

# GETTING GRANULAR: THE IMPORTANCE OF ITEM-LEVEL AND SUB-TASK INVESTIGATION IN COLLABORATIVE ASSESSMENT

**PRESENTERS: ROB RIDDELL, PSYD & SHANARA ELLIS, PSYD**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024 FROM 6:30PM - 8:00PM**

Test results often align with the interpretations suggested by test publishers. For example, an ANT-scale elevation of 86 on the PAI typically indicates "prominent Antisocial Personality Disorder traits," while extremely low scores on the Rey-O often suggest significant visuospatial or memory impairment.

But what happens when these standard interpretations don't fit the context? That's when we need to get granular. In therapeutic and collaborative assessment, we may invite the client to help us understand why they endorsed specific items on particular scales or explore how non-targeted processes might have influenced cognitive test results. For instance, could shame or overconfidence have impacted their performance on Digit Span?

By getting granular with the data, we can often uncover not only our client's blind spots but also our own biases as assessors. This workshop, centered around a recent assessment co-conducted by Drs. Ellis and Riddell, will explore these themes in depth. We look forward to an engaging and lively discussion.

**LIVE VIA ZOOM**

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Cancellations by Dec. 6 will get a full refund.

Please contact us in advance if you require special accommodations on the day of the workshop.



**CE Credits: 1.5 CE Hours**

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Coding Issues

**Presenter:**  
Jilliann Daly, PhD

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe the differences between scale-level and item-level test interpretation;
- Explain how item-level inquiries can further insights in collaborative/therapeutic assessments;
- Describe several important confounding factors in cognitive test performance

## LEARNING LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

This workshop is useful for psychologist with limited experience to the field.

## ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

**Dr. Rob Riddell, PsyD** a licensed clinical psychologist in San Francisco since 2016, specializes in psychotherapy for adults and therapeutic assessment, blending psychological testing with therapeutic intervention.

Trained at the Wright Institute in Berkeley, Dr. Riddell's experience includes neuropsychological assessment and work in county hospitals with individuals facing brain injuries, neurological disorders, and severe mental illness. He currently serves as Director of Assessment and the Neuro-Gastroenterology Rotation at the California Pacific Medical Center Health Psychology Fellowship and supervises assessments at the Wright Institute.

With over 20 years of Theravadan Buddhist meditation practice, Dr. Riddell integrates mindfulness into his clinical work, previously teaching meditation to incarcerated individuals and the public. He is dedicated to using empathy, intellect, and life experience to support clients through critical moments.

**Dr. Shanara Ellis, PsyD** is a clinical psychologist specializing in health and perinatal psychology with a focus on mental health equity and cultural awareness. She is currently an advanced post-doctoral Fellow in Health Psychology at the California Pacific Medical Center. Dr. Ellis holds a Psy.D. and M.A. in Clinical Psychology, an M.A. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, and a B.S. in Psychology from Adler University and Georgia Southern University. She completed her internship at the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta VA Medical Center.

Her work integrates psychotherapy with healthcare to improve mental health outcomes through inclusive, culturally competent care. Dr. Ellis is passionate about advancing mental health equity and developing policies that enhance access to care for underserved communities.