



Sorting Out the Personality Disorders

If you are uncertain about your diagnostic accuracy when it comes to personality disorders, you are not only “not alone,” you are in “good company.” The American Psychiatric DSM-5 task force on personality disorders struggled mightily to improve the validity and reliability of the Axis II disorders only to devise a completely new system of diagnosis, which was ultimately rejected because it was too complex. So we inherit a system where the most common diagnosis for personality disorders continues to be “mixed.”

This workshop will focus on improving your ability to diagnose personality disorders, focusing primarily on the interpersonal aspects of these disorders. We will investigate the behavior patterns of antisocial, borderline, narcissistic, and other relevant personality disorders as well as the strict DSM criteria. We will use case examples as well as information from the literature. We will also address the pitfalls of working with these individuals. High drama, hostile dependence, and intimidation all increase the risk for boundary crossings and poor outcomes.

Objectives: At the end of this training, participants will be able to:

- 1) explain the obstacles that arise in trying to diagnose DSM-5 personality disorders
- 2) list the 10 different personality disorders with their interpersonal agendas
- 3) compare and contrast the interpersonal features of antisocial, borderline, and narcissistic personality