaluation subscales are as follows: Rorschach responses are evaluated for Exner's (2005) Human [H] or Quasi-Human [(H)] content. Each response that is identified as containing either of these content can potentially be coded for idealization (I) and/or devaluation (D). Each response may receive no codes (indicating the absence of whole human content, or the absence of idealized and devalued response content), a code for either idealization or devaluation, or it may be coded for both. Each variable (idealization and devaluation) should only be coded once per response, regardless of the amount of idealized or devalued content.

According to P. M. Lerner (1991), idealized content is found when the object in the response is kept distant and protected from harm, destruction, or persecutory objects. Some examples of an idealized response might be "an angelic figure," or "the bravest, strongest warrior." Conversely, devaluation is found when an object in the response is depreciated, tarnished, or spoiled. Some examples of devaluation might be "a woman

with a bird head,” or “evil, scary looking witches ” For each assigned idealization or devaluation code, a score indicating level of severity is also applied These scores are on a continuum, ranging from 1 to 5, with lower level responses indicating less pathology The levels are assigned based on three criteria (a) the figure presented or level of distortion (b), how the figure is described in terms of time and space, and (c) the actions of the figure, in terms of social acceptability of its ascribed attributes See Appendix C for specific instructions regarding the scoring of severity

Severity scores are ultimately collapsed across idealized or devalued responses, so that each individual receives a total weighted idealization/devaluation score, determined by the product of idealized/devalued responses and the severity of each response For example, if there were two instances of idealization and one instance of devaluation in a record, and the assigned severity scores were 1, 2, and 3, then the individual record would have been assigned a total idealization/devaluation score of  $(1+2+3=6)$  6

*Rorschach Oral Dependency Scale (ROD)*. The Rorschach Oral Dependency Scale (ROD) was used in this study to measure dependency on the Rorschach As discussed in Chapter I, the ROD was developed by Bornstein and Masling (2005) as a thematic measure of implicit dependency traits on the Rorschach The psychometrics of this scale are provided in Chapter I As the coding procedure is independent from administration, it was able to be applied to the archival records obtained for this study Coding instructions are as follows Each Rorschach response is coded for the presence or absence of each of the 16 indicators of oral dependency (See Appendix A) Each response may receive no oral dependency codes, one, or more than one code, indicating the presence of more than one category of orally dependent content For each indicator, a



numerical code based on the category number as laid out by Masling and Bornstein is assigned. Totals are calculated for each record with regard to each category of dependent material by adding the incidents of category numbers across responses. A composite score of dependent content is also calculated by adding the incidents of all dependent content present in the record. Lastly, the total ROD score is divided by the number of responses in the record to arrive at the ROD/R value, which represents the proportion of ROD responses in records, accounting for record length.

***Exner food response (Fd).*** Exner's Comprehensive System food response (2003) was used in this study as an additional measure of dependency on the Rorschach. This variable has been discussed as a thematic measure of primitive dependency needs. The psychometrics for this scale are provided in Chapter I. According to Exner's Rorschach Workbook for the Comprehensive System (2005), responses that should be coded for the presence of food content are those including edible items commonly consumed by humans, or items consumed by animals that are natural for their species. Each Rorschach response may receive either no code, indicating no food content, or one food (Fd) code, indicating the presence of such content. A total food content score for each record is calculated by adding the number of food content across responses. Cut-off scores have been established, and indicate that with the exception of very long records ( $R > 28$ ),  $Fd > 1$  is suggestive of dependency issues.

***Rorschach Maturity Index (RMI)*** The Rorschach Maturity Index (RMI, Stanfill, 2010) was used in this study to measure cognitive and emotional maturity and development on the Rorschach. The link between age and developmental changes on the Rorschach has been well established (L. B. Ames, Metreaux, Rodell, & Walker, 1974, L

B Ames, Metreaux, & Walker, 1971, Exner, Thomas, & Mason, 1985, Leichtman, 1996, P M Lerner, 1975) Children and adolescents generally produce Rorschach records that differ from those of adults on a variety of variables. Adults who identify with children or have immature processing might produce records that resemble child or adolescent records in this way. As discussed in Chapter I, a new quantitative scale was recently developed that is thought to be a sensitive measure of identification with children and immature processing. The RMI is a multivariable scale, based on 25 CS variables, developed to predict maturity in children, adolescents, and adults. See Appendix F for a full list of RMI variables and their corresponding weights in the equation. Specifically, the scale measures development and cognitive and emotional maturity based on a set of Rorschach variables, that when combined, are thought to capture such characteristics. The psychometrics of this scale are discussed in Chapter I.

The scale was developed based on weighted mean differences on key Rorschach variables that were found between specified age-ranges of child, adolescents, and adults in the international data and other large child non-patient samples (G J Meyer, et al , 2007, Stanfill, 2010). The RMI yields a continuous score, with higher scores suggesting greater developmental or cognitive maturity. The initial validation of the RMI consisted of comparing a group of non-patient adults (ages 26 to 45,  $n = 87$ ) to non-patient children (ages 8 to 16,  $n = 86$ ), which yielded significant higher RMI scores for adults ( $M = -0.60$ ,  $SD = 20.10$ ) than for the children ( $M = -31.61$ ,  $SD = 16.81$ , Stanfill, 2010).

***Rorschach Sexualization Scale (RSS)***. The Rorschach Sexualization Scale (RSS) was used in this study to measure sexual preoccupation on the Rorschach. As described in Chapter I, the RSS is a thematic measure of subtle and overt sexualized

content on the Rorschach (Morgan & Viglione, 1992, D J Viglione, et al , 1997) As the coding procedure is independent from administration, it was able to be applied to the archival records used in this study Coding instructions are as follows Each Rorschach response is coded for the presence or absence of each of the 19 indicators of sexualized thought content (See Appendix B) Each response may receive no sexualization codes, one, or more than one code, indicating the presence of more than one category of sexualized thought content For each indicator, a numerical code based on the category number as laid out by Viglione, Morgan, and Kabban is assigned

Totals are calculated for each record with regard to each category of sexualized material by adding the incidents of category numbers across responses In addition, five summary scores can be derived (a) General Sexual References, (b) Sexual Deviant Content, (c) Gender Related Content, (d) Thinking Problems with Sexual Content, and finally (e) the Total Sexual Scores See Appendix D for specific guidelines for calculating each summary score Refer to Chapter I for psychometrics of this scale

**Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory (MCMI).** MCMI records from McGlone's (2001) initial research were used in this study to examine convergent validity of Rorschach scales measuring dependency and narcissism

***Overall test description*** The MCMI-III (Millon, 1994) is a well validated 175 question standardized self-report measure designed to diagnose personality disorders and identify a number of other psychological syndromes in adults receiving mental health services (Craig, 2008) The test is considered valid for use in forensic populations It has also been used successfully with sexual offenders and clerical sexual offenders, and is reportedly the second most frequently used objective personality test in criminal cases

(Borum & Grisso, 1995, Chantry & Craig, 1994, Falkenhain, et al , 1999, Retzlaff, Stoner, & Kleinsasser, 2002) The MCMI was originally developed in 1977 (MCMI) by Theodore Millon, and revisions were made in 1981 (MCMI-II) and 1994 (MCMI-III, Millon & Davis, 1997)

The current, or third edition of the MCMI, contains 4 validity indices, 14 clinical personality scales, three severe personality pathology disorder scales, 7 clinical syndrome scales, and three severe clinical syndrome scales. The clinical personality scales, two of which were used in the current study (the Narcissistic and Dependent scales), were designed to align with diagnostic criteria for personality disorders as laid out in the DSM-IV (APA, 1994). The MCMI reports scores in the form of base rates, determined by the prevalence of each disorder. Higher scores indicate the presence of more features of the personality disorder being measured. The clinical personality scales cannot however, identify which particular features of the disorder are present (Craig, 2008). Because the MCMI is not intended to measure these constructs in the general population, non-clinical populations should not be expected to exceed clinical cut-offs.

***Response style*** As discussed previously, it is important to identify possible moderating effects of response style on results when assessing similar constructs across different methods of measurement. Indeed, response style has been found to influence the relationships between scores of MCMI and other measures of similar constructs (Berant, et al , 2008, Bornstein, 2002, Craig, 2008, McGuire, et al , 1995, G J Meyer, 1996, G J Meyer, 1997, 1999, G J Meyer, et al , 2000, G J Meyer & Viglione, 2008, Donald J Viglione, 1999). Teasing out such potential method variance should increase correlations between measures and can help to clarify the relatedness of the constructs.

themselves. As described in Chapter I, previous research has repeatedly identified the best measure of one's response style to be the first factor of a test, or the score or set of scores that accounts for the greatest amount of profile variability on the given measure (G. J. Meyer, 1997, 1999, G. J. Meyer, et al., 2000). The modifying index, Disclosure (X), has been identified as the best way to capture one's response style on the MCMI, as it is by far the most representative of factor 1. As such, in this study, the Disclosure modifying index (X) was used to determine style of responding on the MCMI (Millon, 1994, Millon & Davis, 1997, Retzlaff, et al., 1991b). Lower scores suggest reticence or constricted responding, while higher scores suggest greater openness in ability or willingness to report (Retzlaff, Sheehan, & Fiel, 1991a).

*MCMI-II v. III* A portion of the archival data collected by McGlone for the sexually offending clergy included MCMI-II records due to the time frame in which they were administered (McGlone, 2001b). The major difference between the MCMI-II and III with regard to the current study is the psychometrics, particularly with the test-retest reliability on the Dependent Scale being higher for the MCMI-III. In fact, most psychometric differences between the versions involve the clinical syndrome scales, which were not used in this study. McGlone (2001b) further noted that both versions of the test have shown acceptable reliability and validity. To control for the potential influence of test version on the results, this variability was statistically controlled for in the analyses.

*Narcissistic Scale* The Narcissistic Scale (scale 5) on the MCMI-III was used in this study to examine the convergent validity of the LDS scale on the Rorschach. The Narcissistic scale is a measure of narcissistic features that align with the diagnostic

category of Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD) as defined in the DSM-IV (APA, 1994) Such narcissistic features are consistent with those of the DSM-IV-TR described in Chapter I (Millon & Davis, 1997) Craig (2008) reported reliability of this scale to be .79 for both the MCMI-II and III based on a review of six research studies in the literature The Narcissistic scale has further been found to demonstrate fair (59%) positive predictive power (ability to accurately assign diagnostic labels based on the score) as reported by Gibertini, Brandenburg, and Retzlaff (1986)

***Dependent Scale*** The Dependent Scale (scale 3) on the MCMI-III was used in this study to examine the convergent validity of the ROD variable on the Rorschach The Dependent scale is a measure of dependent features that align with the diagnostic category of Dependent Personality Disorder (DPD) as defined in the DSM-IV (APA, 1994) Such dependent features are consistent with those of the DSM-IV-TR described in Chapter I (Millon & Davis, 1997) The Dependent Scale has been found to have a reliability of .68 on the MCMI-II and .83 on the MCMI-III according to a review of eight studies reported by Craig (2008) Convergent validity with clinical interviews assessing DPD has been reported to average .48 Furthermore, the positive predictive power of the scale is considered good, as it has been reported as 80% (Gibertini, et al , 1986)

## **Procedures**

As this study used archival data, this researcher was not in contact with any of the participants

As described in McGlone's original study (2001b), the clergy sex offender group data was collected from a major Catholic psychiatric treatment facility in Washington, DC The facility provided McGlone with archival Rorschach and MCMI records as well

as limited demographic information, including age, clerical position, and education. All data was kept anonymous. All evaluations took place between 1989 and 2001. Some of the offenders were only assessed at the facility, while others were assessed and treated.

McGlone recruited the non-offending, or control clergy, by sending randomized invitations to every third cleric listed in religious directories of several major metropolitan areas across the United States. These metropolitan dioceses were selected to ensure a broad national representation of clergy. The actual participation/response rate was 7-9%, or 83 clergy from seven dioceses. Control participants were each given a \$10.00 video rental gift card for their participation in the study.

McGlone met individually with each control participant for an interview and assessment battery lasting an average of two to two-and-a-half hours. Informed consent forms were signed and questions were answered. No identifying information was linked to the materials.

Participants were introduced to the study which was described as research regarding the role of sexuality and clergy in the Catholic Church. This instruction has important implications, in that the context of testing can have a substantial impact on results. Especially relevant in the current study, is the potential effect of this instruction on the RSS scores—particularly because the control group was given this instruction, and the offenders, who were tested under clinical conditions, were not.

In fact, Morgan and Viglione (1992) examined the influence of context on RSS scores by comparing sexual offenders to non-sexually offending child abusers, randomly assigned to one of two instructional sets: (a) explaining that the study was concerned with sexuality, or (b) explaining that the study was assessing the examiner's ability to

administer the test. Interestingly, results indicated that sexual offenders only provided more sexual responses than non-offenders in the sexuality instructional set condition—a context which suggested greater permissibility of sexual responses. Conversely, no differences were found between groups in the neutral instructional set condition.

Due to the unavoidable limitation of instructional set and other contextual differences across groups in the current study, such differences were controlled where possible by examining groups separately in continuous analyses, and otherwise were considered when interpreting the results.

After the initial introduction, participants were administered the MCMI and Rorschach tests, alternating administration to control for possible order effects. The Rorschach Inkblot Method was administered following standard CS procedures (Exner, 2005). Following the administration of these tests, participants were administered a demographic survey, the Marlowe-Crowne, the Sexual Knowledge Index as taken from the Multiphasic Sexual Inventory, the Personal Sentence Completion Inventory, the Sexual Activity Questionnaire, and a follow-up questionnaire. The results of these administrations are presented in McGlone's original study (McGlone, 2001b).

The current study utilized only the demographic data, MCMI protocols, and uncoded Rorschach records from the sexually offending and non-offending clergy. In addition to CS coding, Rorschach records were coded according to the instructions of each thematic scale by the primary researcher and three other trained coders. To control for experimenter bias in this study, the experimenter and additional coders were initially blind to the nature of the groups. Further, additional coders were not told about the purpose of this study until after coding was completed. Reliability checks were



completed for a total of 31 randomly selected Rorschach records to ensure interrater reliability. Agreement among the coders was calculated for CS and thematic variables (see Table 1)

Table 1  
*Inter-Rater Reliability for Rorschach Variables*

Variable	ICC
<u>CS Variables</u>	
Fd	0.87
<u>Non-CS Variables</u>	
Cmplx	0.85
LDS	0.89
<hr/>	
Variable	ICC
ROD	0.85
RMI	0.70
RSS	0.96

Fd=CS Food variable, Cmplx=Complexity Composite, LDS=Lerner Defense Scale Weighted Idealization/Devaluation subscale composite, ROD=Rorschach Oral Dependency Scale/R, RMI=Rorschach Maturity Index, RSS=Rorschach Sexualization Scale Total

### **Statistical Hypotheses**

This study used a static group mixed design, incorporating examination of both between group comparisons and continuous variable analyses

#### **Statistical hypotheses examining between-group comparisons**

Hypothesis 1 The combined group of offenders (Ephobophiles and Pedophiles) will score significantly higher on the Rorschach LDS, ROD, Fd, and RSS than will the control group of non-offending clergy

Hypothesis 2 The Pedophilic group will score significantly higher on the Rorschach LDS, ROD, Fd, and RSS than will the Ephobophilic group of sex-offenders

Hypothesis 3 The Pedophilic group will score significantly lower on the RMI than will the control group of non-offending clergy

Pre-existing group membership, a categorical variable, was the only independent variable for the between-group comparisons, or Hypotheses 1, 2, and 3 Sexually-Offending Clergy (with subgroups of Pedophiles and Ephebophiles) and Non-Sexually Offending Clergy For Hypothesis 1, there were two levels of the independent variable (a) sexually offending clergy and (b) non-sexually offending clergy For Hypothesis 2, the two levels of the independent variable were (a) pedophilic sexually offending clergy and (b) ephebophilic sexually offending clergy For Hypothesis 3, the two levels of the independent variable were (a) pedophilic sexually offending clergy and (b) non-sexually offending clergy For Hypotheses 1 and 2, there were 4 dependent variables, all of which were continuous (measuring narcissism, dependency, and sexualization) LDS Devaluation and Idealization subscales, Rorschach Oral Dependency Scale, Exner's Food response, and Rorschach Sexualization Scale For Hypothesis 3, the dependent variable was maturity, measured by the Rorschach Maturity Index

Although McGlone (2001b) found that age and education level did not have a significant impact on his results, these variables were again considered to control for any impact they may have on performance on the Rorschach scales used in the current study Complexity and record length were also examined for possible influence on other variables in the study

#### **Statistical hypotheses examining convergent validity**

Hypothesis 4 LDS Idealization/Devaluation composite scores will be positively associated with scores on the MCMI-II or III Narcissistic Scale after controlling for response style

Hypothesis 5 ROD composite scores will be positively associated with scores on the MCMI-II or III Dependent Scale after controlling for response style

There were five dependent variables for Hypotheses 4 and 5, all of which were continuous (measuring narcissism and dependency) LDS Devaluation/Idealization subscales and Rorschach Oral Dependency Scale, two non-Rorschach variables were added as criteria for the convergent validity analyses Millon's Narcissistic and Dependent Scales, and the combined response style difference score

## CHAPTER III

### RESULTS

#### **Participant Demographics**

Participant demographic data were examined in order to identify possible confounds and to provide a description of the sample for the assessment of external validity. Demographic data available for the participants included gender, age, ethnicity, level of education, and occupation. All of the participants in this study were male. The distribution of age is presented in Table 2, and descriptive data regarding ethnicity, education, and occupation are provided in Table 3. The average participant in this study was about 54 years of age, of European-American descent, had a Master's level education, and was employed as a priest. There are an estimated 42,605 priests residing in the United States. According to the Center for Applied Research (CARA, Perl & Froehle, 2002) priest poll, which surveyed over 1200 of these U.S. priests, the average age is 60, with a range of 27 to 91. Ethnicity of priests in the U.S. is distributed as 94% White, 3% Asian, 2% Hispanic, 1% African-American, and <1% Native American. Statistics on education level for direct comparison were unavailable, however, in terms of age and ethnicity, the sample used in this study is fairly consistent with the priest population in the United States. Therefore, results of this study should generalize to priests in the United States rather well.

Table 2  
*Descriptive Statistics for all Untransformed Continuous Variables for Entire Sample*

Variable	n	Mean	SD	MIN	MAX	FREQ <sup>a</sup>	MED	MODE	SK	KT
<u>Demographic Variables</u>										
Age	212	54.34	12.10	24.00	89.00		55.00	56.00	-0.01	-0.29
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>										
R	218	24.22	9.54	14.00	63.00		22.00	19.00	1.74	3.14
Cmplx	218	77.49	31.87	33.00	210.00		67.00	65.00	1.26	1.49
LDS	217	7.52	6.60	0.00	46.00	198	6.00	7.00	1.69	5.14
ROD	217	0.13	0.17	0.00	2.00	180	0.09	0.00	6.36	63.92
Fd	218	0.57	0.92	0.00	4.00	78	0.00	0.00	1.76	2.79
RMI	218	7.51	17.70	-31.76	46.78		8.45	-31.76	-0.09	-0.68
RSS	217	4.25	4.85	0.00	35.00	173	3.00	0.00	2.52	9.80
<u>MCMI Variables</u>										
Disclosure	213	35.28	19.41	0.00	89.00		35.00	20.00	0.36	-0.33
Narcissistic	213	53.20	20.45	0.00	108.00		56.00	57.00	-0.36	0.30
Dependent	213	55.87	28.31	0.00	111.00		60.00	50.00	-0.21	-1.13
<u>Response Style Variables</u>										
RSAgree	213	-1.03	0.82	-3.81	-0.01		-0.87	-1.15	-1.12	1.06

<sup>a</sup> Frequency (FREQ) represents the number of non-zero values for each variable. This descriptor is relevant only for Rorschach variables with true zero values.

R=Record Length, Cmplx=Complexity Composite, LDS=Lerner Defense Scale Weighted Idealization/Devaluation subscale composite, ROD=Rorschach Oral Dependency Scale/R, Fd=CS food variable, RMI=Rorschach Maturity Index, RSS=Rorschach Sexualization Scale Total, RSAgree=Response Style Agreement Score (higher scores = greater agreement, score of 0 = perfect agreement)

Addressing possible confounds, ANOVA, Mann-Whitney U, and Fisher's Exact Tests of Independence were run to examine groups (offenders versus controls) for differences on age, level of education, ethnicity, and occupation. For the Fisher Exact Tests, to restrict analyses to a 2 X 2 design, ethnicity was analyzed by comparing Caucasians to all other groups, and occupation was analyzed by comparing Priests to all other groups. Caucasian and Priest levels were selected due to their representing the vast majority of participants. The results of the between group comparisons are presented in

Appendices H and I Distributions by group are presented for age in Table 4, and for ethnicity, education, and occupation in Table 5

Table 3  
*Distribution of Categorical Variables for Entire Sample*

Variable	n	%
<u>Demographic Variables</u>		
Ethnicity		
European/American	190	87.2%
Hispanic	16	7.3%
Asian	5	2.3%
Total	211	96.8%
Highest Level of Education		
High School Diploma	2	0.9%
Undergraduate Degree	53	24.3%
Some Graduate School	12	5.5%
Master's Degree	122	56.0%
Some Doctoral School	1	0.5%
Doctorate	22	10.1%
Total	212	97.2%
Occupation		
Priest	185	84.9%
Religious Brother	9	4.1%
Retired Priest	7	3.2%
Teacher/Seminary	3	1.4%
Seminarian	4	1.8%
Administrative	3	1.4%
Total	211	96.8%

Data was unavailable for six participants

Controls were found to be more educated than offenders, *Mann-Whitney U* (1) = 3713.50,  $p < .01$ , and the distribution of occupations between the groups differed, *Fisher's Exact* (1) =  $p < .01$ . As such, education level and occupation were addressed as confounds in the between group analyses. As groups did not differ on Ethnicity, it was not considered a confound and it was not controlled in this study.

Table 4  
*Distributions of Continuous Variables by Group (Excluding Rorschach Variables  
 Evaluated in Hypotheses)*

Variable	n	Mean	SD	Min	Max
<u>Offenders</u>					
<u>Demographic Variables</u>					
Age	133	54.24	11.58	24.00	78.00
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>					
R	138	25.74	10.50	14.00	63.00
Cmplx	138	86.05	33.97	34.00	210.00
<u>MCMI Variables</u>					
Disclosure	133	38.07	19.73	4.00	89.00
Narcissistic	133	47.77	21.38	0.00	97.00
Dependent	133	66.45	45.42	5.00	111.00
<u>Response Style Variables</u>					
RSAgree	133	-1.14	0.91	-3.81	-0.01
Z-Cmplx	138	0.27	1.06	-1.36	4.16
Z-Disclosure	133	0.14	1.02	-1.61	2.77
<u>Control Clergy</u>					
<u>Demographic Variables</u>					
Age	79	54.52	13.00	28.00	89.00
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>					
R	80	21.59	7.24	14.00	57.00
Cmplx	80	62.22	21.72	33.00	160.00
<u>MCMI Variables</u>					
Disclosure	80	30.63	18.04	0.00	75.00
Narcissistic	80	62.24	15.02	18.00	108.00
Dependent	80	38.28	23.85	0.00	97.00
<u>Response Style Variables</u>					
RSAgree	80	-0.84	0.62	-2.88	-0.02
Z-Cmplx	80	-0.48	0.68	-1.40	2.59
Z-Disclosure	80	-0.24	0.93	-1.82	2.05

R=Record Length, Cmplx=Complexity Composite, RSAgree=Response Style Agreement Score (higher scores = greater agreement, score of 0 = perfect agreement), Z-Cmplx=Z-Score Complexity, Z-Disclosure=Z-Score Disclosure

Table 5  
*Distribution of Categorical Variables Between-Groups*

Variable	Offender n	Offender %	Control n	Control %
<u>Demographic Variables</u>				
Ethnicity				
European/American	125	90.1%	65	81.2%
Hispanic	7	5.1%	9	11.2%
Asian	1	0.7%	4	5.0%
Total	133	96.4%	78	97.5%
Highest Level of Education				
High School Diploma	2	1.4%	0	0.0%
Undergraduate Degree	49	35.5%	4	5.0%
Some Graduate School	3	2.2%	9	11.2%
Master's Degree	67	48.6%	55	68.8%
Some Doctoral School	1	0.7%	0	0.0%
Doctorate	11	8.0%	11	13.8%
Total	133	96.4%	79	98.8%
Occupation				
Priest	108	78.3%	77	96.2%
Religious Brother	8	5.8%	1	1.2%
Retired Priest	7	5.1%	0	0.0%
Teacher/Seminary	3	2.2%	0	0.0%
Seminarian	4	2.9%	0	0.0%
Administrative	3	2.2%	0	0.0%
Total	133	96.4%	78	97.5%

Demographic data was unavailable for six participants

Further analyses examining the subgroups of offenders revealed that occupation, *Fisher's Exact* (1) =  $p < .05$ , also varied significantly between pedophiles and ephebophiles, and that age difference was nearly significant,  $F(1, 131) = 3.79, p = .054$ . Distributions by subgroup for age, with pedophiles being somewhat older than ephebophiles, are presented in Table 6, and occupations are presented in Table 7. Based on these results, age and occupation were addressed as confounds in the between group analyses of subgroups. As pedophiles and ephebophiles did not differ on other



characteristics, distributions of these variables for each subgroup were not presented individually

Table 6

*Distributions of Continuous Variables between Offender Sub-Groups*

Variable	n	Mean	SD	Min	Max
<u>Pedophiles</u>					
<u>Demographic Variables</u>					
Age	70	56.60	13.09	24.00	78.00
<u>Ephebophiles</u>					
<u>Demographic Variables</u>					
Age	63	51.62	9.03	31.00	70.00

Only variables whose distributions differ between subgroups are presented  
Data were unavailable for five participants

Next, to determine whether age might influence scores on measures differentially across the groups, Pearson correlations were run to determine the relationships between age and all Rorschach and MCMI variables in this study. These correlations are presented in Appendix G (for Rorschach variables) and M (for MCMI variables). Age was significantly correlated with the RMI,  $r = -.18, p < .01$ , and so it was examined as a covariate in the analysis of that variable. Point biserial correlations were run to examine the relationships between education level, occupation, and the Rorschach and MCMI variables in this study. Although level of education differed between offenders and controls, and occupation differed between offenders and controls as well as between pedophiles and ephebophiles, neither demographic variable was significantly correlated with any of the Rorschach or MCMI scales, therefore, education and occupation were not considered confounds, and therefore was not controlled in this study. For a summary of confounds ultimately addressed in the analyses of each hypothesis, see Appendix J.

Table 7  
*Distribution of Categorical Variables between Offender Sub-Groups (N = 133)*

Variable	Pedophile n	Pedophile %	Ephebophile n	Ephebophile %
<u>Demographic Variables</u>				
Occupation				
Priest	52	72.2%	56	84.8%
Religious Brother	6	8.3%	2	3.0%
Retired Priest	6	8.3%	1	1.5%
Teacher/Seminary	1	1.4%	2	3.0%
Seminarian	3	4.2%	1	1.5%
Administrative	2	2.8%	1	1.5%
Total	70	97.2%	63	95.5%

Demographic data was unavailable for five participants

### **Examination of Distributional Characteristics of Rorschach and MCMI Variables**

All Rorschach and MCMI variables included in the hypotheses were examined for violations of normality and other parametric assumptions. Descriptive data for the full list of continuous variables in this study are presented in Table 2. Table 4 provides a breakdown of these same variables' distributions between offender and control groups, with the exception of those which were analyzed directly in the hypotheses. There is no indication that participant's scores had any influence on one another, so that independence of observations was assumed.

As discussed in Chapter II, several records from both offender and control groups were identified as missing data for some combination of demographic, Rorschach, and MCMI variables. In all cases, where data for particular variables were missing from a portion of the participants, pairwise deletion was used to include all possible data.

Normality of the distributions of all variables was determined visually, by histograms, and statistically, by skew and kurtosis values. Each of the thematic

Rorschach scales (LDS, ROD, Fd, and RSS) and record length (R, number of Rorschach responses), violated normality, with skew and kurtosis values exceeding  $\pm 1.5$  (Table 2, Meyers, Gamst, & Guarino, 2006). Univariate outliers (data points at least 3 standard deviations from the mean of a given variable) were also examined using box and stem-and-leaf plots, and were found to be extensive for each of the five variables. Because of the correlation between record length and a number of variables in this study (Appendix G), each thematic Rorschach variable was initially divided by R to determine whether outliers and abnormality were a function of the record length. These transformations did not provide more desirable distributions (see Appendix K), nor did it indicate that long records were the cause of outliers, therefore, this data transformation was not used for analyses. It should be noted, however, that dividing the ROD by R to obtain a proportion is part of the standard calculation procedure for that variable, and as such, this procedure was used in the analyses of the ROD.

Next, to correct for the violations of normality, square root transformations were made for the LDS, ROD, RSS, and R variables. This method of transformation was chosen because of the absolute zero of these scales, in addition to their being comprised of count data. Once the transformations were made, distributions were re-examined and found to be significantly improved, as skew and kurtosis values were now within  $\pm 1.5$  and the number of outliers was substantially reduced. Of those that were still present, outliers were truncated or winsorized, by shifting their value sufficiently as to fall at the closest value to the original, but within  $\pm 3$  standard deviations from the mean. The frequency data for the transformed variables with outliers truncated can be found in Table 8. See Appendix L for the descriptive data for these same variables by group before and

after the transformations. Data were also examined for multivariate outliers by calculating Mahalanobis distance scores for each participant on the combination of variables in this study, and then comparing them to a critical value. No multivariate outliers were identified.

Table 8

*Descriptive Statistics for Transformed Continuous Variables with Truncated Outliers (N=218)*

Variable	Mean	SD	MIN	MAX	FREQ <sup>a</sup>	MED	MODE	SK	KT
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>									
<sup>b</sup> SQT LDS	2.43	1.26	0.00	6.78	198	2.45	2.65	0.02	0.09
<sup>d</sup> SQT ROD	0.30	0.18	0.00	0.71	180	0.30	0.00	0.01	-0.35
<sup>c</sup> SQT RSS	1.69	1.15	0.00	4.70	173	1.73	0.00	0.18	-0.31
SQT R	4.84	0.89	3.74	7.94	NA	4.58	4.24	1.32	1.46

<sup>a</sup>Frequency (FREQ) represents the number of non-zero values for each variable.

SQT LDS=Square root of Lerner Defense Scale Weighted Idealization/Devaluation subscale composite, SQT ROD=Square root of Rorschach Oral Dependency Scale/R, SQT RSS=Square root of Rorschach Sexualization Scale Total, SQT R=Square root of record length.

<sup>b</sup>Variable with 1 truncated outlier.

<sup>c</sup>Variable with 3 truncated outliers.

<sup>d</sup>Variable with 5 truncated outliers.

Because of the low frequency and constricted range of the CS Food response, its distribution could not be improved by the transformation, therefore this variable was analyzed using non-parametric statistics. All other variables used in this study (see Table 2) had skew and kurtosis values of less than +/-1.5, and were deemed suitable for analysis.

To identify additional confounds, distributions of Rorschach complexity and record length were examined across the groups for differences between controls and offenders and between ephebophiles and pedophiles. Distributions of these variables for the offender and control groups are presented in Table 4, results of the comparisons are

presented in Appendix H. Offenders had significantly longer,  $F(1, 209) = 9.57, p < .01$  and more complex records,  $F(1, 210) = 31.25, p < .01$ , than the controls. This finding was surprising, as controls were anticipated to produce more complex records than offenders. In fact, compared to international norms ( $M = 68.04, SD = 28.29$ , G. J. Meyer, et al., 2007), control clergy produced relatively less complex records ( $M = 62.22, SD = 21.72$ ), while offenders produced highly complex records ( $M = 86.05, SD = 33.97$ ). There were no significant differences between pedophiles and ephebophiles on either record length or complexity (Appendix H), and as such, distributions of these variables for each subgroup were not presented individually.

As complexity and record length differed between offenders and controls, to ascertain whether they might operate as confounds, correlations between these two variables and the other Rorschach variables (or independent variables) in the study were evaluated (Appendix G). Record length was significantly correlated with the LDS,  $r = .26, p < .01$ , Fd,  $r = .21, p < .01$ , and RMI,  $r = .39, p < .01$ , and complexity was significantly correlated with the LDS,  $r = .39, p < .01$ , Fd,  $r = .20, p < .01$ , RMI,  $r = .68, p < .01$ , and RSS,  $r = .26, p < .01$ . Because record length and complexity were related to both independent and dependent variables in this study, they were identified as confounds and were statistically controlled in the analyses of these variables (see Appendix J for summary of confounds addressed).

To address possible confounds for the continuous analyses of Rorschach and MCMI variables (relevant to Hypotheses 4 and 5), differences between control and offender and pedophile and ephebophile groups on the MCMI and Rorschach response style variables (Complexity and Disclosure) were examined (Appendix M). Each of

these variables differed significantly across offenders and control clergy, suggesting that group membership might act as a confound in the analyses. No differences were found between pedophile and ephebophile groups on these variables. To determine the specific effects of group membership, correlations between MCMI, Rorschach, and response style variables were run separately for offenders and control clergy (Appendix O and P). For control clergy alone, the relationship between Complexity and Disclosure was significant and moderate/small,  $r = .22, p < .05$ . Conversely, for offenders, Complexity and Disclosure were unrelated,  $r = .02$ . This finding was interesting in that the more relaxed context of testing for the control clergy may have allowed these scales to act in a more natural way (with small effect size), as would be expected for the scales. This was not so in the possibly more adversarial, threatening, intense context of the examination in treatment of the offender group. Due to the differences in correlations on the response style variables between offender and controls, in addition to the primary analyses, groups were examined individually to control for group membership as a confound (see Appendix J for summary of confounds addressed).

### **Analysis of Hypotheses**

#### **Statistical analyses of group differences**

***Hypothesis 1*** Hypothesis 1 predicted that the combined group of offenders (ephebophiles and pedophiles) would score significantly higher on the Rorschach LDS, ROD, Fd, and RSS than would the control group of non-offending clergy. This hypothesis was partially supported.

MANOVA was used to test this hypothesis, in order to account for interrelatedness of the dependent variables, and to reduce the number of analyses.

necessary, thus controlling for Type I error. Prior to analyzing the hypotheses, the data were examined further to ensure that additional MANOVA statistical assumptions were satisfied. Independence of the dependent variables for this analysis were examined and determined to be sufficiently inter-related by a significant Bartlett's Test of Sphericity ( $p < .01$ ) to proceed with multivariate analysis (also see correlations in Appendix G).

Normality was addressed in the previous section, satisfying this assumption. Scatterplot matrices were generated and examined, and linearity between of the dependent variables was confirmed. Lastly, homogeneity of variance and covariance were assessed using Levene's Tests for univariate analyses and Box's M tests for multivariate analysis.

A Two-group MANOVA was used to test Hypothesis 1, comparing scores of the combined group of offenders (pedophiles and ephhebophiles) to the control group on the LDS, ROD, and RSS. The Box's M test was not significant, indicating that the assumption of equal dependent variables' covariance was supported.

Wilk's Lambda was significant,  $F(1) = 2.93, p < .05$ , partial  $\eta^2 = .04$ , indicating that groups differed across these variables when taken as a whole. Prior to assessment of each individual dependent measure, Levene's tests were evaluated and revealed that the LDS variable violated the assumption of homogeneity of variance across the groups. As such, a Mann-Whitney U test was run in addition to ANOVA for LDS in order to confirm the results using a non-parametric test. Univariate analyses revealed that offenders scored significantly higher on the ROD than controls,  $F(1, 215) = 7.85, p < .05$ , partial  $\eta^2 = .04$ , while no significant differences were found between groups on the LDS and RSS (Table 9). Recall, however, that the LDS and RSS variables were transformed using the square root function. Therefore, to determine whether the effect on these variables

might have been minimized by the transformation, an additional Mann-Whitney U test was run assessing group differences on the non-transformed RSS variable. Again, no significant differences were found between the groups on this variable.

Table 9  
*Results of Offenders (n=138) and Controls (n=79) ANOVA's and Mann-Whitney U Tests for Hypothesis 1*

Variable	F	Sig	$\eta^2$
SQT LDS	2.24	0.136	0.01
SQT ROD	7.85	0.006	0.04
SQT RSS	0.41	0.525	0.00
	Mann-Whitney U	Sig	
SQT LDS	4573.00	0.151	NA
Fd	4438.50	0.005	NA

df=1 for each comparison

As discussed previously, it was determined that the Fd variable violated the assumption of normality and could not be corrected by data transformation, therefore, this variable was assessed using a Mann-Whitney U test. Results of the analysis indicated that offenders had significantly more food responses than controls, *Mann-Whitney U* (1) = 4438.50,  $p < .01$  (Table 9). Means and standard deviations for the offender and control groups on all variables can be seen in Table 10.

Table 10  
*Means and Standard Deviations for Offenders v Controls for Select Rorschach Variables*

Variable	Offenders			Controls		
	n	Mean	SD	n	Mean	SD
SQT LDS	138	2.53	1.38	79	2.26	1.07
SQT ROD	138	0.32	0.18	79	0.25	0.18
Fd	138	0.71	1.00	80	0.35	0.75
SQT RSS	138	1.73	1.17	79	1.63	1.12



*Control of record length and complexity* Once group differences were determined, two MANCOVA's were run to control for effects of record length and complexity on the LDS, ROD, and RSS. As expected (due to the association between R and the outcome variables), there was a significant main effect for record length and LDS scores,  $F(1, 214) = 13.66, p < .001, \eta^2 = .06$ , but not ROD or RSS scores; however, when record length was controlled, there were still no significant differences found between offenders and controls on any of the variables. Recall that the ROD was divided by R as part of its standard calculation. In addition, the results indicate that record length did not moderate the relationship between group and the outcome measures.

Also as was expected (due to the association between complexity and the outcome variables), complexity was found to have a significant main effect with both the LDS,  $F(1, 214) = 33.87, p < .001, \eta^2 = .14$  and RSS,  $F(1, 214) = 16.43, p < .001, \eta^2 = .07$  scores, but not the ROD. After covarying out complexity, however, significant differences were still not found between the groups on the LDS or RSS. The results additionally indicate that complexity did not moderate the relationship between group and the outcome measures.

Because of the non-parametric statistics used to evaluate the Fd variable, it was not possible to examine records length and complexity as covariates. Instead, these confounds were addressed via blocking analysis (see pgs 95 and 96).

*Post hoc analysis of offender subgroups* As follow-up to the significant differences found between offenders and controls on the ROD and Fd variables, pedophile and ephebophile groups were compared independently to controls on these variables to determine whether either subtype of offender accounted for a greater portion

of the effect. Results of two one-way ANOVA's revealed that pedophiles [ $F(1, 150) = 4.91, p = 0.028, \eta^2 = .03, M = 0.31$ ] and ephebophiles [ $F(1, 144) = 6.70, p = 0.011, \eta^2 = .05, M = 0.33$ ] scored significantly higher on the ROD than controls [ $M = 0.25$ ], with ephebophile classification accounting for a larger effect than pedophile. Similarly, results of two Mann-Whitney U tests revealed that pedophiles [ $Mann-Whitney U(1) = 2337.50, p = 0.015, M = 0.64$ ] and ephebophiles [ $Mann-Whitney U(1) = 2101.00, p = 0.010, M = 0.76$ ] scored significantly higher on the Fd variable than controls [ $M = 0.35$ ].

*Evaluation of clinical significance* Further, to address clinical significance, a post hoc binary logistic regression was run in order to (a) determine how well each significant measure (ROD and Fd) could predict or classify group membership, and (b) to determine whether the ROD could add predictive power to Fd in the prediction of group membership. Although discriminant function analysis was originally proposed, the Fd variable was found to violate the strict assumptions of this test, therefore, logistic regression was used. To ensure that there was an absence of perfect multicollinearity, Tolerance and VIF statistics were examined, and were found to be well within acceptable values (Tolerance > .01 and VIF < 10). These tests indicated that the independent variables in the analysis were not inter-correlated to an extent that they would influence the model. The Fd variable was entered as a predictor in the first step, and the ROD as the second step. The analysis attempted to predict group membership between offender and control clergy, as these groups were significantly different on both the ROD and Fd scales.

The predictive power improved significantly from the constant only model by entering Fd,  $X^2(1) = 7.87, p < .01$  (Table 11). The model accounted for approximately

5% of the total variance between offenders and controls (*Nagelkerke*  $R^2 = 0.05$ , based on an estimate of the model) and was able to predict between these groups with a success rate of 63%, with offenders scoring higher than controls. Of note, however, is that while 100% of the offenders were classified correctly using the Fd variable, 0 were correctly classified from the control group, indicating that the scale was very sensitive, but insufficiently specific in evaluating this sample. Entering ROD as a predictor of group membership significantly improved the model beyond the influence of Fd,  $X^2(1) = 13.28$ ,  $p < .01$ . The combination of Fd and ROD scores accounted for approximately 8% of the total variance between offender and control groups (*Nagelkerke*  $R^2 = 0.08$ , based on an estimate of the model), and was able to predict group membership with a 64.9% success rate, again, with offenders scoring higher than controls. Further, while adding the ROD to the model reduced the correct classification of offenders to 91%, it managed to correctly classify 20.5% of controls, indicating that the ROD was much more specific and only slightly less sensitive than Fd in its ability to classify members of this sample correctly.

Table 11

*Results of Logistic Regression for Classification of Offenders (n=138) v Controls (n=80) as a Function of Significant Variables*

Block/Variable		Model Level				Variable Level		
	df	Chi-Square	Sig	Nagelkerke's $R^2$	% Correct	Wald	Sig	Exp(B)
Fd	1					6.63	0.010	1.63
1 (Fd)	1	7.87	0.005	0.05	63.00			
Fd	1					4.81	0.028	1.53
ROD	1					5.24	0.022	6.79
2 (Fd+ROD)	2	13.28	0.001	0.08	64.9			

Fd=CS Food, SQT ROD=Square root of ROD

*Additional exploratory analyses of record length and complexity* As

administration of the Rorschach records was completed prior to this study, record length (R) could not be controlled via administration procedures. Therefore, in addition to assessing R as a covariate, exploratory analyses were run, comparing offender and control groups and ranges of R based on high, medium, and low record length on the Rorschach variables (see Table 12 for descriptive statistics). This categorization of R has been recommended by Meyer and Viglione (2008) as part of the new R-Optimized administration procedure of the RPAS and interpretation of international norms. A significant Box's M test for this analysis indicated that the multivariate assumption of homoscedasticity (the assumption that dependent variables have equal levels of variability across the independent variables) was violated. As such, a series of three 2 X 3 ANOVA's were run to compare offenders with controls across the stratified ranges of R on the LDS, ROD, and RSS scales. A Kruskal-Wallis test was run to examine the main effects between Fd and ranges of R, and a Mann-Whitney U test was run to compare offenders and controls across split ranges of R on the Fd variable.

Results revealed an interaction effect between stratified range of R and group on the RSS [ $F(2, 211) = 3.36, p = 0.037, \eta^2 = .03$ ], but not the LDS, ROD, or Fd. As was expected (due to the associations between R and the outcome measures), main effects only were revealed for range of R with the LDS [ $F(2, 211) = 6.81, p = 0.001, \eta^2 = .06$ ] and Fd [ $\chi^2(2) = 14.64, p = 0.001$ ]. Ranges of R did not have a significant effect on the ROD. Consistent with the results of the analyses of covariates, these findings indicate that range of R did not have a differential effect on LDS, Fd, and ROD scores across the groups.

To address the interaction between ranges of R and the RSS, post-hoc pair-wise comparisons using a Tukey correction were run, which indicated no significant differences between three ranges of R on the RSS when examined individually. To examine the interaction further, t-tests were run to compare offenders and controls across the stratified ranges of R. The only significant difference between offenders and controls was found in the high R ( $> 27$ ) group,  $t(1, 48) = 2.25, p = 0.029$ . As can be seen in Table 12, however, offenders and controls have very uneven sample sizes in the high record length group, and only eight control participants were included. Due to this low and unequal sample size, a 2 X 2 ANOVA was run, again comparing the offenders and controls across the ranges of R, but this time, excluding the problematic high R range from the analysis. With the high range excluded, an interaction effect no longer existed between group membership and range of R on the RSS. The results of these analyses suggest that while record length might have a meaningful differential effect on RSS scores across the groups, the finding is inconclusive, due to sample size limitations in the high R group.

As a final post hoc analysis for Hypothesis 1, Complexity was stratified by ranges of scores based on percentiles (thirds) of the distribution, with the highest third of complexity scores being  $> 82$ , the mid range scoring between 60 and 82, and the lowest range scoring  $< 60$ . As was done for the stratified-R analysis, three 2 X 3 ANOVA's were run to compare the combined group of offenders with controls on the ranges of complexity scores simultaneously with complexity broken into ranges based on high, medium, and low scores, on the LDS, ROD, and RSS scales. As was done to examine ranges of R, a Kruskal-Wallis test was run to examine the main effects between Fd and

ranges of complexity, and a Mann-Whitney U test was run to compare offenders and controls across split ranges of complexity on the Fd variable

Table 12

*Means and Standard Deviations for Offenders v Controls with Stratified R*

Variable	Offenders			Controls		
	n	Mean	SD	n	Mean	SD
<u>R &lt; 18</u>						
SQT LDS	28	2.09	1.04	20	2.20	0.99
SQT ROD	28	0.37	0.22	20	0.29	0.19
Fd	28	0.64	0.95	20	0.35	0.81
SQT RSS	28	1.50	1.17	20	1.35	1.08
<u>R = 28 - 27</u>						
SQT LDS	68	2.48	1.48	51	2.11	1.03
SQT ROD	68	0.34	0.17	51	0.24	0.18
Fd	68	0.51	0.88	52	0.33	0.73
SQT RSS	68	1.87	1.24	51	1.59	1.01
<u>R &gt; 27</u>						
SQT LDS	42	2.90	1.35	8	3.46	0.78
SQT ROD	42	0.27	0.16	8	0.31	0.12
Fd	42	1.05	1.13	8	0.50	0.76
SQT RSS	42	1.68	1.05	8	2.64	1.38

No significant interaction effects were found between group and ranges of complexity on any of the Rorschach variables (see Table 13 for descriptive statistics). As was expected (due to the associations between complexity and the outcome measures), main effects only were revealed for range of complexity with the LDS [ $F(2, 211) = 10.33, p < 0.001, \eta^2 = .09$ ], the RSS [ $F(2, 211) = 11.27, p < 0.001, \eta^2 = .10$ ], and Fd [ $X^2(2) = 10.12, p = 0.006$ ]. Ranges of R did not have a significant effect on the ROD. Again, consistent with the results of the analyses of covariates, these findings indicate that range or level of complexity did not have a differential effect on the LDS, ROD, Fd, or RSS scores across the groups.

*Hypothesis 2* Hypothesis 2 predicted that the Pedophilic group would score significantly higher on the Rorschach LDS, ROD, Fd, and RSS than would the Ephebophilic group of sex-offenders. This hypothesis was unsupported.

Prior to analyzing LDS, ROD, and RSS variables, assumptions of homogeneity of variance and equal dependent variables' covariance were evaluated and were met, as none of the analyses produced significant Levene's or Box's M tests. As such, one MANOVA was run, which revealed no significant differences between pedophiles and ephebophiles for any of the three variables (Table 14).

Table 13

*Means and Standard Deviations for Offenders v Controls with Stratified Complexity*

Variable	Offenders			Controls		
	n	Mean	SD	n	Mean	SD
<u>Complexity &lt; 60</u>						
SQT LDS	26	1.92	1.41	50	2.01	1.13
SQT ROD	26	0.30	0.23	50	0.22	0.18
Fd	26	0.48	0.82	50	0.32	0.77
SQT RSS	26	1.32	1.31	50	1.20	0.92
<u>Complexity = 60 - 82</u>						
SQT LDS	51	2.47	1.26	17	2.27	0.51
SQT ROD	51	0.33	0.17	17	0.27	0.18
Fd	51	0.51	0.79	17	0.47	0.87
SQT RSS	51	1.77	1.16	17	2.30	0.90
<u>Complexity &gt; 82</u>						
SQT LDS	61	2.83	1.38	13	3.37	0.65
SQT ROD	61	0.32	0.16	13	0.34	0.14
Fd	61	0.95	1.17	13	0.27	0.47
SQT RSS	61	1.87	1.09	13	2.51	1.29

As discussed previously, it was determined that the Fd variable violated the assumption of normality and could not be corrected by data transformation, therefore, this variable was assessed using a Mann-Whitney U test. Results indicated no significant

difference between pedophiles and ephebophiles on the Fd variable (Table 14) Means and standard deviations for the offender and control groups for each of the four variables can be seen in Table 15

**Hypothesis 3** Hypothesis 3 predicted that the Pedophilic group would score significantly lower on the RMI than would the control group of non-offending clergy This hypothesis was not supported

Table 14

*Comparison of Pedophiles (n=72) and Ephebophiles (n=66) on Select Rorschach Variables using MANOVA/ANOVA's and Mann-Whitney U Tests*

Variable	F	Sig	$\eta^2$
Wilk's Lambda	0.42	0.742	0.01
SQT LDS	0.62	0.431	0.00
SQT ROD	0.28	0.600	0.00
SQT RSS	0.02	0.886	0.00
	Mann-Whitney U	Sig	
Fd	2314.00	0.766	NA

df=1 for each individual comparison

Table 15

*Means and Standard Deviations for Pedophiles v Ephebophiles on Select Rorschach Variables*

Variable	Pedophiles			Ephebophiles		
	n	Mean	SD	n	Mean	SD
SQT LDS	72	2.62	1.38	66	2.43	1.37
SQT ROD	72	0.31	0.17	66	0.33	0.19
Fd	72	0.64	0.89	66	0.76	1.10
SQT RSS	72	1.72	1.26	66	1.75	1.07

First in order to address statistical assumptions, normality and independence of observations were confirmed earlier in this chapter, satisfying those assumptions As in the other hypotheses, homogeneity of variance was examined for each analysis using Levene's Test, which revealed no violations



This hypothesis was examined using a one-way ANOVA, comparing pedophilic offenders to control clergy on the RMI. In contrast to what was hypothesized, results indicated that pedophiles ( $M = 9.28$ ) scored significantly higher on the RMI than the controls ( $M = 0.54$ ),  $F(1, 151) = 10.18$ ,  $p < .01$ , partial  $\eta^2 = 0.06$ .

In order to more fully understand differences across pedophiles, ephebophiles and controls on the RMI, exploratory analyses were conducted, using a one-way ANOVA, comparing pedophile, ephebophile, and control groups on the RMI. Significant differences,  $F(2, 217) = 10.39$ ,  $p < .001$ , partial  $\eta^2 = 0.09$ , were found between the three groups, and as such, post hoc pair-wise comparisons were conducted using the Tukey correction for Type I error to explain where the differences lied. The Tukey post-hoc comparisons revealed that the pedophile and ephebophile groups each scored significantly higher on the RMI than control clergy (Table 16). There were no significant differences between the pedophile and ephebophile groups on this variable. Means and standard deviations for each group are presented in Table 17. Particularly interesting, was that all of the clergy groups scored higher on the RMI than the non-patient adults ( $M = -0.60$ ,  $SD = 20.10$ , Stanfill, 2010) from the RMI validation study, suggesting greater overall cognitive maturity among clergy. As such, this unique sample characteristic needed to be considered when interpreting the results.

Table 16

*Post Hoc Pair-wise Comparisons (p-values) of Pedophiles, Ephebophiles, and Controls on the RMI*

Group	Pedophiles	Ephebophiles	Controls
Pedophiles	--	0.445	0.005
Ephebophiles	--	--	< 0.001
Controls	--	--	--

<sup>a</sup>Pair-wise comparisons run using Tukey correction

RMI=Rorschach Maturity Index

Due to the interrelatedness of the RMI, age, complexity, and record length, as discussed earlier in this chapter, this hypothesis was further examined using three one-way ANCOVA's comparing pedophiles and controls, so that effects for each variable and their impact on the RMI could be easily teased apart. Prior to these analyses, scatterplot matrices were examined for each of these variables, which confirmed that linearity was adequate to proceed with the analyses of covariance.

Table 17

*RMI Means and Standard Deviations across Groups*

	Pedophiles	Ephebophiles	Controls
Mean	9.28	12.78	10.54
SD	18.15	16.85	15.64

RMI=Rorschach Maturity Index

As can be seen in Table 18, each variable had a significant main effect with RMI scores, however, only when adding complexity to the model, did the effect of group on RMI score become non-significant. This result indicated that the variability accounted for between the groups by the RMI was flushed out when complexity was considered. This likely occurred as a result of overlap between the scales and the very large effect of complexity in this analysis.

#### **Statistical analyses of convergent validity**

**Hypothesis 4** Hypothesis 4 predicted that LDS Idealization/Devaluation composite scores would be positively correlated with scores on the MCMI-II or III Narcissistic Scale after controlling for response style. This hypothesis was supported.

Table 18

*Control of Age, Record Length, and Complexity between Pedophiles (n=72) and Controls (n=80) on RMI Scores*

Variable	F	Sig	$\eta^2$
RMI	10.18	0.002	0.06
<u>Covariates added</u>			
Age	5.21	0.024	0.03
RMI w/ Age	12.06	0.001	0.08
SQT R	22.13	< 0.001	0.13
RMI w/ SQT R	4.60	0.034	0.03
Cmplx	124.26	< 0.001	0.46
RMI w/Cmplx	0.28	0.600	0.00

df=1 for each comparison

RMI=Rorschach Maturity Index, Cmplx=Complexity Composite, SQT R=Square root of record length

Prior to testing this hypothesis, statistical assumptions were addressed. Linearity of each of the variables used in the analysis was assessed scatterplot matrices. No violations were indicated. Normality was assessed and appropriate modifications were made as discussed at the beginning of this chapter. Lastly, homoscedasticity was assessed using scatterplots which indicated normality among the errors of prediction, and thus this assumption was also met.

*Control of response style* First, to ensure that Rorschach Complexity and MCMI Disclosure best represented response style, or factor 1, for their respective measures in this study, two exploratory factor analyses using a principal components extraction and varimax rotation were conducted. Bartlett's test of Sphericity was significant for each analysis ( $p < .001$ ), indicating sufficient correlations between the variables. The factor analysis of Rorschach scales included Complexity, R, and Lambda, in order to maintain

consistency with previous Rorschach response style research (G J Meyer, 1997, 1999, G J Meyer, et al , 2000) As expected, Complexity was identified as the best representative of factor 1 on the Rorschach, with a factor loading of 0.94 Complexity was found to account for 61.14% of total variance

The factor analysis of MCMI scales included Disclosure, Debasement, and Desirability Also consistent with expectations, Disclosure was found to best represent factor 1 with a loading of .95 Disclosure was found to account for 55.43% of the total variance

Once the use of Complexity and Disclosure to represent response style was confirmed, a response style agreement score (RSAgree) was created by transforming Rorschach Complexity and MCMI Disclosure scores into z-scores, calculating a difference score between them, and then converting the difference score to its absolute value to obtain a unidirectional distance score Next, to increase ease of interpretation, each absolute value was transformed to its corresponding negative value, so that high scores would represent unidirectional agreement, rather than difference The distribution of this new variable was examined for outliers (values equal to or greater than 3 SD's from the mean), none of which were identified Further, as can be seen in Table 2, the distribution is within acceptable limits (skew and kurtosis of less than or equal to +/- 1.5) for normality For this new variable, a value of 0 would indicate complete agreement, and more negative values indicate less agreement between response styles It was predicted that the association between Rorschach and MCMI scores would be greater when the response style agreement score is higher

The Rorschach predictor variable (LDS) and the response style agreement score (RSAgree) were first centered by subtracting the mean of the variable from each of the data points of the same variable. This procedure shifts the scale, thereby placing each variable on the same scale with a mean of zero. Centering is recommended to standardize scores for ease of interpreting interaction effects, and to decrease possible effects of multicollinearity (Aiken & West, 1991). Next, an interaction term was calculated from the centered variables (Centered LDS \*Centered RSAgree).

Pearson correlations were examined between all variables in the analyses. See Appendix N for the correlations. It is notable that there was no relationship found between the LDS and the MCMI Narcissistic scale  $r = -.01$ , indicating no convergence across measures of the similar construct, narcissism.

*Evaluation of convergent validity* Once the correlations were examined, a multiple regression was used to test Hypothesis 4. Predictors were the Rorschach LDS (step 1), RSAgree response style variable (step 2), and the interaction variable of the LDS and RSAgree (step 3). The MCMI Narcissistic scale was the outcome variable. It was hypothesized that only the interaction variable would be able to significantly predict scores on the MCMI Narcissistic scale. The overall model was unable to predict MCMI Narcissistic scores,  $F(3, 209) = 1.74, p = 0.159, R^2 = .02$ . As hypothesized, only the interaction between the LDS and RSAgree score contributed significantly to the prediction of MCMI Narcissistic scores,  $t = 2.28, p = .024$ . The corrected standardized slope for the interaction variable was .16.

To clarify the nature of the interaction, and thereby determine the specific effects of moderation, simple slope analyses followed by examining the change in the MCMI

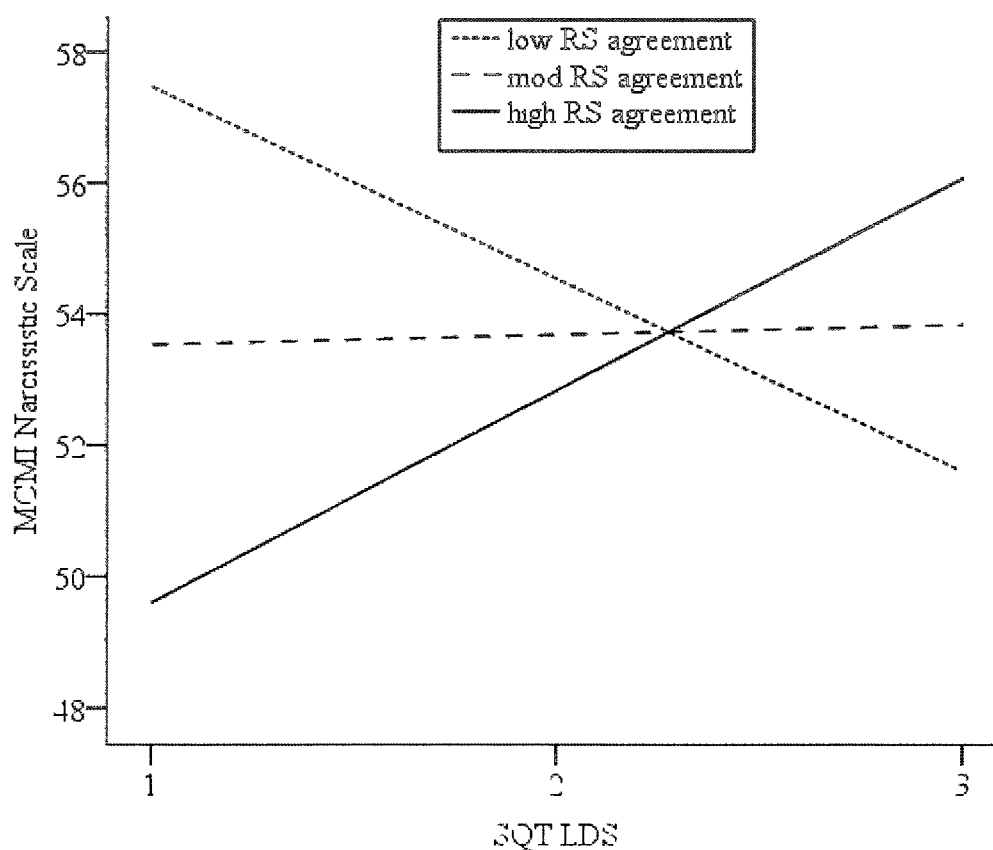
Narcissistic score as a function of the LDS score across three levels of the moderator (response style agreement). Specifically, the distribution of RSAgree was broken into three categories: high agreement (scores equal to or greater than +1 SD from the mean), moderate agreement (scores within +/-1 standard deviation from the mean), and low agreement (scores equal to or greater than -1 SD from the mean), as has been recommended in the literature as a way to compare levels of agreement in response styles (Aiken & West, 1991, Berant, et al, 2008). The main question was whether those who were high and low on response style agreement differed from one another. To determine their relationship, simple slopes were examined.

As illustrated in Figure 1, for the participants whose response style across measures was congruent (High RSAgree), the relationship between the Rorschach and MCMI scores was positive ( $beta = .16$ ). Conversely, for the participants whose response styles diverged, the relationship between Rorschach and MCMI scores was negative ( $beta = -.15$ ). For those with moderate agreement, no relationship between the scores on the two measures was found ( $beta = .01$ ). Therefore, as hypothesized, the convergence between the Rorschach and MCMI scores measuring narcissism was seen only when similarities in response style were accounted for.

*Convergent validity by group* Follow-up analyses were also conducted to control for group differences by re-running these same analyses separately for offender and control group data. First, the initial correlations between the Rorschach predictor (LDS) and MCMI outcome (Narcissistic scale) variables were examined for controls and offenders separately (Appendices O and P). No significant correlations were found between the Rorschach and MCMI measures of Narcissism.

Next, multiple regressions were run for each group using the same variables and order of entry as was done for the analysis of the entire sample. None of the LDS, RSAgree, nor the interaction variable were able to significantly predict MCMI Narcissistic scores in either independent sample. The absence of the interaction effect in these analyses suggests that the variability of response styles between groups (with offender being more complex and disclosing, and the controls being more constricted) is what might account for the majority of the power of the interaction between LDS and RSAgree to predict MCMI Narcissistic scores.

Figure 1  
*Simple Slopes for MCMI Narcissistic Scale on Rorschach LDS at Levels of Response Style Agreement (N=213)*



Low Agreement=-1SD below the mean, Moderate Agreement=at the mean, High Agreement=+1SD above the mean, SQT LDS=Square root of LDS

*Control for MCMI type in offending group* As discussed in Chapter II, a portion of the sexually offending priest data included MCMI-II records due to the time frame in which they were administered. To control for potential effects of MCMI version on the relationship between LDS and MCMI Narcissistic scale scores, MCMI type was compared among the offenders to determine whether the version effected LDS scores. Significant differences were not found between the test versions on the LDS, and as such, MCMI version was found not to confound the relationship.

*Evaluation of discriminant validity* As convergence between LDS and MCMI Narcissistic scores for the entire sample was increased when response style was controlled, a follow-up analysis was conducted to examine the discriminant validity of the LDS. To do so, the relationship between the LDS and MCMI Dependent scores was examined, as measures of different constructs across methods are expected to be unrelated. As can be seen in Appendix N, prior to accounting for response style agreement, no significant relationship was found between the LDS and the MCMI Dependent scale. Next, to ensure that the two scales would remain unrelated when response style was controlled for, a multiple regression was run, entering the LDS (step 1), RSAgree (step 2), and the interaction between LDS and RSAgree (step 3) as predictors, and the MCMI Dependent scale as the outcome variable. As anticipated, the model was not significant, and as such, congruence in responding across methods did not influence the relationship between the measures of a different construct.

*Evaluation of Meyer's concordant response style analysis* As discussed in Chapter II, additional exploratory analyses were conducted in an attempt to replicate the



method of examining the moderating effects of response style previously used by Meyer and colleagues—by examining construct validity correlations for subsets of the sample based on style of responding. The goal was to determine whether this concordant response style method would produce comparable results with the more statistically sound regression method just discussed. To begin, high and low scorers on the response style measures of each test (Complexity and Disclosure) were identified using percentiles to establish the top (High), middle (Moderate), and bottom (Low) thirds of scores on the variables' distributions. For Rorschach Complexity, the distribution of scores revealed that High >82, Moderate 60-82, and Low <60, for MCMI Disclosure, High >40, Moderate 25-40, and Low <25.

Participants were then determined to have either concordant [scores falling in the same third (High, Moderate, or Low) of the distribution on both the Rorschach and MCMI] or non-concordant (scores falling in different thirds of the distributions across measures) response styles. Only participants (N = 85, Controls = 36, Offenders = 49) with concordant response styles were selected for further analyses. The participants with concordant styles in the High range represented more open responders, while those in the Low range represented more closed or constricted responders. Only 58 (Controls = 26, Offenders = 32) participants were found to have concordant response style that fell within the High or Low disclosing ranges. Those in the Moderate range were ultimately excluded, as has been done in previous research, in order to include only more distinct responders. Finally, correlations were run between the LDS and MCMI Narcissistic scale including only these 58 cases. As can be seen in Table 19, the use of this method revealed no significant relationship between the LDS and MCMI Narcissistic scores.

Correlations were also examined according to group (Controls v Offenders) No significant findings were obtained using this method

As the initial regression analysis indicated, response style agreement was found to interact with the LDS to predict MCMI Narcissistic scores To explore this finding further, another step was to determine whether a particular type of response style was important in the prediction Specifically, among those whose response styles were concordant, would greater correlations be achieved with high disclosers than with low disclosers? To answer this question, correlations between the LDS and the MCMI Narcissistic scales were compared across the Low and High disclosure levels of Complexity and Disclosure distributions The correlation for concordant open (High) responders ( $n = 29$ ) was  $r = -0.03$ , and for constricted (Low) responders ( $n = 29$ ) it was  $r = 0.30$  Interestingly, the more constricted a participant was in their responding, the higher the convergence between MCMI and Rorschach scores measuring narcissism (See Appendix Q for descriptive statistics by degree of disclosure)

Table 19  
*Pearson Correlations between Variables for Hypotheses 4 and 5 Including Only Cases with Congruent Response Styles (N=58)*

Variable	Cmplx	SQT LDS	SQT ROD	M-Disc	M-Narc	M-Dep
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>						
Cmplx		0.57**	0.12	0.78**	-0.12	0.55**
SQT LDS			0.36**	0.57**	0.05	0.31*
SQT ROD				0.19	-0.18	0.14
<u>MCMI Variables</u>						
Disclosure					-0.13	0.67**
Narcissistic						-0.51**
Dependent						

Cmplx=Complexity, SQT LDS= Square root of LDS, SQT ROD= Square root of ROD, Significant correlations are indicated by \* ( $p < .05$ ) and \*\* ( $p < .01$ )

**Hypothesis 5** Hypothesis 5 predicted that ROD composite scores would be positively associated with scores on the MCMI-II or III Dependent Scale after controlling for response style. This hypothesis was not supported.

*Control of response style* Hypothesis 5 was tested using the same method as was used to test Hypothesis 4. To control for response style in the regression, an interaction variable was created by obtaining the product of the centered ROD and response style agreement (RSAgree) variable scores.

*Evaluation of convergent validity* Pearson correlations were examined for the relationship between the ROD and the MCMI Dependent scale (Appendix N). There was initially no significant relationship found ( $r = .03$ ), indicating no convergence across measures of the similar construct, dependency.

Once the convergent correlations were examined, a multiple regression was used to test Hypothesis 5. Predictors were the Rorschach ROD (step 1), RSAgree response style variable (step 2), and the interaction variable of the ROD and RSAgree (step 3). The MCMI Dependent scale was the outcome variable. It was hypothesized that only the interaction variable would be able to significantly predict scores on the MCMI Dependent scale. The overall model was not significant,  $F(3, 209) = 0.73$ ,  $p = 0.537$ ,  $R^2 = .01$ , and none of the individual predictors in the model were able to significantly predict scores on the MCMI Dependent scale. Accounting for the interaction, the corrected standardized slope was .03, indicating no change from the initial relationship. As such, it was determined that the scores of the Rorschach and MCMI measures of dependency did not converge, and further, that response style agreement did not significantly moderate the relationship between the ROD and MCMI Dependent scale scores. As no significant

convergent validity was found, discriminant validity was not examined for this hypothesis. Although convergence between scores was not found, it should be noted in addition to the ROD, the MCMI Dependent scale (appendix M) distinguished significantly between offenders and controls, with the offenders scoring higher on each measure.

*Convergent validity by group* As was done under Hypothesis 4, correlations were examined separately for offender and control clergy to account for group differences (Appendix O and P), and individual multiple regressions were run, which revealed no significant relationships between the measures of dependency. Due to the non-significant results of the primary convergent analysis, as well as the non-significant findings for the continuous analyses of the individual group, MCMI type was not controlled for this hypothesis.

*Evaluation of Meyer's concordant response style analysis* As was done under Hypothesis 4, subsets of the sample with concordant response styles were examined in order to compare the outcome of the method suggested by Meyer and colleagues (1997, 1999, 2000) with the regression method used in this study to test Hypothesis 5. The same 58 participants used in testing Hypothesis 4 (those with concordant response styles and who also scored in the High or Low disclosing range on Rorschach complexity and MCMI Disclosure) were retained for the analysis. Correlations between ROD and MCMI Dependent scores for those participants were examined (Table 19). As in Hypothesis 4, this method revealed no significant relationship between the ROD and MCMI Dependent scores. Correlations were also examined according to group (Controls v Offenders). No significant findings were obtained using this method.

As was done in Hypothesis 4, those whose response styles were concordant were assessed further to determine whether greater correlations between the ROD and MCMI Dependent scale would be achieved with High disclosers than with Low disclosures. Correlations between the ROD and MCMI Dependent scale were compared across the Low and High disclosure levels of Complexity and Disclosure distributions. The correlation for concordant open (High) responders ( $n = 29$ ) was  $r = - .18$ , and for constricted (Low) responders ( $n = 29$ ) it was  $r = .10$ . Similar to the findings in Hypothesis 4, the more constricted a participant was in their responding, the higher the convergence between MCMI and Rorschach scores measuring dependence (See Appendix Q for descriptive statistics by degree of disclosure).

#### Additional Exploratory Analyses

After testing each of the hypotheses, exploratory post hoc analyses were run in an attempt to glean additional information about the Rorschach and MCMI scales used in this study, as well as to determine whether group differences exist on several additional Rorschach CS variables.

**Non-Comprehensive System Rorschach variables.** As discussed in Chapter II, the ROD and RSS thematic scales used in the primary analyses were composite scores, made up of subcomponents of each scale. These sub-components of the ROD and RSS scales were explored here to identify potential group differences. As these individual scale items have low frequencies and very constricted distributions, a series of non-parametric tests were used to analyze them.

First, the ROD was broken down into its components to determine which items were responsible for the groups differences found on the scale in Hypothesis 1. The

ROD consists of 16 items (Appendix A) Mann-Whitney U tests were run, comparing sexual offenders and controls on each of these variables Four variables (1 Food and Drinks, *Mann-Whitney U* (1) = 4518.00,  $p = .014$ , 7 Food Organs, *Mann-Whitney U* (1) = 3716.50,  $p < .001$ , 9 Nurturers, *Mann-Whitney U* (1) = 4567.50,  $p = .001$ , and 13 Passivity and Helplessness, *Mann-Whitney U* (1) = 5016.50,  $p = .010$ ) were found to be significantly different across the groups, with higher scores being associated with sexual offending on each measure All of these were in support of Hypothesis 1 Appendix R presents the descriptive data for all ROD subcomponents by group An additional Mann-Whitney U test was run to compare ephebophiles to pedophiles on the ROD's subcomponents No significant differences were found between the pedophile and ephebophile groups

The RSS scale is composed of 19 individual items (Appendix B) As discussed in Chapter II, in addition to the Total RSS score which was analyzed for Hypotheses 1 and 2, the scale can be broken down into four summary scores Sexual References, Sexual Deviant Content, Gender Related Content, and Thinking Problems with Sexual Content (Appendix B)

To determine whether groups differed on the summary scores of the RSS, Mann-Whitney U tests were run to compare the sexual offenders with the controls, which produced no significant findings In addition, summary scores were compared between ephebophiles and pedophiles, which also revealed no significant results

Next, the 19 individual items of the RSS were analyzed using additional Mann-Whitney U tests, again assessing for difference between the sexual offenders and control clergy Only two variables (8 Romantic Interactions, *Mann-Whitney U* (1) = 4813.50,  $p$

= .017, and 14 Sex Responses with Special Score, *Mann-Whitney U* ( $U = 4806.50, p = .033$ ) were found to be significantly different across the groups, with higher scores being associated with sexual offending on each measure. These findings were in support of Hypothesis 1. These findings should be interpreted with caution, however, as the two significant findings out of a test of 19 variables, suggests that at least one of these results is likely due to chance. Appendix S presents the descriptive data for all RSS subcomponents by group. An additional Mann-Whitney U test was run to compare ephebophiles to pedophiles on the ROD's subcomponents. No significant differences were found between the pedophile and ephebophile groups.

One additional analysis was run to determine whether there was a difference in how groups responded on the CS sex score (Sx) compared to the more subtle RSS score. First, differences between offender ( $M = 91, SD = 1.30$ ) and control ( $M = 1.16, SD = 1.96$ ) groups on Sx were analyzed using a Mann-Whitney U test, which resulted in no significant differences. Next, two biserial correlations were run, one relating group (offenders v. controls) to Sx ( $r = -.07$ ), and the other relating group to the total RSS score ( $r = .04$ ). No significant relationship was found between group membership and either measure of sexual preoccupation, suggesting no difference in the ability of the RSS and CS Sex scores to distinguish between sexually offending and control clergy in this sample.

**Additional continuous analyses** Next, the incremental validity of the ROD was explored, by comparing the scale's ability to predict group membership over that of the MCMI Dependent scale. Incremental validity was not evaluated for the LDS and MCMI Narcissistic scales, as the LDS was not able to statistically distinguish between sexually

offending and non-offending clergy. In addition, in contrast to the LDS, higher scores on the MCMI Narcissistic scale were associated with controls rather than offenders, and as such, the scales' determination of group membership was contradictory.

*Evaluation of incremental validity of ROD over MCMI Dependent scale.* An exploratory post hoc analysis was conducted to determine whether the ROD would increment over the MCMI Dependent scale in predicting offender/control group membership in this study. To explore this possibility, a logistic regression was run with the MCMI Dependent scale entered as the predictor in step 1, and the ROD entered as an additional predictor in step 2. The dependent variable was group membership. As can be seen in Table 20, the MCMI Dependent scale significantly added to the prediction of group membership over that of the constant-only model,  $\chi^2(1) = 56.92, p < .01$ . The model with this scale included accounted for approximately 32% of the total variance between offender and control groups (*Nagelkerke*  $R^2 = .32$ , based on an estimate of the model), and was able to predict group membership with a 75.4% accuracy rate, with offenders scoring higher than controls (See Table 4 for descriptive statistics).

Table 20

*Logistic Regression for Classification of Offenders (n=133) and Controls (n=80) as a Function of ROD and MCMI Dependent Scales*

Variable/Block #	Model Level					Variable Level		
	Df	Chi-Square	Sig	Nagelkerke's $R^2$	% Correct	Wald	Sig	Exp(B)
M-Dep	1					43.29	<.001	1.04
1 (M-Dep)	1	56.92	<.001	0.32	75.40			
M-Dep	1					43.40	<.001	1.05
ROD	1					8.04	0.005	14.58
2 (M-Dep+ROD)	2	65.45	<.001	0.36	75.80			

M-Dep = MCMI Dependent scale, ROD=Square root of ROD



Adding the ROD to the model also was also found to significantly account for unique variance in the prediction of group membership  $\chi^2(2) = 65.45, p < .01$ . The combined model accounted for approximately 36% of the total variance between offender and control groups (*Nagelkerke*  $R^2 = .36$ , based on an estimate of the model), and was able to predict group membership with a 75.8% accuracy rate, with offenders again scoring higher than controls (See Table 10 for descriptive statistics). The results of this analysis indicate that the ROD did add incremental validity over the MCMI Dependent scale in distinguishing offenders from controls.

**Comprehensive System variables** Lastly, a final set of Mann-Whitney U tests and a one-way ANOVA were conducted to determine whether differences would be found between sexually offending and control clergy on the CS variables: PER (Personalization), MOR (Morbid Response), DEPI (Total Depression Index), AB (Abstract Response), Intellectualization Index, and S (Space response). These variables were selected based on the literature discussed in Chapter I, suggesting the association between sexual offenders or child molesters and narcissism, poor self-esteem, depression, dysthymia, dysphoric rumination, the use of rationalization and intellectualized defenses to cope, and guardedness.

Prior to analyzing these additional variables, distributions were examined (See Appendix T for all descriptive statistics). First, outliers were identified and truncated to fall within three standard deviations of the means. Next, skew and kurtosis statistics were examined, as well as normality plots. It was determined that the violations of normality (skew or kurtosis values over  $\pm 1.5$ ) by PER and AB variables, and the low frequency count of PER, AB, and MOR, made them good candidates for the non-parametric

statistics. In addition, S violated the assumption of homogeneity of variance (by a significant Levene's test), and as such, non-parametric Mann-Whitney U tests were used to examine PER, AB, MOR, and S variables. The Intellectualization Index was transformed to its square root (SQT INT) and no longer violated the assumption of normality. DEPI was deemed to have a high enough frequency counts (non-zero values) and it was normally distributed. As such, SQT INT and DEPI variables were suitable for parametric statistics, and as such, were analyzed using ANOVA's.

Four of the six variables (PER, *Mann-Whitney U* (1) = 2895.50,  $p < .001$ , MOR, *Mann-Whitney U* (1) = 4161.00,  $p = .001$ , DEPI,  $F(1, 216) = 4.49$ ,  $p = .035$ , partial  $\eta^2 = 0.02$ , and SQT INT,  $F(1, 216) = 9.49$ ,  $p = .002$ , partial  $\eta^2 = 0.04$ ) were found to be significantly different across the groups, each with higher scores being associated with sexual offending. No significant differences were found between groups for AB or S variables. Appendix U presents the descriptive data for each of the six variables by group. These findings suggest that the sexually offending clergy are prone to personalization, depression, and reliance on intellectualization for coping than the non-sexually offending clergy.

## CHAPTER IV

### DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was two-fold. One objective was to determine whether the clerical sexual offenders in this study are more narcissistic, dependent, immature, and sexualized relative to the non-offenders using several Rorschach scales, while addressing limitations of past research in this area. Determining these characteristics would help to shed light on this special population of sexual offenders, and describe how they are similar or dissimilar to non-clerical sexual offenders. The secondary purpose was to test the criterion validity of two Rorschach scales (LDS and ROD), thus assessing their generalizability to a clerical population and adding to the current pool of research on assessment of clerical sex offenders.

Due to the lengthy and complex nature of the results in this study, including many analyses for interpretation, a brief synthesis of salient findings is warranted prior to discussion of the interpretation. With regard to the evaluation of differences between sexually offending and non-offending clergy, three major findings were revealed. (1) As predicted, dependency was found to be associated with sexual offending among clergy, as measured by ROD and Fd scales, (2) in contrast to what was hypothesized, sexual offending among clergy was associated with lower levels of cognitive maturity, as measured by the RMI, and (3) complex response style, as measured by Rorschach complexity, was found to be associated with sexual offending among clergy, a finding

which was unexpected based on previous research (Bridges, et al , 1998, Gacono, Meloy, et al , 2008) (Exner, 2003, G J Meyer, et al , 2007) No notable differences were found between sexual offending and non-offending clergy on measures of narcissism and sexualization In addition, no differences between pedophiles and ephebophiles were found on any of the constructs examined

With regard to the continuous analyses, as hypothesized, LDS idealization and devaluation were associated with scores on the MCMI Narcissistic scale after controlling for response style across the methods Conversely, the ROD was not associated with the MCMI Dependent scale

### **Evaluation of Narcissism, Dependency, Immaturity, and Sexualization among Sexually Offending Clergy**

The following section provides a discussion of the findings for the between group analyses in this study in an attempt to shed light on the question How do clergy who sexually offend compare with clergy who do not offend? These findings are interpreted in light of previous research regarding non-clerical and clerical sexual offenders, as well as non-offending clergy

**Narcissism** In contrast to what was hypothesized, offenders did not score significantly higher than controls on the Rorschach LDS, indicating that sexual offending in these clergy was not associated with a higher degree of primitive narcissistic defenses of idealization and devaluation, as expressed through Rorschach responses Heavy reliance on these defenses is believed to be strongly associated with narcissistic personality organization (H D Lerner, 1988, McWilliams, 1994), and reflect the object relations of individuals with narcissistic personality characteristics (Cooper, et al , 1988,

McWilliams, 1994) This type of defensive functioning could play into the way an offender devalues his victims, and justifies his behaviors

In order to better interpret this result, LDS scores from the clergy samples in this study were compared with scores of other groups in the literature. Of the few studies that have published comparison data for the LDS, scores for the Idealization and Devaluation subscales were only presented separately. As such, these separate scores were calculated for the clergy samples so that direct comparisons could be made. The control priests in this study produced Idealization scores of  $M = 2.85$  ( $SD = 3.12$ ), and Devaluation scores of  $M = 3.42$  ( $SD = 4.20$ ). The closest sample available for comparison in the literature appears to be a sample of undergraduate university students enrolled in psychology courses ( $n = 50$ ), whom produced Rorschach records with Idealization scores of  $M = 1.90$ , Devaluation scores were not presented in that study (Hilsenroth, et al., 1997). Other research, despite the less closely matched samples, provided scores for both Idealization and Devaluation subscales. Specifically, a sample of female college students ( $n = 20$ ) produced Idealization scores of  $M = 0.79$  ( $SD = 0.20$ ) and Devaluation scores of  $M = 0.24$  ( $SD = 0.21$ ), and a sample of ballet students ( $n = 32$ ) produced Idealization scores of  $M = 0.47$  ( $SD = 0.32$ ) and Devaluation scores of  $M = 0.50$  ( $SD = 0.31$ ) (P. M. Lerner & Van-Der Keshet, 1995).

Clearly, the control priests in this study scored relatively higher on the LDS Idealization and Devaluation subscales than other control samples found in the literature, suggesting a higher baseline for narcissism scores among clergy. The directionality of this finding is not very surprising, as clergy are perceived to be in a role of being close to God, venerated, knowledgeable, and so forth. Due to the expectations placed on them to

uphold this public persona, and the likely internalization of such demands, some amount of narcissism would be expected

When compared to LDS data in the literature for samples of patients meeting criteria for NPD, however, one study ( $n = 12$ ) found Idealization scores of  $M = 4.80$  (Hilsenroth, et al, 1997), and another ( $n = 17$ ), Idealization scores of  $M = 4.59$  and Devaluation scores of  $M = 4.83$  (Hilsenroth, et al, 1993). These data suggest that although clergy appeared to score relatively higher on the LDS Idealization and Devaluation scales than other non-patient samples, they score relatively low on these scales compared to NPD patients. This finding is consistent with that of the McGlone (2001b) study, which evaluated this same clergy sample using the MCMI Narcissistic scale and found that the non-offending clergy did not demonstrate clinically significant levels of narcissism.

Sexually offending clergy in this study produced records with relatively lower Idealization ( $M = 3.97$ ,  $SD = 4.62$ ) and only slightly lower Devaluation scores ( $M = 4.26$ ,  $SD = 4.67$ ) than the samples with NPD available in the literature. As such, while differences between the clerical groups were not large enough to be significant, clergy in general appear to score somewhat higher on Idealization and Devaluation than non-patient samples. The clerical sexual offender's scores in particular, are fairly high on this scale, suggesting some possible narcissistic traits.

This finding is somewhat consistent with previous studies on clerical sexual offenders, which have offered mixed results with regard to the assessment of narcissism. Gerard, et al (2003) found clerical sexual offenders to have higher rates (but not significant) of narcissistic features when compared to non-sexually offending clergy—the

same outcome of this study. In another study, an additional sample of clerical sexual offenders was found to have significant self-reported narcissistic traits (Falkenhain, et al, 1999). In contrast, however, McGlone (2001b), using the same sample as used in the current study, found no significant differences between the clerical sexual offenders and non-offenders on Exner CS structural variable, r (reflection responses), as an indicator of narcissism. McGlone also compared these same groups on the MCMI-II and III Narcissistic Scale and found significantly lower levels of narcissism in the offending clergy than in the non-offending clergy.

The research on non-clerical sexual offenders, including pedophiles, has found this group to have narcissistic personality traits, such as an elevated self-interest, damaged sense of self, and grandiosity compared to non-offenders (Bridges, et al, 1998, Gacono, Meloy, et al, 2008, Levin & Stava, 1987, G. J. Meyer, et al, 2007), as measured by the MMPI, as well as Rorschach reflection, egocentricity index. While the results of this study suggest that clerical sexual offenders might differ from non-clerical offenders, in that in this study, they were not significantly more narcissistic than non-offenders, the relatively higher LDS scores among control clergy compared to other non-patient samples suggest that the baseline for narcissism is higher among clergy. Since non-clerical sexual offender LDS scores are unavailable for comparison, it is difficult to determine how non-clerical and clerical sexual offenders would specifically compare on the measure.

While it is quite possible that clerical sexual offenders are unique from non-clerical offenders, in that they cannot be characterized as more narcissistic than non-offending clergy, it is important to consider other possible explanations for the non-

significant differences between the groups. One possibility has to do with the offenders in this study having been caught offending, and being in treatment as a consequence. After being seen by others as representing Godliness, purity, and trust for such a time, being caught for an act such as sexual abuse of a minor would shatter these men's image by those who respected them, and by the institution, leaving them entrenched in shame. As such, any narcissistic defenses that may have been operating prior to their exposure, would likely have since weakened, and therefore could not be expected to have been operating with the same intensity at the time of evaluation.

Other possibilities are concerned with the LDS as a measure of narcissism. While the scale is thought to be a more specific and sensitive measure of narcissism than CS measures (Bridges, et al, 1998, Cooper, et al, 1988, Paul M Lerner, 1991), perhaps the scale is not specific and sensitive enough to detect such differences between groups within clergy samples, as clergy overall produce relatively higher LDS scores than non-clergy samples. Perhaps this difference is related to clergy being more educated, intelligent, or their holding more admired positions in their communities.

**Dependency.** As hypothesized, offenders scored higher than controls on both of the Rorschach measures of dependency (ROD and Fd), indicating that sexual offending in clergy was associated with a greater degree of oral dependency, or implicit and possibly unacknowledged dependency strivings (Bornstein, 1998, Bornstein & Masling, 2005).

According to psychoanalytic theory, the dependent person relies excessively on others for nurturance, support, and direction. As adults, they can experience difficulties in their interpersonal relationships and/or develop an unhealthy dependence on non-



human objects, such as substance, alcohol, or food. As Exner (2003) noted, these individuals are also likely to display a number of passive and dependent features, including having a somewhat immature or naive view of relationships, often placing excessive expectations on others and putting their own needs ahead of others. Difficulty establishing and maintaining age-appropriate interpersonal relationships might lead these dependent individuals to turn to those who are less mature or have lower expectations of them as potential partners.

In order to better interpret this result, ROD scores from the clergy samples in this study were compared with scores of other groups in the literature. The most suitable non-patient sample data available for comparison with the non-offending clergy was that of college students. The non-offending clergy (see appendix L for non-transformed descriptive data) were relatively less orally dependent than college students ( $M = 13$ ), as measured by the proportion of orally dependent (ROD) themes present in the Rorschach responses of 21 samples of college students (Bornstein & Masling, 2005). Further, one study presented means by gender for ROD scores in a non-personality disordered control sample of college students (note that mean was used rather than the typical proportion). The mean of ROD scores for the control clergy in this study was  $M = 2.00$  ( $SD = 1.99$ )—perhaps slightly lower than the male college sample ( $n = 30$ ,  $M = 2.30$ ,  $SD = 1.41$ ) (Bornstein, 1998). Based on this comparison, it appears that the control clergy have somewhat of a lower baseline for dependency than other non-patient samples.

This finding is particularly interesting, as clergy might be expected to produce more responses scoreable for some of the ROD categories than non-clerical samples. Specifically, content such as praying (ROD 6) and nurturers (ROD 9) would likely be

inflated among clergy, due to the strong presence of such imagery in their lives. As such, these responses should be viewed with caution, as they may not be true indicators of dependent traits in clerical samples. As a result, the overall baseline of clergy ROD scores might be artificially inflated to some extent.

In contrast to their pattern of responding on the ROD, control clergy scored relatively higher on oral dependency than those in the normative CS international sample, as measured by scores on the Fd variable (G. J. Meyer, et al., 2007), however they did not score in the clinically significant range. Additionally, using the same sample used in this study, McGlone (2001b) found that the non-offending clergy did not demonstrate clinically significant levels of dependency as measured by the MCMI.

Despite the higher level of dependency among the sexually offending clergy in this study relative to the non-offending clergy, the offenders (absolute  $M = 3.50$ ,  $SD = 4.39$ ) were slightly less orally dependent compared to a sample available in the literature of men meeting criteria for DPD ( $n = 11$ ,  $M = 4.10$ ,  $SD = 2.28$ ), as measured by mean ROD scores (Bornstein, 1998). This comparison suggests that sexually offending clergy, although more dependent than non-offenders, are not dependent to a clinically significant degree.

Separate analyses of the pedophilic and ephebophilic clergy in this study revealed that each subgroup of offenders was significantly more orally dependent than the non-offenders. In other words, clergy who sexually offended against minors, whether pre or post-pubescent, were more orally dependent than non-offending clergy.

ROD scores were further analyzed to determine differences between groups on the 16 individual items of the scale. Results of these analyses indicated that sexual

offending was specifically associated with greater preoccupation with food and drink, food organs, nurturers, and passivity and helplessness in clergy, as expressed through Rorschach responses. These results suggest dependent traits such as neediness, clinginess, high expectations of others, and reliance on others or objects for comfort or soothing.

Both measures of oral dependency were useful in distinguishing sexually offending clergy from non-offending clergy, however, ROD scores incrementally added to the ability to correctly classify members of these groups over Food scores alone. In addition, ROD scores were found to be much more specific than Food scores, while both measures were relatively sensitive. These findings suggest some practical value of using the ROD to measure oral dependency in clergy. Although Food scores were useful, this single measure is included in the multi-component ROD scale (ROD 1 = Food and Drink), and thus scoring of the ROD would account for food responses. This finding is consistent with ROD replacing CS Food in the newly presented Rorschach Performance Assessment System (R-PAS) (G. J. Meyer, et al., 2010). While clearly neither dependent measure (ROD or Food) could be used independent of other measures to identify sexual offenders among clergy, the findings suggest that oral dependency does account for some portion of what differentiates those who sexually offend from those who do not.

In addition, an exploratory analysis evaluated the ROD along with the MCMI Dependent scale, and revealed that the ROD accounted for unique variance associated with sexual offending, not accounted for by the MCMI Dependent scale. As such, practically speaking, the ROD added incremental validity over the MCMI Dependent scale, and thus proved a valuable measure.

This study's finding of dependency among sexually offending clergy is consistent with previous research on clerical sexual offenders, which suggested higher rates of dependent traits, pathological and non-adaptive patterns in interpersonal relationships, passivity, and agreeableness, measured by various self-report tests and the Rorschach texture variable (Bryant, 2002, Falkenhain, et al , 1999, Gerard, et al , 2003, McGlone, 2001b)

A number of studies have found non-clerical pedophiles and child molesters to have dependent traits, arrested psychosexual development, emotional immaturity, low assertiveness, passivity, ineffectiveness in their relationships, deficiency in social skills, and avoidant tendencies, as measured by MMPI, MCMI, and Rorschach food and ROD scales (M A Ames & Houston, 1990, Bridges, et al , 1998, Chantry & Craig, 1994, Cimboic, et al , 1999, Gacono, Meloy, et al , 2008, Huprich, et al , 2004, Levin & Stava, 1987, Okami & Goldberg, 1992, Overholser & Beck, 1986) Results of this study suggest that clerical sexual offenders resemble non-clerical sexual offenders with regard to dependent traits

**Immaturity.** In contrast to what was hypothesized, sexually offending clergy were found to be more cognitively mature, as measured by the RMI, than the non-offending clergy, suggesting less mature processing

This is not to say that non-offending clergy should be understood as cognitively immature. The control clergy in this sample demonstrated relatively higher cognitive maturity as measured by the RMI than the non-patient adults ( $M = -0.60$ ) used to validate the measure in a previous study (Stanfill, 2010). As such, both groups of clergy in this study were relatively more cognitively mature than those in the general population,

suggesting a higher baseline for maturity among clergy samples. When examined individually, both pedophiles and ephebophiles were more cognitively mature than the non-offenders. The unexpected finding in this study regarding maturity is inconsistent with previous research on clerical sexual offenders which has suggested emotional underdevelopment and immaturity in this population (Falkenham, et al , 1999)

Upon further exploration, it was determined that the variance between offending and non-offending clergy on the RMI was subsumed when complexity was considered. While the overlap between complexity and RMI scores makes it difficult to determine whether cognitive maturity independent of complexity is associated with sexual offending, it is also important to consider that a large piece of cognitive maturity is the development of more complex processing. In general, the Rorschach measures processing—and other aspects of maturity more weakly, or less specifically. In a sample such as this, a more specific measure would be necessary to detect any true difference in cognitive maturity—one that is able to overcome the complexity differences between the groups.

Complexity, used to represent Rorschach response style in this study, was evaluated to determine whether group differences existed that might moderate the relationship between sexual offending and scores on the other variables examined. In contrast to what would be expected of sexual offenders, clerical sex offenders produced much more complex records than non-offending clergy, suggesting that the offenders had greater cognitive flexibility, engagement, and productivity on the Rorschach (Donald J Viglione, 1999). This finding was unexpected, as previous research on sexual offenders suggests they are typically rather guarded. In addition, offenders tend to oversimplify

their environment and may be resistant or oppositional toward others, leading to less engagement in the testing process (Bridges, et al , 1998, Gacono, Meloy, et al , 2008)

To determine how clergy in general compare with other non-patient samples on complexity, control clergy scores were compared with those of the international normative sample. Counter to what might be expected of the older and more educated clergy, the international sample produced relatively more complex, open, and engaged records, indicated by higher scores on Rorschach complexity. While this finding might suggest a lower baseline for complexity among clergy, one needs to consider that the control clergy's responding may have been defensive due to the sensitive nature of the initial data collection (the purpose of the study described as investigating sexual knowledge)

The question remains as to why sexual offending was associated with complexity among clergy. One possible explanation for this unexpected finding is the differences in evaluation context across the groups. The control priests in this study could have been guarded or defensive in their responding to some extent due to the nature of the evaluation. Conversely, the sexually offending clergy were evaluated as part of treatment after being caught offending. Perhaps the offenders scored higher on complexity because they were trying to present themselves in a positive way and as forthcoming or engaged in the testing process, in an attempt to sway the evaluation in a positive direction, or rather, offenders may have genuinely been more engaged in the evaluation for the purpose of learning more about themselves with a desire to progress in treatment.

Alternatively, the offending clergy, being evaluated after their behavior was exposed, would very likely have been ruminative, preoccupied, and discouraged in the

face of the insult and humiliation surrounding their predicament. Such mental processes could have accounted for the highly complex records produced by the offenders. Indeed, it is understandable that these clergy, who had long been well-respected and admired members of their community, would experience conflicted and complex thoughts and feelings in the face of such devastation and challenges to their sense of identity. If these offenders were in other circumstances, namely in a non-adversarial evaluation context, their responding would likely look quite different.

Previous research on style of responding among clerical sexual offenders has offered conflicting findings. While some research using the MMPI found that clerical sexual offenders were high on defensiveness and mistrust (Plante & Aldridge, 2005), other research combining results from the NEO-PI-R, MMPI-2, and MCMI-II found clerical sexual offenders to be agreeable, undefended, and open and honest in responding (Falkenham, et al, 1999). The results of the current study are consistent with the second set of findings, and lend support to the idea that clerical offenders are more engaged and disclosing than would be expected of an offending group.

**Sexualization.** Also in contrast to what was hypothesized, offenders did not score significantly higher than controls on the Rorschach RSS, indicating that sexual offending in these clergy was not associated with sexual preoccupation, as expressed through Rorschach responses. Increased sexualized thought content, or preoccupation with sexuality or sexual activity has been found to be associated with sexual disturbance and an increase in recidivism among child molesters (Morgan & Viglione, 1992, Prentky, et al, 1997).

Although offenders and controls did not significantly differ on their total RSS scores, the 19 individual items of the RSS were nevertheless analyzed to determine whether there were differences between groups on any particular items. Results of these analyses suggest that sexual offending might be associated with greater preoccupation with romantic interactions and distorted or bizarre sexual content (sex responses paired with special scores) in clergy, as expressed through Rorschach responses. As noted in the previous chapter, however, at least one of these two findings is likely due to chance, as 19 individual analyses were run, only to detect the two significant results.

Overall, the non-significant findings for this measure are inconsistent with previous research involving this population, which found clerical sexual offenders to produce a greater number of sexualized Rorschach responses, and to be sexually preoccupied, disturbed, and conflicted (Falkenhain, et al , 1999, Gerard, et al , 2003)

Non-clerical sexual offenders have been found to provide significantly greater numbers of sexualized responses on the Rorschach than normative groups (Bridges, et al , 1998, Morgan & Viglione, 1992). While of course it is possible that clerical sexual offenders are truly unique from non-clerical offenders, in that they do not tend to be more sexually preoccupied than non-offenders, it is important to consider other possible explanations for the non-significant differences between the groups.

For example, one possible explanation is the contextual differences between the groups at the time of evaluation. Specifically, participants in the control group were introduced to the study which was described as research regarding the role of sexuality and clergy in the Catholic Church. The offenders, who were tested under clinical conditions, were naturally not given this information. As discussed in previous chapters,



research examining the effect of instructional set on RSS scores revealed that sexual offenders only provided more sexual responses than non-offenders in a permissive sexuality instructional set condition, and not a neutral testing condition (Morgan & Viglione, 1992). As such, in other evaluation circumstances, or if the purpose of the evaluation was presented differently, perhaps the pattern of responding across the groups would have been different. Specifically, it is possible that the offenders in this study would have scored higher, and the controls lower on the RSS, had the instructional sets (testing/neutral v. permissive sexuality) been alternated across the groups.

The contextual differences between groups in the evaluation procedure might also help to explain the contradictory results found by Gerard, et al. (2003), where ephebophilic sexually offending clergy ( $M = 6.30$ ) scored higher on the RSS than clergy with non-sexual disorders ( $M = 4.24$ ), all of which were inpatient, with both groups tested under neutral conditions. Despite this possibility, the offenders in the current study (see appendix L for non-transformed data) still scored much lower on the RSS than the clerical ephebophilic group in Gerard et al.'s study, and even more so than a non-clerical sexually offending group ( $M = 10.00$ ) used in the Morgan and Viglione study (1992).

Another possible explanation for the non-significant finding has to do with the RSS as a measure of sexualization. Scoring of the RSS, like the CS sex response, requires fairly overt sexualized content in responding, although perhaps somewhat less than for the CS. As such, while the RSS scale is thought to be a more specific and sensitive measure of sexual preoccupation than the CS Sex measure, control over giving such responses is still greater than some of the less face valid Rorschach scores. Perhaps any true differences that may have been detected between groups were minimized due to

withholding of sexual themes in responses among the offenders, who were in treatment for sexual offending at the time of the evaluation

**Exploratory findings.** Of the six exploratory analyses of Rorschach CS variables, four were found to differ significantly between groups. Specifically, sexually offending clergy relied more on personalization and intellectualization as defensive strategies, and they were more dysphoric or depressed than non-offending clergy.

**Defensive functioning.** The Rorschach CS Personalization (PER) variable was examined to determine whether sexually offending clergy tended to personalize stimuli in their environment to a greater degree than the non-offending clergy. The results revealed that indeed, sexual offending was associated with a greater degree of personalization in clergy, in fact, offenders level of personalization (Appendix U) was in the clinically significant range ( $PER > 1$ ) derived from the international normative CS data (G. J. Meyer, et al., 2007). This finding suggests that offenders defend against appearing weak, and reassure themselves by showing their intellectual authority or knowledge over others (Exner, 2003). Offenders may personalize information that they consider positive, so that they identify with content that is congruent with their self-image.

To determine whether clergy present a unique profile compared to other non-patient samples, control clergy's PER responses were compared with those of the normative international sample (G. J. Meyer, et al., 2007). Interestingly, the international sample was found to have relatively more PER responses ( $M = 0.75$ ,  $SD = 1.12$ ) than the control clergy (Appendix U), suggesting more authoritative defensiveness in the general population than among the non-offending clergy (McGlone, Newsome, & Viglione, 2010, March).

The Rorschach CS Intellectualization variable was examined to determine whether sexually offending clergy were more prone to intellectualize problems than the control group. The results of this analysis lent support to the idea that sexual offending was indeed associated with higher reliance on intellectualization among clergy, as expressed through Rorschach responses. Intellectualization scores of the offenders (Appendix U), although higher than the non-offenders, were below the clinically significant range (Intellectualization > 4) derived from the international normative CS data (G. J. Meyer, et al., 2007). As discussed with regard to complexity, this finding might further suggest that offenders have more difficulty with simplicity and acceptance than controls, and may tend to distance themselves from problems as if to almost actively study them, rather than take personal responsibility. In the light of the findings regarding PER responses, perhaps when information is less acceptable to the offender, or incongruent with their self-concept, they tend to deflect the material and rely on intellectualization, however, when material is desirable, or congruent with their self-image, then they are likely to personalize.

The Rorschach CS Abstraction (AB) and Space (S) variables were examined to determine whether sexually offending clergy tended to be more abstract and guarded than non-offending clergy. Contrary to what was expected, sexual offending was not associated with abstract and symbolic thought or guardedness among clergy, as expressed through Rorschach responses, nor were offender's scores in the clinical range based on international normative data (G. J. Meyer, et al., 2007). It appears that instead, clergy were fairly similar on abstraction and openness, regardless of offending status.

Previous Rorschach research has found non-clerical sexual offenders to produce records with higher Lambdas and a greater number of space (S) responses (Bridges, et al , 1998, Gacono, Meloy, et al , 2008), suggesting that they are likely to present as somewhat guarded. The non-significant finding for the S variable in this study is interesting, as it seemingly contradicts the differences found between groups on complexity, which suggested much more complex, open, and engaged records among the offenders.

***Negative affect/cognition.*** The Rorschach CS Morbid (MOR) and Depression Index (DEPI) variables were examined to determine whether sexually offending clergy tended to be more self-deprecating and dysphoric than non-offending clergy. As was expected, sexual offending was associated with greater dysphoria and depression among clergy, as expressed through Rorschach responses. MOR and DEPI scores of the offenders (Appendix U), although higher than the non-offenders, were below the clinically significant range (MOR > 2, DEPI > 4) derived from the international normative CS data (G. J. Meyer, et al , 2007). Further, a comparison between groups on the MCMI Depressive scale revealed relatively higher scores (M = 35.94 v M = 26.81) for offenders, although differences did not reach the point of significance.

To aid in interpretation, it is important to determine how clergy in general compare to other non-patient samples. In a study recently conducted comparing the non-offending clergy sample in this study to international norms, those in the normative international sample were found to be more distressed and dysphoric than the clergy, as measured by variables including MOR, m, Y, S-CON, es, V, FD, Sum Shading, color-shading blends, and C' (McGlone, et al , 2010, March). Overall, the clergy were more

content and optimistic in their outlooks than the international sample, suggesting a lower baseline of depressive content in clergy

Non-clerical sexual offenders have been found in previous research to have poorer self-esteem, and to have a substantial level of dysphoric ruminations, as measured by the MMPI, MCMI, and Rorschach DEPI scores relative to other offending groups (M A Ames & Houston, 1990, Chantry & Craig, 1994, Gacono, Meloy, et al , 2008, Levin & Stava, 1987) The results of this study suggest that clerical sexual offenders are similar to non-clerical sexual offenders, in that they too demonstrated more signs of depression and negative cognitions and emotions on the Rorschach DEPI and MOR variables than non-offenders, despite not reaching a clinically significant level

The relative negative emotions/cognitions of offending clergy in this study compared to non-offenders might be due to presumed failing narcissistic defenses of the offenders since being exposed for their criminal actions Similarly, the offenders in this study were in treatment for their sexual offending, as such, the negative exposure, restrictions placed on them, and loss of their status in the community, would likely contribute to such negative emotions and cognitions

**Comparison of pedophilic and ephebophilic sexually offending clergy** In contrast to what was hypothesized, pedophilic clergy sexual offenders were no more narcissistic, dependent, immature, and sexually preoccupied than the ephebophilic offenders In other words, the age of the offender's object of sexual interest was not associated with level of pathology as it was measured in this study It is unclear why no differences were found between the groups, as literature would suggest that pedophiles

would look more pathological and less psychosexually mature than ephebophiles (McGlone, 2003b, Levenson, et al , 2008, Rossetti, 1990)

While perhaps no actual differences do exist between clerical pedophiles and ephebophiles on the characteristics measured in this study, alternative explanations should be considered. As discussed in Chapter II, all offenders in this study were selected to ensure that they only carried one diagnosis of either Pedophilia or Paraphilia, NOS. These records were broken down into pedophile and ephebophile subgroups based on the offenders' psychiatric diagnosis (Pedophilia or Paraphilia, NOS—the diagnosis given to ephebophiles) received at the treatment facility. Thus, the distinction between the pedophilic and ephebophilic groups was determined clinically, from self-reported descriptions of offenses, or avowed sexual interests and legal or religious proceedings or reports.

Despite the measures taken to ensure proper classification, it must be noted that sexual offenders are a highly heterogeneous group, and an additional complication is that subgroups of sexual offenders are not mutually exclusive. As such, offenders commonly display multiple types of sexually deviant behavior, and therefore could often be placed in more than one subgroup (Abel, et al , 1988, Gothard, 2008). Possible overlap among the offender subgroups in this study could have minimized the likelihood of finding any true differences that may have existed across groups.

### **Evaluation of Convergent Validity between Performance and Self-Report Measures and the Impact of Response Style**

As discussed in earlier chapters, one's response style can be influenced by cognitive flexibility, productivity, defensive operations, honesty, spontaneity, and

sophistication, among other things (McGuire, et al , 1995, G J Meyer, 1999, G J Meyer & Vighione, 2008, Donald J Vighione, 1999) Yet, it also has been found to operate differently among different methods of measurement (G J Meyer, 1999, D J Vighione, 1996) For example, an optimally open response style on a self-report measure might be influenced by a participant's insightfulness and willingness to be forthcoming, whereas on a performance measure, it might be influenced more by the participant's level of cooperation and engagement with the task In this study, controlling for response style clearly enhanced convergent validity for the analysis of narcissism, but not for dependency Perhaps in addition to differences across methods, response style operates differently based on the particular measure or scale it is applied to

As hypothesized, after controlling for response style across the Rorschach and MCMI, the LDS and Narcissistic scale scores converged, consistent with the expectation that the two methods were measuring a similar construct of narcissism Specifically, MCMI and Rorschach measures of narcissism were positively related when response styles (based on Rorschach Complexity and MCMI Disclosure in the current study) were similar across the methods, whereas when response styles were incongruent, the scales were negatively related The convergence of scores, with response style controlled, was found despite the results of the between-group analyses, revealing contradictory results across the measures Specifically, offenders scored higher (although not significant) than controls on the LDS, but significantly lower on the MCMI Narcissistic scale

Interestingly, the more constricted a participant was in their responding (indicated by lower MCMI Disclosure and Rorschach Complexity scores), the higher the convergence between MCMI and Rorschach scores measuring narcissism This finding

is inconsistent with previous research, which found that higher convergence was found between Rorschach and self-report scores when participants responded similarly across methods, regardless of being constricted or open disclosers (G J Meyer, 1997, 1999, 2000)

Additionally, a comparison of statistical methods to control response style in the assessment of convergent validity revealed that the recommended regression method (Aiken & West, 1991, Berant, et al , 2008) was preferable to the concordant response style method, used in previous research (G J Meyer, 1997, 1999, G J Meyer, et al , 2000) While the regression method rendered significant results, with concordant response styles being associated with positively related narcissism scores, the concordant response style method did not reveal any significant results, although the relationship between scores was also in the positive direction Clearly, the regression method provided more power in the analysis to predict the model, and it was preferable in that all participants could be included in the analysis

The convergence of the LDS with the MCMI self-report of narcissism in this study is partially consistent with previous research, which found that the idealization component of the LDS was associated with the MMPI-2 NPD-NO (NPD measure with no items overlapping with those measuring other personality disorders), another self-report measure of Narcissistic Personality Disorder in a sample of outpatient personality disordered clients, however, response style was not controlled in that study (Hilsenrath, et al , 1997) These findings suggest that style of responding had a greater impact on scores of the MCMI Narcissistic scale than on the MMPI-2 NPD-NO scale This difference in response style between measures might have been due to contextual



differences between this and Hilsenroth's study. Specifically, the treatment group in the Hilsenroth study was comprised of outpatient clients from a university clinic, who were not ordered for treatment, as were the offenders in the current study. Although one can only speculate, the difference in evaluation context across the studies may account for the variable effects of response style.

Overall, this finding is consistent with other research that has found concordance in style of responding to moderate the relationship between Rorschach and self-report performance (Craig, 2008, McGuire, et al., 1995, G. J. Meyer & V. J. Viglione, 2008, Donald J. Viglione, 1999). This finding also lends support to the assertions of previous researchers, who have argued the importance of considering response style, particularly when using data from more than one method of assessment to assess a similar construct (G. J. Meyer, 1999, D. J. Viglione, 1996).

In contrast to the findings for narcissism measures, and counter to what was hypothesized, scores of the ROD and MCMI Dependent scales did not converge, and response style did not moderate the relationship. As the scores across measures did not converge, one cannot assume that the scales are measuring a similar construct of dependency. This finding was not altogether surprising, as the ROD measures implicit, and perhaps unacknowledged oral dependency on the Rorschach, whereas the MCMI Dependent scale measures self-attributed dependent features that specifically align with the diagnostic category of Dependent Personality Disorder (DPD) as defined in the DSM-IV (APA, 1994).

This finding is inconsistent with previous studies which have found response style to moderate the relationship between Rorschach and self-report scores (Craig, 2008,

McGuire, et al , 1995, G J Meyer & Viglione, 2008, Donald J Viglione, 1999) In addition, the non-significant finding for convergent validity between the ROD and MCMI Dependent scores is inconsistent with previous studies examining convergent validity of the ROD with self-report measures (Bornstein & Mashing, 2005) These studies have generally found moderate correlations with various self-report measures of dependency, however, the MCMI Dependent scale has not been tested Again, perhaps differences in how the construct of Dependency is operationalized between the MCMI and other measures may account for this non-significant finding Alternatively, the pattern of responding among clergy might be unique from other samples in which ROD's criterion validity has been tested

The totality of the results regarding dependency measures in this study suggest that dependency is associated with sexual offending in clergy, as measured by the ROD, Fd, and MCMI Dependent scales, and further, the scales measure different aspects of dependency, and thus should be used in tandem when evaluating dependency in clergy

With regard to response style, the overall findings suggest that, as in previous research (Craig, 2008, McGuire, et al , 1995, G J Meyer & Viglione, 2008, Donald J Viglione, 1999), concordance in style of responding can significantly moderate the relationship between Rorschach and self-report profiles, however, it appears that this does not always hold true Indeed, response style in this study was not a consistent moderator across measures Despite the inconsistent impact of response style on the associations between scores, the substantial effect that it can have on certain scales/measures (as much as dictating the directionality of associations in the case of

narcissism), suggests the importance of its evaluation when using multiple methods of measurement to measure a construct

### **Clinical Implications**

As discussed in the previous chapter, evaluation of the demographic data for the clergy in this study revealed that in terms of gender, age, ethnicity, level of education, and occupation, the sample used in this study is fairly consistent with the clergy population in the United States. Therefore, results of this study should generalize to other clergy in the United States rather well.

While clearly a complex set of factors determines whether an individual will sexually offend, a portion of the characteristics that are associated with sexual offending in clergy were identified in this study. The results suggest that clerical sexual offenders share higher dependent traits such as helplessness, passivity, neediness, higher interpersonal demands, reassurance seeking tendencies, and agreeableness compared to non-offending clergy. Despite these differences, the offenders did not reach clinical levels of dependency. Conversely, their level of narcissistic traits is near those of NPD patients, despite the non-significant differences between offending and non-offending clergy.

As a group, they are more intelligent and educated, as well as older than the typical sexual offender. As such, they have complex thought processes, and are more open and engaging than one might expect. Their openness might be, at least in part, a function of their agreeableness and desire to be accepted. They tend to rely on defensive strategies, such as intellectualization and personalization to cope, relative to non-offending clergy, and might rationalize their behaviors, as well as have some level of

preoccupation with romantic interactions or distorted thinking around sexual issues

While they also appear to have negative or depressive emotions and cognitions relative to non-offending clergy, this might be more a function of the context of the evaluation of the offenders in this study rather than a long-standing characteristic

Based on these findings, it would be useful to explore dependent characteristics, depressive symptoms, and defenses, such as intellectualization and personalization, in the treatment of clerical sexual offenders, in addition to possible narcissistic defenses of idealization and devaluation. These individuals may be open to disclosing information and building a therapeutic relationship, however, the dynamic is likely influenced by their dependent needs for acceptance, agreeableness, and help seeking. Limited insight into their ineffective interpersonal skills, as well as externalization and rationalization of behaviors would likely be barriers to treatment. As was found by Ryan, Baerwald, and McGlone (2008), these clerical offenders have distorted cognitions, that likely lead to their misinterpreting interpersonal signals. As such, an important step toward increasing insight among these offenders would be to identify and challenge these distorted cognitions.

In addition, this study's findings lend support to the use of the ROD scale to measure dependency in clerical sexual offenders. The ROD and MCMI Dependent scales appeared to measure different constructs of dependency, and the ROD incrementally added to the prediction of sexual offending over the Dependent scale alone. This finding suggests that use of both measures to assess for dependency would be beneficial. Lastly, response style across measures should be controlled when multiple methods of assessment are used in evaluation.

Although it is understandable that subtle personality traits would not account for the majority of differences between individuals who sexually offend and those who do not, the effect sizes for the significant findings in this study were fairly small, so that clearly, other, perhaps non-characterological factors need to be considered

One way to examine the weight of characterological factors on sexual offending behavior among clergy, although perhaps simplistic, is to conceptualize them as *fixated* or *regressed*. Fixated offenders are thought to be sexually attracted to children beginning in early adolescence, and tend to be exclusively involved with children. Regressed offenders, conversely, are thought to be primarily attracted to age-appropriate partners, however, in the context of factors such as situational stress, anxiety, negative affective states, interpersonal rejection, or isolation, they regress to abusing children (Mercado, et al, 2008, Terry & Ackerman, 2008). As such, these regressed offenders are much more likely to be influenced by situational factors

Applying these categories to clerical offenders, it appears that the vast majority would fall under the regressed type—driven to offend by situational factors rather than a fixed sexual interest or characterological factors. As discussed in the first chapter, clerical sexual abuse takes place in a relationship of power and dominance. The results of this study lend support to McGlone's (2001a) earlier proposal—that incidents of clerical sexual abuse might be fueled by an attempt by the cleric to gain power or control over another individual to combat an inner sense of powerlessness, rather than an attempt to fulfill a sexually-driven need or desire

This characterization is consistent with the low rates of paraphilias among clerical offenders (approximately 12 %, Tallon & Terry, 2008), the majority only having one

victim, their rarely targeting a specific gender or age of victim, the long periods of time between their ordination and the onset of abuse, and the lower rates of offending among religious priests. These factors would be inconsistent with individuals who are driven to abuse by intense sexually arousing fantasies and urges about children or adolescents. As such, it can be assumed that clerical sexual offenders generally did not assume a clerical role with the intention of accessing victims.

Despite a historical focus on static, or fairly stable factors, to predict recidivism among offenders, dynamic factors have become a primary focus of sexual offender treatment in recent years, aimed at reduction of offending. These factors, unlike static factors, are considered amenable to change across situations and/or time (Hanson & Harris, 2000). Based on what is currently known of clerical sexual offenders, it appears that prevention techniques would be better focused on reducing situational or dynamic factors that are linked to sexual abuse, rather than screening out pathology or other characterological factors (Tallon & Terry, 2008).

In addition to a need for increased attention to such factors, adjustments should also be made to existing risk assessment measures for this population. For example, although, as discussed in Chapter I, clergy abusers were at greater risk for recidivism when their age at first offense was younger, clergy samples in general are older, and cut-offs need to be adjusted accordingly (i.e., clergy would exceed the age 25 cut-off for the Static-99 and RRASOR, Mercado, et al., 2008). Similarly, other variables will be less likely to change within the clergy population due to rules of the profession (i.e., romantic relationships), such that these unique population characteristics must be considered.

### **Limitations of this Study**

As discussed previously, the most substantial limitation of this study was the different evaluation contexts across the offending and non-offending clergy groups—a variable not possible to control in obtaining these unique data. Specifically, these differences included inpatient treatment v. research context and the totality of measures administered. These contextual differences may have impacted responding, as reflected in the different styles of responding across groups (based on Rorschach Complexity and MCMI Disclosure scores). Complexity differences clearly limited the ability to interpret RMI scores, measuring maturity. In addition, instructional differences likely altered outcomes on RSS scores, measuring sexual preoccupation. Although one can speculate, it is impossible to determine the exact impact of the contextual differences on all of the measures used in this study.

Another major limitation of this study was the use of archival data, which limited the measures that could be used to assess the sample (in terms of variety of measures as well as versions), resulted in missing data on a number of variables, and disallowed the opportunity to control the contextual variables described above during the evaluations. These factors restricted the variables that could be assessed, decreased power in the analyses, and allowed for a large amount of error variance. In addition, the collection of the data used in this study took place prior to the mass media exposure to the problem of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church. It is unclear how the responding of both offending and non-offending clergy would have been influenced by demands or fears surrounding the negative exposure, should evaluations have taken place in more recent years.

Another limitation is that there is little normative data for the Rorschach thematic measures of narcissism, dependency, immaturity, and sexualization available in the

literature for comparison. Lastly, the amount of research on clerical sexual offenders, as well as non-offenders is very limited, particularly with regard to personality research, allowing few studies for comparison.

### **Recommendations for Future Research**

Future research on clerical sexual offenders should attempt to address some of the limitations of this study by collecting new data from sexually offending and non-offending clergy for an updated sample. Efforts should be made to standardize the evaluation procedures across groups to a greater extent than was possible in this study. Additionally, a measure of sexual interest could be used to differentiate subgroups of offenders from one another more clearly. In the evaluation of the clerical offenders, more measures should be used in an attempt to capture a broader assessment of each construct, and multiple methods of assessment should be included, using both self-report and performance-based measures. Response style should be explored further in clerical offenders, as well as other samples, in order to better understand its influence on other scales and an individual's processing. Lastly, with regard to the assessment of the characteristics measured in this study, the LDS, ROD, RMI, and RSS should be used in other clerical samples to determine whether similar results are attained.

As clerical sexual offenders appear to present unique profiles compared to the broader population of sexual offenders, further research needs to be conducted, incorporating a greater number of variables, to arrive at a theoretical model to explain the pathway to sexual offending in clergy. For example, one of the most well-accepted comprehensive models used to understand the process of sexual offending among general sexual offenders is known as the Self-Regulation Model (Yates, Kingston, & Ward,



2009) This model considers the influence of situational precipitants, cognitive distortions, degree of planning, and evaluation of behavior following the offense, and includes four pathways, each exemplifying a particular combination of offense-related goals and strategies, as well as capacity and style of self-regulation. The four pathways offer an organized way to conceptualize different types of sexual offenders, which can provide information regarding how and why they offend, valuable for both assessment and treatment purposes.

The four offending pathways described in this model are (1) *Avoidant-Passive*, characterized by a goal of avoiding offending, coupled with deficits in self-regulation and poor impulse control. These individuals allow offending to occur passively, without taking action to prevent it. Common of these offenders is negative emotional states, skills deficits, covert routes to offending, use of denial or distraction in an attempt to avoid offending, and negative self-appraisals post offense, (2) *Avoidant-Active*, characterized by a goal of avoiding offending, dysregulation or faulty use of strategies, and skills deficits. These individuals take action to prevent their offending, however, their faulty strategies backfire by intensifying their urges, which leads to their offending. These offenders have negative emotional states and evaluate themselves negatively post offense, (3) *Approach-Automatic*, characterized by a goal of successfully offending, under-regulation or poor impulse control, unsophisticated planning, acting based on cognitive scripts which support their offending, and positive emotional states and self-evaluation post offense. Negative emotions, if displayed, are typically hostility, anger, and other externalized feelings, and (4) *Approach-Explicit*, characterized by a goal of successfully offending, intact self-regulation and behavioral control, minimal if any skills

deficits, positive mood states, planning, and positive self-evaluations post offense (Yates, et al , 2009)

Based on the results of the current study, it appears that clerical sexual offenders as a group would be best characterized as having an Avoidant-Passive style. Although one can only speculate based upon the limited information currently available, goals might be considered avoidant of offending behavior, based on the negative mood state seen in this group post-offense. They appear to be passive in nature, tend to offend using covert strategies, and have skills deficits related to close relationships. They are likely unaware of their deficits and ineffective strategies, and may rationalize their behaviors, seeing them as naturally occurring. Future research should attempt to collect data regarding patterns in goals prior to offense, impulse control and self-regulatory processes, coping styles, attitudes surrounding offense-related behaviors, approach to offending, and self-evaluation, in order to gain a better understanding of the offending process in clergy.

Another framework, considering situational factors, that has been used to understand offending behavior or deviance within religious institutions, likens opportunity and organizational structure of the church to that of police organizations, where deviance in the form of excessive violence has been studied (White & Terry, 2008). Researchers point to (1) unique authority, (2) public perception and trust, (3) isolation, (4) discretion, (5) lack of supervision, (6) limited opportunity for advancement, (7) subculture secrecy, and (8) homogeneous organization demographics, as factors which might interact to create a context where abuse can more easily occur. Similarly, recommendations are made for prevention of misconduct, including (1) stricter and standardized screening and recruitment procedures, (2) increased accountability, (3)

creation of administrative guidelines for handling claims of misconduct, (4) procedures and identified persons to investigate claims internally, (5) identification of early warning signs, (6) increased diversity, (7) increased criminal and civil liability, and (8) citizen oversight

To address the situational factors that appear to influence offending among clergy, policies must be put in place to limit the circumstances in which offenses are likely to occur. For example, children should not be unsupervised and sleeping over at the homes of clergy, where a large percentage of abuse has occurred (Tallon & Terry, 2008)

Lastly, although it is a very positive sign that overall incidence of child sexual abuse have declined over recent years, estimated at a 40% decrease between 1992 and 2000, the Department of Justice (DOJ) points out that the rate of sexual abuse in our culture is much lower than other types of abuse and neglect, comprising only 10% of reported child abuse cases (Finkelhor & Jones, 2004, Piquero, Piquero, Terry, Youstin, & Nobles, 2008). While physical abuse has also declined by 30%, the decrease occurred later, beginning around 1995, and not to the same degree as that of sexual abuse. Neglect cases fluctuated during the 1990's, and the number of cases overall have not declined. Based on these statistics, it is clear that other types of abuse continue to warrant attention. In the context of so much attention on sexual abuse, care should be taken so that other types of abuse that are more prevalent are not going unnoticed.

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## APPENDIX A

**RORSCHACH ORAL DEPENDENCY SCALE**

(Bornstein &amp; Masling, 2005, p 138)

**Categories of Scoreable Responses on the ROD Scale**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Sample Responses</b>
1 Foods and Drinks	1 Milk, whiskey, boiled lobster
2 Food Sources	2 Restaurant, saloon, breast
3 Food Objects	3 Kettle, silverware, drinking glass
4 Food Providers	4 Waiter, cook, bartender
5 Passive Food Receivers	5 Bird in nest, fat or thin man
6 Begging and Praying	6 Dog begging, person saying prayers
7 Food Organs	7 Mouth, stomach, lips, teeth
8 Oral Instruments	8 Lipstick, cigarette, tuba
9 Nurturers	9 Jesus, mother, father, doctor, God
10 Gifts and Gift-Givers	10 Christmas tree, cornucopia
11 Good-Luck Objects	11 Wishbone, four-leaf clover
12 Oral Activity	12 Eating, talking, singing, kissing
13 Passivity and Helplessness	13 Confused person, lost person
14 Pregnancy and Reproductive Organs	14 Placenta, womb, ovaries, embryo
15 "Baby-Talk" Response	15 Patty-cake, bunny rabbit, pussy cat
16 Negations of Oral-Dependence Percepts	16 No mouth, woman with no breasts

**Cautions.**

Category 1 "Animals are scored only if they are invariably associated with eating (e g , do not score *duck* or *turkey* unless food-descriptive phrases are used, such as *roast duck* or *turkey leg*)" (Bornstein & Masling, 2005, pg 138)

Category 3 "*Pot* and *cauldron* are scored only if the act of cooking is implied"  
(Bornstein & Masling, 2005, pg 138)

Category 13 "*Baby* is scored only if there is some suggestion of passivity or frailness"  
(Bornstein & Masling, 2005, pg 138)

Category 14 "*Pelvis*, *penis*, *vagina*, and *sex organs* are not scored" (Bornstein & Masling, 2005, pg 138)

## APPENDIX B

Procedure for Scoring Rorschach Sexual Response Scores - Revised

(D J Viglione, et al , 1997)

*I Preliminary Scoring*

- 1 Exner Sx Response
- 2 MAS/FEM Gender Typing Response

*II Rorschach Sexual Content Categories*

- 1 Sexual Anatomy
- 2 Indirect Sexual Anatomy
- 3 Autoerotic Behaviors
- 4 Sexual Deviations
- 5 Suggestive Dress
- 6 Heterosexual Behavior
- 7 Homosexual Behavior
- 8 Romantic Interactions
- 9 Reproductive Activities of Lower Life Forms
- 10 Elimination Responses
- 11 Childbirth Responses
- 12 Sexual Identity Confusion
- 13 Gender Emphasis

*III Scores derived from Sexual Content with a Comprehensive System Codes*

- 14 Sex Responses with Special Score
- 15 Sex Responses with FQ-
- 16 Sex Responses with MOR or AG

*IV Gender-Related Scoring*

- 17 Opposite-Sex vs Same Sex
- 18 Negative Female Percepts
- 19 Negative Male Percepts

*V Summary Scores*

Sexual References = Sum of Categories I to 13  
 Sexual Deviant Content = 4 + 10 + 16  
 Gender Related Content = 12 + 13 + 17 + 18 + 19  
 Thinking Problems with Sexual Content = 15 + 16

Total Sexual Scores = Sum of Categories 1 to 19



## APPENDIX C

**Guidelines for Assigning Severity Scores for Idealized and Devalued Responses**

(Paul M Lerner, 1991)

**Idealization**

- (1) The humanness dimension is retained, there is no distancing of the figure in time or space, and the figure is described in a positive but not excessively flattering way for example, "two nice people looking over a fence", "a person with a happy smile "
- (2) The humanness dimension is retained, there may or may not be distancing of the person in time or space, and the figure is described in blatantly and excessively positive terms for example, "two handsome, muscular Russians doing that famous dance", "What an angelic figure, long hair, a flowing gown, and a look of complete serenity "
- (3) The humanness dimension is retained, but implied in the percept is a distortion of human form There may or may not be distancing of the figure in time or space, and if the figure is described positively, it is in moderate terms This rating includes such **objects of fame, adoration, or strength as civic leaders, officials, and famous people** for example, "Charles de Gaulle", "an astronaut, one of those fellows who landed on the moon "
- (4) The humanness dimension is retained, but implied in the percept is a distortion of human form There may or may not be distancing of the figure in time or space, and the figure is described in blatantly and excessively positive terms This rating includes the same types of figures as in (3), however, the positive description is more excessive for example, "a warrior, not just any warrior but the tallest, strongest, and bravest", "Attila the Hun, but with the largest genitals I have ever seen "
- (5) The humanness dimension is lost, but implied in the distortion is an enhancement of identity There may or may not be distancing of the distorted form in time or space, and the figure is described in either neutral or positive terms This rating includes **statues of famous figures, giants, supermen or superwomen, space figures with supernatural powers, angels, and idols** Also included are half-humans in which the nonhuman half adds to the figure's appearance or power for example, "a bust of Queen Victoria", "powerful beings from another planet ruling over these softer creatures "

**Devaluation**

- (1) The humanness dimension is retained, there is no distancing of the figure in time or space, and the figure is described in negatively tinged but socially acceptable terms for example, "two people fighting,", "a girl in a funny costume "
- (2) The humanness dimension is retained, there may or may not be distancing of the figure in time or space, and the figure is described in blatantly negative and socially unacceptable negative terms This score would also include human figures with parts missing for example, "a diseased African child,", "a woman defecating,", "sinister-looking male figure," "a disjointed figure with the head missing "
- (3) The humanness dimension is retained, but involved in the percept is a distortion of human form, There may or may not be distancing of the figure in time or space, and if the figure is described negatively, it is in socially acceptable terms This rating includes such

figures as clowns, elves, savages, witches, devils, and figures of the occult for example, "sad looking clowns", "cannibal standing over a pot", "the bad witch " **Any (H) = 3, 4, or 5**

(4) The humanness dimension is retained, but implied in the percept is a distortion of human form. There may or may not be distancing of the figure in time or space, and the figure is described in blatantly negative and socially unacceptable terms. This rating involves the same types of figures as in (3), however, the negative description is more severe for example, "a couple of evil witches", "two people from Mars who look very scary", "a sinister Ku Klux Klansman "

(5) The humanness dimension is lost, there may or may not be distancing of the distorted form in time or space, and the figure is described in either neutral or negative terms. This rating includes puppets, mannequins, robots, creatures with some human characteristics, part-human, part-animal responses, and human responses with one or more animal features for example, "Mannequins with dresses but missing a head", "two people but half-male and half-animal, from outer space", "a woman with breasts, high-heeled shoes, and bird's beak for a mouth " Note that this rating does not include "monsters," with or without human characteristics

APPENDIX D  
**Calculation of RSS Summary Scores**  
(D J Viglione, et al , 1997, p 8)

**Summary scores**

Calculate the 5 summary scores by using items 1 to 19 Add the frequencies of each category as follows

Sexual References = Sum of Categories 1 to 13

Sexual Deviant Content = 4 + 10 + 16

Gender Related Content = 12 + 13 + 17 + 18 + 19

Thinking Problems with Sexual Content = 14 + 15

Total Sexual Scores = Sum of Categories 1 to 19

## APPENDIX E

**Calculating Response Complexity**

(G J Meyer, et al , 2010)

**1 Each response is coded for DQ/Location Complexity, Determinant Complexity, and Content Complexity**

<b>Location/DQ</b>	For all locations, DQv = 0 For all locations, DQv/+ or DQo = 1 D or Dd locations with DQ+ = 2 W, WS, DS, DdS Locations with DQ+ = 3
<b>Determinants.</b>	Pure F only = 0 Single Det = 1 Two Determinant Blend = 2 Three Det Bl=3, etc
<b>Contents</b>	Only one content, and that content is either A, Ad, (A), (Ad) = 0 For all other combinations, number of contents = Score Example A, Fd, (Ad) = 3

**2. Calculate an individual response complexity score for each response**

$$\text{Loc/DQ} + \text{Determinants} + \text{Contents} = \text{Individual Response Complexity Score}$$
**3. Calculate Protocol Complexity Score by adding all individual response complexity scores****4 Calculate Response Complexity, complexity/R scores for total and for each subcomponent by dividing by R.****5 Protocol Complexity and Response Complexity can also be calculated for each of the three subcomponents. (a) DQ/Location Complexity, (b) Determinant Complexity, and (c) Content Complexity**

## APPENDIX F

*CS Variables and Corresponding Weights for RMI Calculation*

Variable	Weight in Equation
DQ+	5 61
M	9 69
FM	6 21
m	4 43
FC	5 10
SumT	4 94
SumV	5 62
SumY	7 52
FrrF	3 47
FD	5 66
PureF%	-10 89
C-Sh Blends	3 77
Popular	14 51
WDA%	8 56
X+%	5 82
H	3 69
A	-4 01
An	3 30
Art	2 53
Sx	6 01
Xy	4 53
INC1	-3 93
WSum6	-2 70
AB	4 93
COP	5 58

## APPENDIX G

*Pearson Correlations between Rorschach Variables and Possible Moderators for  
Hypotheses 1-3 (N= 218)*

Variable	Age	SQT R Cmplx	SQT LDS	SQT ROD	Fd	RMI	SQT RSS
<u>Demographic Variables</u>							
Age		-0.01	0.02	0.11	0.05	-0.18**	-0.06
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>							
SQT R		0.84**	0.26**	-0.08	0.21**	0.39**	0.12
Cmplx			0.39**	0.11	0.20**	0.68**	0.26**
SQT LDS				0.25**	0.09	0.25**	0.27**
SQT ROD					0.21**	0.11	0.35**
Fd						0.08	-0.03
RMI							0.23**
SQT RSS							

Significant correlations are indicated by \* ( $p < .05$ ) and \*\* ( $p < .01$ )

## APPENDIX H

*Between-Group ANOVA's Examining Possible Continuous Variable Moderators for Hypotheses 1-3 (N= 218)*

Variable	F	Sig
<u>Controls v Offenders</u>		
<u>Demographic Variables</u>		
Age	0.15	0.698
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>		
SQT R	9.57	0.002
Cmplx	32.71	< 0.001
<u>Pedophiles v Ephebophiles</u>		
<u>Demographic Variables</u>		
Age	3.79	0.054
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>		
SQT R	0.07	0.793
Cmplx	0.04	0.837

df = 1 for all analyses

## APPENDIX I

*Between-Group Mann-Whitney U and Fisher Exact Tests Examining Level of Education, Ethnicity, and Occupation as Possible Moderators (N= 212)*

Variable	Mann-Whitney U	Sig
Controls v Offenders		
Education	3713.50	< 0.001
Ethnicity	NA	0.079
Occupation	NA	< 0.001
Pedophiles v Ephebophiles		
Education	2200.00	0.980
Ethnicity	NA	0.476
Occupation	NA	0.044

Education was analyzed with Mann-Whitney U test, Ethnicity and Occupation were analyzed using Fisher Exact Tests

df = 1 for all analyses



## APPENDIX J

*Potential Confounds Addressed in Analyses by Hypotheses*

Hypothesis	Confound Addressed
1	Rorschach Record Length (R) Rorschach Complexity
2	Age
3	Age Rorschach Record Length (R) Rorschach Complexity
4	Group Membership (Offender v Control)
5	Group Membership (Offender v Control)

## APPENDIX K

*Descriptive Statistics for Transformed Continuous Variables with Truncated Outliers*

Variable	n	Mean	SD	MIN	MAX	FREQ <sup>a</sup>	MED	MODE	SK	KT
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>										
LDS/R	217	0.32	0.29	0.00	2.30	198	0.27	0.00	2.23	9.78
Fd/R	218	0.02	0.04	0.00	0.21	78	0.00	0.00	2.16	4.95
RSS/R	217	0.19	0.23	0.00	1.75	173	0.12	0.00	2.84	12.42

<sup>a</sup>Frequency (FREQ) represents the number of non-zero values for each variable

## APPENDIX L

**Descriptive Statistics for Transformed Variables-Pre and Post-Transformation***Descriptive Statistics by Group for Untransformed Continuous Variables*

Variable	n	Mean	SD	MIN	MAX	MED	MODE	SK	KT
<u>Offenders</u>									
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>									
LDS	138	8.23	7.39	0.00	46.00	6.50	1.00	1.55	4.16
ROD	138	0.15	0.20	0.00	2.00	0.11	0.00	5.98	50.89
RSS	138	4.42	4.98	0.00	35.00	3.00	0.00	2.60	11.01
R	138	25.75	10.37	14.00	63.00	22.00	22.00	1.34	1.66

<u>Control Priests</u>									
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>									
LDS	79	6.27	4.73	0.00	25.00	6.00	3.00	1.27	2.79
ROD	79	0.09	0.09	0.00	0.04	0.06	0.00	1.13	0.89
RSS	79	3.95	4.62	0.00	26.00	3.00	0.00	2.38	7.30
R	80	21.59	7.24	14.00	57.00	20.00	18.00	3.04	11.58

*Descriptive Statistics by Group for Transformed Continuous Variables with Truncated Outliers*

Variable	n	Mean	SD	MIN	MAX	MED	MODE	SK	KT
<u>Offenders</u>									
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>									
<sup>a</sup> SQT LDS	138	2.53	1.37	0.00	6.78	2.65	1.00	0.03	-0.19
<sup>b</sup> SQT ROD	138	0.32	0.18	0.00	0.71	0.32	0.00	0.04	-0.17
<sup>c</sup> SQT RSS	138	1.73	1.17	0.00	4.70	1.73	0.00	0.12	-0.41
SQT R	138	4.98	0.96	3.74	7.94	4.69	4.69	0.96	0.36

<u>Control Priests</u>									
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>									
SQT LDS	79	2.26	1.07	0.00	5.00	2.45	1.73	-0.34	0.36
SQT ROD	79	0.25	0.18	0.00	0.63	0.25	0.00	-0.06	-0.93
<sup>a</sup> SQT RSS	79	1.63	1.12	0.00	4.70	1.73	0.00	0.36	0.06
SQT R	80	4.60	0.68	3.74	7.55	4.47	4.24	2.30	7.26

SQT LDS=Square root of Lerner Defense Scale Weighted Idealization/Devaluation subscale composite, SQT ROD=Square root of Rorschach Oral Dependency Scale/R, SQT RSS=Square root of Rorschach Sexualization Scale Total, SQT R=Square root of record length

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<sup>a</sup>Variable with 1 truncated outlier

<sup>b</sup>Variable with 5 truncated outliers

<sup>c</sup>Variable with 2 truncated outliers

## APPENDIX M

*Between-Group Comparisons of Continuous Variables for Hypotheses 4 and 5 Using ANOVA's (N=218)*

Variable	F	Sig
<u>Controls v Offenders</u>		
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>		
Cmplx	32.71	< 0.001
<u>MCI Variables</u>		
Disclosure	7.28	0.008
Narcissistic	27.84	< 0.001
Dependent	70.60	< 0.001
<u>Response Style Variables</u>		
RSAgree	6.91	0.009
<u>Pedophiles v Ephebophiles</u>		
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>		
Cmplx	0.04	0.837
<u>MCI Variables</u>		
Disclosure	3.08	0.082
Narcissistic	0.28	0.598
Dependent	0.58	0.448
<u>Response Style Variables</u>		
RSAgree	0.79	0.376

df=1 for all analyses

## APPENDIX N

*Pearson Correlations between Continuous Variables from Hypotheses 4 and 5 for Entire Sample (N=218)*

Variable	Age	Cmplx	SQT LDS	SQT ROD	M-Disc	M-Narc	M-Dep	RSAgree
<u>Demographic Variables</u>								
Age		-0.10	0.00	-0.01	-0.13	-0.09	-0.05	-0.05
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>								
Cmplx			0.38**	0.11	0.14*	-0.06	0.17*	-0.37**
SQT LDS				0.26**	0.05	-0.01	0.07	-0.11
SQT ROD					-0.01	-0.08	0.03	-0.03
<u>MCMI Variables</u>								
Disclosure						0.00	0.45**	-0.17*
Narcissistic							-0.47**	0.01
Dependent								-0.11
<u>Response Style Variables</u>								
RSAgree								

Significant correlations are indicated by \* ( $p < .05$ ) and \*\* ( $p < .01$ )

## APPENDIX O

*Pearson Correlations between Continuous Variables from Hypotheses 4 and 5 for Offenders (N=138)*

Variable	Cmplx	SQT LDS	SQT ROD	M-Disc	M-Narc	M-Dep	RSAgree
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>							
Cmplx		0.33**	0.00	0.02	0.09	-0.04	-0.38**
SQT LDS			0.29**	-0.02	-0.01	0.02	-0.14
SQT ROD				0.01	0.02	0.02	-0.04
<u>MCMJ Variables</u>							
Disclosure					0.09	0.47**	-0.04
Narcissistic						-0.41**	-0.02
Dependent							0.08
<u>Response Style Variables</u>							
RSAgree							

Significant correlations are indicated by \* ( $p < .05$ ) and \*\* ( $p < .01$ )

## APPENDIX P

*Pearson Correlations between Continuous Variables from Hypotheses 4 and 5 for Control Priests (N=80)*

Variable	Cmplx	SQT LDS	SQT ROD	M-Disc	M-Narc	M-Dep	RSAgree
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>							
Cmplx		0.53**	0.16	0.22*	0.05	0.09	-0.13
SQT LDS			0.17	0.19	0.11	0.04	0.05
SQT ROD				-0.15	-0.13	-0.22	0.11
<u>MCMJ Variables</u>							
Disclosure					0.04	0.39**	-0.42**
Narcissistic						-0.33**	-0.22
Dependent							-0.31**
<u>Response Style Variables</u>							
RSAgree							

Significant correlations are indicated by \* ( $p < .05$ ) and \*\* ( $p < .01$ )



## APPENDIX Q

*Descriptive Statistics for Open (High) and Constricted (Low) Responders on Rorschach and MCMI Measures of Narcissism and Dependency*

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max
<u>Open Responders (n = 29)</u>				
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>				
SQT LDS	3.15	1.10	1.00	5.00
SQT ROD	0.33	0.15	0.00	0.67
<u>MCMI Variables</u>				
Narcissistic	50.03	21.38	0.00	86.00
Dependent	78.59	21.08	30.00	111.00
<u>Constricted Responders (n = 29)</u>				
<u>Rorschach Variables</u>				
SQT LDS	1.86	1.20	0.00	3.87
SQT ROD	0.24	0.20	0.00	0.71
<u>MCMI Variables</u>				
Narcissistic	56.38	21.30	2.00	88.00
Dependent	42.52	23.78	8.00	96.00

## APPENDIX R

*Distributions of ROD Subcomponents by Group (N = 217)*

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max
<u>Offenders (n = 138)</u>				
<u>ROD Subcomponents</u>				
1-Food and Drinks	0.68	1.00	0	5
2-Food Sources	0.30	0.69	0	4
3-Food Objects	0.18	0.44	0	2
4-Food Providers	0.07	0.26	0	1
5-Passive Food Receivers	0.11	0.35	0	2
6-Begging and Praying	0.07	0.26	0	1
7-Food Organs	2.87	2.75	0	24
8-Oral Instruments	0.01	0.12	0	1
9-Nurturers	0.30	0.74	0	6
10-Gifts and Gift-Givers	0.04	0.20	0	1
11-Good-Luck Objects	0.07	0.28	0	2
12-Oral Activity	0.76	1.21	0	8
13-Passivity and Helplessness	0.12	0.51	0	5
14-Pregnancy and Reproductive Organs	0.14	0.39	0	2
15-“Baby-Talk” Response	0.07	0.33	0	3
16-Negations of Oral-Dependence Percepts	0.04	0.20	0	1
<u>Control Priests (n = 79)</u>				
<u>ROD Subcomponents</u>				
1-Food and Drinks	0.44	1.01	0	5
2-Food Sources	0.19	0.58	0	3
3-Food Objects	0.11	0.39	0	2
4-Food Providers	0.04	0.19	0	1
5-Passive Food Receivers	0.09	0.33	0	2
6-Begging and Praying	0.05	0.22	0	1
7-Food Organs	1.62	1.44	0	7
8-Oral Instruments	0.00	0.00	0	0
9-Nurturers	0.05	0.22	0	1
10-Gifts and Gift-Givers	0.01	0.11	0	1
11-Good-Luck Objects	0.09	0.29	0	1
12-Oral Activity	0.47	0.66	0	3
13-Passivity and Helplessness	0.00	0.00	0	0
14-Pregnancy and Reproductive	0.10	0.34	0	2

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Organs				
15-“Baby-Talk” Response	0.05	0.22	0	1
16-Negations of Oral-Dependence	0.00	0.00	0	0
Percepts				

## APPENDIX S

*Distributions of RSS Subcomponents by Group (N = 217)*

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max
<u>Offenders (n = 138)</u>				
<u>RSS Subcomponents</u>				
1-Sexual Anatomy	1 00	1 36	0	6
2-Indirect Sexual Anatomy	0 38	0 70	0	4
3-Autoerotic Behaviors	0 00	0 00	0	0
4-Sexual Deviations	0 01	0 08	0	1
5-Suggestive Dress	0 17	0 47	0	3
6-Heterosexual Behavior	0 02	0 15	0	1
7-Homosexual Behavior	0 01	0 12	0	1
8-Romantic Interactions	0 20	0 45	0	2
9-Reproductive Activities	0 09	0 35	0	3
10-Elimination Responses	0 01	0 12	0	1
11-Childbirth Responses	0 08	0 27	0	1
12-Sexual Identity Confusion	0 06	0 23	0	1
13-Gender Emphasis	0 56	1 01	0	5
14-Sex Response with Special Score	0 30	0 63	0	4
15-Sex Responses with FQ-	0 66	1 41	1	11
16-Sex Responses with MOR or AG	0 20	0 56	0	4
17-Opposite-Sex vs Same Sex	0 49	0 50	0	1
18-Negative Female Percepts	0 13	0 40	0	3
19-Negative Male Percepts	0 04	0 20	0	1
<u>Control Priests (n = 79)</u>				
<u>RSS Subcomponents</u>				
1-Sexual Anatomy	1 18	1 89	1	11
2-Indirect Sexual Anatomy	0 29	0 56	0	2
3-Autoerotic Behaviors	0 04	0 25	0	2
4-Sexual Deviations	0 00	0 00	0	0
5-Suggestive Dress	0 10	0 34	0	2
6-Heterosexual Behavior	0 04	0 19	0	1
7-Homosexual Behavior	0 00	0 00	0	0
8-Romantic Interactions	0 08	0 31	0	2
9-Reproductive Activities	0 06	0 24	0	1
10-Elimination Responses	0 00	0 00	0	0
11-Childbirth Responses	0 06	0 24	0	1
12-Sexual Identity Confusion	0 11	0 36	0	2
13-Gender Emphasis	0 37	0 64	0	2

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max
14-Sex Response with Special Score	0.15	0.48	0	3
15-Sex Responses with FQ-	0.73	1.16	0	5
16-Sex Responses with MOR or AG	0.10	0.41	0	3
17-Opposite-Sex vs Same Sex	0.52	0.50	0	1
18-Negative Female Percepts	0.05	0.22	0	1
19-Negative Male Percepts	0.06	0.29	0	2

Note: FQ- = CS Form Quality Minus (distorted), MOR = CS Morbid Response, AG = CS Aggressive Movement

## APPENDIX T

*Descriptive Statistics for CS Exploratory Post-Hoc Analyses for Entire Sample with Outliers Truncated*

Variable	n	Mean	SD	MIN	MAX <sup>c</sup>	FREQ <sup>a</sup>	MED	MODE	SK	KT
PER	218	1.11	1.51	0.00	8.00	112	1.00	0.00	1.71	3.08
MOR <sup>b</sup>	218	1.34	1.63	0.00	5.58	129	1.00	0.00	1.31	0.77
DEPI	218	3.64	1.27	1.00	7.00	218	4.00	3.00	0.20	-0.55
AB <sup>c</sup>	218	0.60	1.10	0.00	3.99	69	0.00	0.00	2.00	3.13
Int	218	3.22	3.71	0.00	21.00	168	2.00	0.00	2.06	5.21
S <sup>d</sup>	218	2.23	2.03	0.00	6.99	172	2.00	1.00	0.95	0.06
<u>Transformed Variables</u>										
SQT Int <sup>f</sup>	218	1.48	1.06	0.00	4.58	168	1.41	0.00	0.33	-0.17

<sup>a</sup> Frequency (FREQ) represents the number of non-zero values for each variable

<sup>b</sup> 11 outliers truncated, <sup>c</sup> 13 outliers truncated, <sup>d</sup> 15 outliers truncated

<sup>e</sup> Where outliers were truncated, MAX represents 3 SD from the mean

<sup>f</sup> Used in place of Int in analyses

## APPENDIX U

*Distributions of CS Variables for Exploratory Post-Hoc Analyses by Group (N = 218)*

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max <sup>a</sup>
<u>Offenders (n = 138)</u>				
PER	1.54	1.66	0.00	8.00
MOR	1.62	1.77	0.00	5.58
DEPI	3.78	1.26	1.00	7.00
AB	0.63	1.11	0.00	3.99
Int <sup>c</sup>	3.71	3.96	0.00	21.00
SQT INT <sup>b</sup>	1.64	1.06	0.00	4.58
S	2.42	2.15	0.00	6.99
<u>Control Priests (n = 80)</u>				
PER	0.36	0.78	0.00	4.00
MOR	0.85	1.22	0.00	5.58
DEPI	3.40	1.26	1.00	7.00
AB	0.56	1.11	0.00	3.99
Int <sup>c</sup>	2.38	3.09	0.00	16.00
SQT INT <sup>b</sup>	1.18	0.99	0.00	4.00
S	1.90	1.75	0.00	6.99

<sup>a</sup> Where outliers were truncated, MAX represents 3 SD from the mean

<sup>b</sup> Used in place of Int in analyses

<sup>c</sup> Non-transformed Intellectualization variable

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Approved By



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## ABSTRACT

This study sought to determine whether a sample of clerical sex offenders (n = 138) were more narcissistic, dependent, immature, and sexualized relative to a sample of clerical non-offenders (n = 80), and in that way, resemble non-clerical sex offenders. Groups were compared on the Lerner's Defense Scale (LDS), the Rorschach Oral Dependency Scale (ROD), the Comprehensive System Food variable, the Rorschach Maturity Index (RMI), and the Rorschach Sexualization Scale (RSS). The secondary purpose was to test the criterion validity of two of the thematic Rorschach scales (the LDS and the ROD) using the MCMI Narcissistic and Dependent scales, thus assessing their generalizability to a clerical population. It was hypothesized that offenders would produce more narcissistic, dependent, immature, and sexualized records than controls. Additionally, Rorschach and MCMI scales were hypothesized to converge after controlling for cross-method response style. Results revealed that sexually offending clergy were more dependent than non-offending clergy on all Rorschach and MCMI measures. Surprisingly, they were also more open, demonstrated more complex information processing and cognitive maturity than non-offending clergy. No significant differences were found between groups on measures of narcissism and sexualization. Continuous analyses revealed that as predicted, LDS scores converged with MCMI Narcissistic scale scores when response style was accounted for. Conversely, the measures of dependency did not converge. A variety of exploratory analyses were also conducted. Implications of the findings, limitations of this study, and future recommendations are discussed.