

XXII

C23

Langs, R. J. Earliest memories and personality: a predictive study. Arch. Gen. Psychiat. 1965, 12, 379-390.

A correlational study. Seems to be a jumble of correlations, each of which is milked for as much interpretive speculation as possible. The hypothesis is upheld that the manifest content of the first memory is predictive of, and has a broad relationship to, personality. E.g., first memories regarding sexual themes correlated with those Ss who showed sexual anxiety and who had weak relationships with other. (Personality measures based on clinical interviews and test data.) Ss were 48 male actors, personality measures came to 76. Sixty scores from first memories were derived. It then appears ~~xx~~ that a 76 by 60 correlational analysis was run, which, by chance alone, would produce a goodly number of significant correlations.

Some other examples: references to punishment, religion, and morality in first memory were viewed in terms of superego concepts and postulated to reflect concern with handling one's aggression and to indicate self-punitive and depressive trends. Results confirmed this hypothesis.

Memory themes included such as: illness, unpredictable environment, absence of interaction, travel and references to vehicles, separation-loss (correlated with aggressive trends, anticipating exploitation by others, demanding and manipulative, both passively aggressive and openly rebellious), defenses tend to fail under stress, often experience thoughts and impulses as ego alien, introspective and alert, likely to seek out sensuous experiences), direct references to the body, poor logic, poor reality contact, etc.

*Saw reference to Dr. Gal.*