

Projection and projective methods: A brief theoretical comment

Rui C. Campos

Correspondence concerning this paper must be addressed to:

Rui C. Campos, PhD

(Assistant Professor)

Department of Psychology,

University of Évora,

Apartado 94, 7002-554 Évora.

Portugal

Tel: 351 266 768050

Fax: 351 266 768 073

E-mail: rcampos@uevora.pt

Abstract

In this work we discuss the several meanings of the projection concept and the way it expresses itself in projective methods. We also give some examples of “projective responses”. We consider that projection is not enough to characterize the response process to projective methods and is actually behind the response to all psychological tests. We discuss five features which make possible to define the projective methods’ status and we state that this methods are unique instruments in psychological assessment.

Key-words: projection, projective methods, theory