

**PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
OF PSYCHOSIS:  
AN ADVANCED LOOK AND CLINICAL  
CASE REVIEW**

**MECHELEN, BELGIUM  
MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> & 16<sup>TH</sup> 2025**

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### Abstract

Assessing major psychotic disorders is the focus of this two-day, intermediate-level workshop. We pay special attention to the early detection of psychosis risk and the unique role of the Rorschach in understanding diverse psychotic phenomena and making differential diagnosis. The workshop includes updated information on (1) diagnostic categories, (2) psychotic dimensions across a continuum of severity, (3) assessing prodromal states and emerging psychosis, and (4) understanding delusions and hallucinations in a forensic and multicultural context.

### Presenter Bios

**James Kleiger.** A native of Colorado and graduate of Harvard University, Dr. Kleiger is a psychologist, psychoanalyst, and writer. He completed postdoctoral training at The Menninger Clinic in Topeka, KS, and eventually became Training Director of the Postdoctoral Fellowship Program. While at Menninger, he completed his psychoanalytic training at the Topeka Institute for Psychoanalysis. After moving to Bethesda, MD, Dr. Kleiger served as President of the Washington Baltimore Society for Psychoanalysis and developed a private practice in psychoanalysis, psychoanalytic therapy, and psychological assessment. He has presented widely, published over 50 articles, authored and edited five professional books and two novels – *Disordered Thinking and The Rorschach*, 1999 (Analytic Press), followed by *Assessing Psychosis, A Clinician's Guide*, 2015 (Routledge, coauthored with Ali Khadivi and a Second Edition, 2024 (Routledge)), *Rorschach Assessment of Psychotic Phenomena*, 2017 (Routledge), *Psychological Assessment of Disordered Thinking & Perception*, 2021 and *Psychological Assessment of Bipolar Spectrum Disorders*, 2023 (APA Books, coedited with Irving Weiner). In 2020, Dr. Kleiger published his debut novel, *The 11th Inkblot* (IP Books). His second novel *Tears Are Only Water* (James Kleiger, PC) was published in 2023.

**Ali Khadivi.** Since 1991, Dr. Khadivi has been dedicated to practicing clinical and forensic psychology. He is a board-certified assessment psychologist and a Society for Personality Assessment fellow. Additionally, he is a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, New York. Dr. Khadivi has conducted multiple national and international workshops on evaluating psychiatric disorders. He is recognized as an expert in clinical and forensic psychology by the courts in New York State. Dr. Khadivi has also been an expert consultant for numerous institutions on clinical and forensic case evaluations. He has written extensively and presented internationally, lecturing on the assessment of psychosis. Dr. Khadivi has written numerous book chapters on clinical interviewing techniques in assessing psychosis and bipolar disorders. He is co-author with Dr. Kleiger on *Assessing Psychosis*, 2015 (Routledge) and leading author with Dr. Kleiger on the Second Edition of *Assessing Psychosis*, to be released in 2024 by Routledge.

## Practical Information

### COSTS

€400 (€350 for members of the NVVR and VVKP).  
Coffee/tea, lunch and documentation are included in this fee.

**Cancellation policy:** Free cancellation is possible up to 2 weeks after registration. Up to 5 weeks before the start of the training, 50% of the registration fee will be refunded. However, after this time, no refund will be possible.

### SUBSCRIPTION & PAYMENT

Subscribe at <https://rorschachvereniging.nl>.  
You will be assured of participation only *after* payment of the invoice that will be sent to you.

**Registration deadline:** April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The workshop will be in English.

**For whom:** clinical psychologists, GZ psychologists, psychotherapists and psychiatrists.

Accreditation for Dutch participants has been requested at the FGzPt.

**Location:** [Novotel, Van Beethovenstraat 1, 2800 Mechelen \(Belgium\)](#)

PARKING under the hotel: "[O-Park Lamot](#)"

**Accommodation options:** There is a possibility to sign up for a group reservation of rooms in the Novotel at reduced rates (to be indicated when registering).

The training always starts at 9:30 am and ends at 5 pm.  
There is a reception with coffee/tea from 9 am.

**For questions about the workshop:**

[a.pieters58@chello.nl](mailto:a.pieters58@chello.nl).

## Workshop Schedule

### Thursday – May 15<sup>th</sup> 9:30-17:00

#### MORNING: I. ASSESSING PSYCHOSIS

We provide an overview of the phenomenology of psychosis, providing updated information on (1) the distinction between an altered sense of reality and impairment in reality testing, (2) psychotic categories and dimensions across a continuum of severity, (3) onset, phases, course, and prognosis, (4) assessing risk and protective factors, (5) medication effects, and (6) differential diagnosis. Additionally, we focus on understanding delusions, hallucinations, and extreme beliefs in forensic and multicultural context and distinguishing core features of psychosis from conspiracy theories.

#### AFTERNOON: II. CASE EXAMPLES

Presentation of two cases.

1. Presentation of Case 1: Schizophrenia, Adult
2. Presentation of Case 2: Differential Diagnosis – Trauma, Bipolar, Personality Disorder, or Psychosis

### Friday – May 16<sup>th</sup> 9:30-17:00

#### MORNING: III. ASSESSING PSYCHOSIS RISK

Keen interest in the early detection and intervention with adolescents and young adult patients considered at high risk for transitioning to psychosis prompted the inclusion of Attenuated Psychosis Syndrome in the DSM-5 and 5-TR. We focus clinical signs and symptoms, risk factors in children and adolescents, false negative/positive diagnostic controversies, and assessment approaches with subthreshold psychotic phenomena. We discuss the strengths and limitations of Rorschach methods, R-PAS in particular, in assessing at-risk states.

#### AFTERNOON: IV. CASE EXAMPLES

Presentation of two cases with one invited presentation by a participant (arranged beforehand).

- Presentation of Case 3: Psychosis Risk
- Presentation of Case 4: Invited presentation by a workshop participant, arranged beforehand