



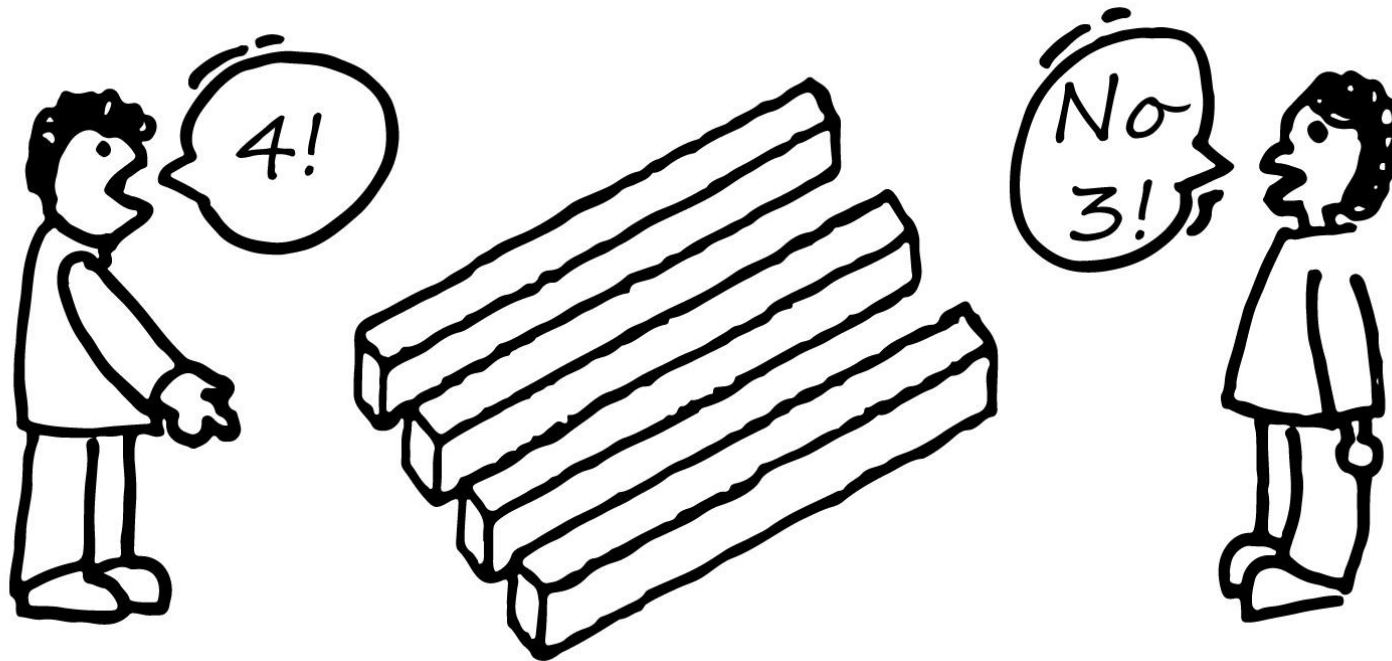
# Countertransference in forensic inpatients

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# « Countertransference »

- Clinician's reactions to the patient  
(conscious/unconscious, emotional/cognitive, intrapsychic/behavioural)



# Literature

- Diagnostic and therapeutic value
- If unchecked,
  - Acting-out (punitive or coercive reactions)
  - Drains staff → Burn-out
  - Staff reactions → Splitting and disagreement
  - Impact risk assessment and decision making
  - + Blinded by positive/seductive CT

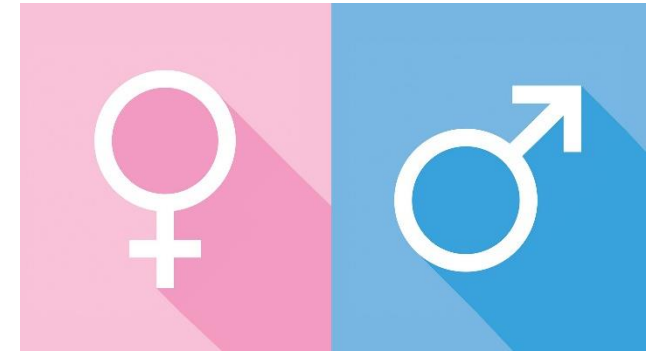


# CT in forensic settings

- Heinous/sadistic crimes, absence of remorse, incapable of emotional attachment, predation, ...
- Negative CT is predominant (anger, hostility, criticism, ...)
- Personality > Symptoms predictor CT
- Gender differences & clinical experience

# In this study...

- Therapist Response Questionnaire
  - 41. *I tell him/her I'm angry at him/her.*
  - 42. *I feel like I want to protect him/her.*
  - 43. *I regret things I have said to him/her.*
  - 44. *I feel like I'm being mean or cruel to him/her.*
- Male forensic patients with psychosis
- 45 personnel members, 139 protocols
  - Female vs. Male
  - Nurses vs Psychologists/Psychiatrists



# Results (1/4)

- Psychologists/Psychiatrists vs. Nurses
  - More Parental/Protective, Overwhelmed/Disorganized, Special/Overinvolved feelings [all effect sizes: often small, sometimes moderate]
- Women vs. Men
  - Less Special/Overinvolved feelings
- Interaction effects:
  - Women psychologists/psychiatrists reported higher Positive-Satisfying feelings than men.



# Results (2/4)

- Staff experience ~ Hostile/Mistreated feelings ( $r=.23, p<.01$ )
- Staff personality
  - Extraversion ~ less overwhelmed and overinvolved
  - Conscientiousness ~ less overwhelmed and overinvolved
- Diagnosis:
  - Personality Disorder ~ Hostile/Mistreated
  - Substance Abuse → no impact

# Results (3/4)



- Known offenses.
  - Offenses against a person
    - ~  $\downarrow$  Positive-Satisfying ( $F(1,127)=6.48, p=.01$ ).
    - For nursing personnel:  $\uparrow$  Hostile-Mistreated feelings ( $F(1,62)=7.7, p<.01$ )
- Age, Duration and Length of treatment.
  - Patient age  $\rightarrow$  no impact
  - Duration of compulsive care/treatment
    - ~ Hostile/Mistreated ( $r=.20$  and  $r=.32, p<.01$ ).
    - $\downarrow$  positive satisfying ( $r=-.21, p=.02$ ).



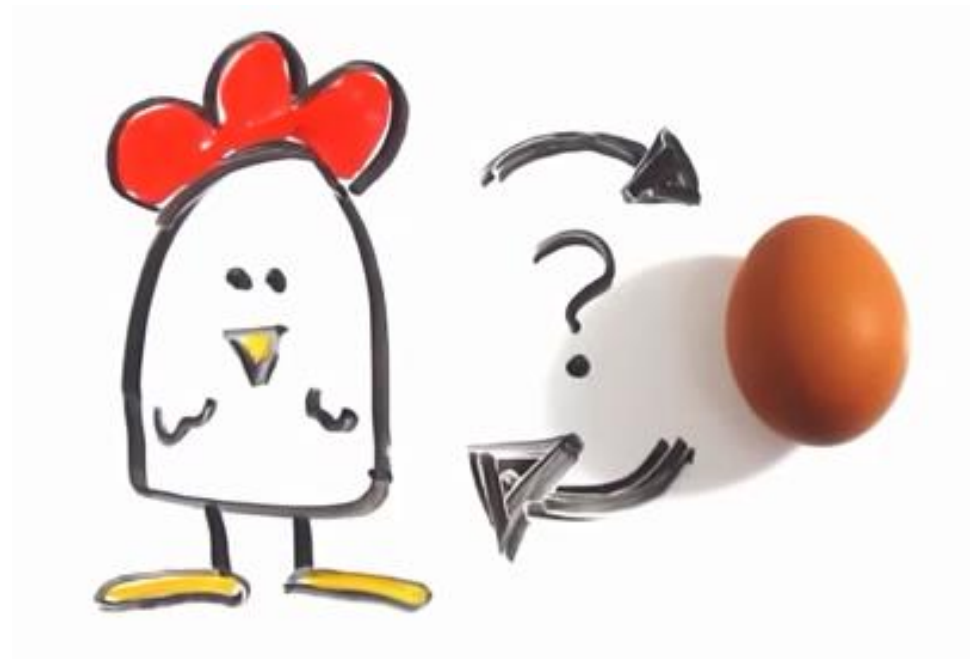
# Results (4/4)

- Cooperativeness

- ↓ hostile-mistreated ( $r=-.39^{**}$ )
- ↓ helpless-inadequate feelings ( $r=-.34^{**}$ )
- ↓ overwhelmed-disorganized ( $r=-.29^{**}$ )
- ↓ disengagement ( $r=-.19^*$ )
- ↑ positive-satisfying ( $r=.28^{**}$ )

- Magnitude of correlations

- nursing > psychologists/psychiatrists,
- female > male



# Conclusions

- Forensic variables do impact CT
  - ↑ Hostile/Mistreated feelings
  - ↓ Positive-Satisfying feelings
- Many differences between nurses vs. psychologists/psychiatrists.  
Less differences according to gender
- Further research is warranted (agression, antisocial traits, paranoid, ...)

