

# IASA's 10-Year Celebration

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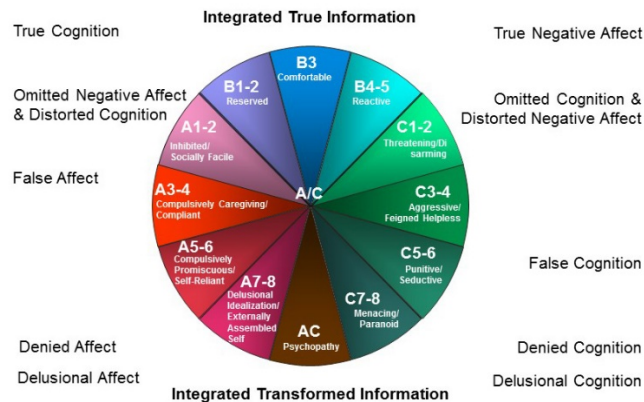
## The DMM as a Comprehensive Theory of Diagnosis & Treatment.

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Plenary talk

This presentation considers the potential of the Dynamic-Maturational Model of Attachment and Adaptation (DMM) to provide an alternative diagnostic system that can guide treatment. The basis of the system is the individual's protective response to danger and restricted reproductive opportunity where protection includes self-protection, protection of a spouse, and protection of children. The diagnoses can be expressed categorically or dimensionally and can be condensed in ways that permit grouping or left in their initial elaborated form where, in adulthood, each diagnostic statement is essentially unique. Dimensionally, the diagnostic statements are defined along two axes: horizontally the extent of integration of cognitive and affective information and vertically the extent of transformation from truly predictive to delusionally non-predictive. Together these two dimensions produce the DMM circle of protective strategies.



These characteristics of processing information are learned and maintained in attachment relationships and most easily changed in such relationships, including relationships with psychotherapists (of many types). It is proposed that these variables, together with the protective strategies that they define, can direct the focus of treatment and suggest the level of abstractness (or conversely personalization) needed by the recipient of treatment.

### How it used the DMM

This application uses the DMM model and assessments to generate Functional Formulations for both research and treatment applications.

### What it can contribute to the DMM

Expansion of the DMM to a diagnostic method can bring the DMM into current research on dysfunction and treatment of dysfunction in a strengths approach.