

Psyc 405: History & Systems  
Chap 15: Contemporary Developments  
in Psychology

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

We have studied the History of Psychology, the academic discipline  
As we saw in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the course...  
Major schools of thought such as Behaviorism and Psychoanalysis each changed substantially over many, many decades (yes, don't forget to mix in some Gestalt here and there)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The History of "Pop" Psychology can be a little different



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GwU5ao1s>

○ + ≡ □ ☆

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Sometimes, popular depictions are close to psychology



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Behavior

- Classical Conditioning (Pavlov/Watson)
- Thinking/Learning (Thorndike/Functionalist/Gestalt)
- Operant (S-R) conditioning (Skinner)
- Intervening Variables (Tolman)
- Social-Cognitive Behaviorism (Bandura)
- Behavior Therapy (and then, CBT)
- Programs to Prevent/Encourage Behavior

Basic conditioning processes and habits affect and are affected by cognition and social factors

---

---

---

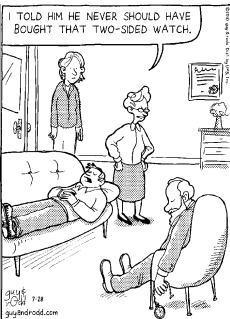
---

---

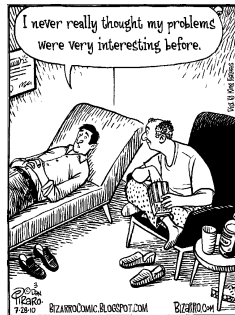
---

---

---



"Brevity" by Guy and Rod



"Bizarro" by Dan Piraro

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Psychoanalysis (now “-therapy”)

Freud’s response to treating mental illness  
Functionalists willingness to explain/help the “abnormal” (Witmer, Munsterberg, Hall, Leta Hollingworth)  
Social forces and optimistic views of analysis (Adler, Horney)  
Positive and self-directed change (Maslow, Rogers)  
Currently, other “schools” (behaviorism, cognitive) play bigger roles in psycho-**therapy**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Chapter 15 takes a long-range view of two areas which were:  
\*\*Influential in formation of Psychology  
\*\*Somewhat dormant for decades, and  
\*\*Later Reinvigorated as dominant perspectives in Psychology (remaining so today)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Cognition

Wundt focused on consciousness, and others in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s examined judgment, thinking, problem solving and other cognitive activities.  
With the rise in Behaviorism, few outside the Gestalt movement worked on cognition (Gestalt School; British scholars)  
In the 1960’s cognition re-emerged and dominated the 1970’s and 1980’s  
Cognitive Processes remain a key part of Psychology today

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

George Miller

In the 1950's, Miller broke from behaviorism realizing that the S-R model was too simplistic. Using the computer as a model of the mind, Miller researched information processing and memory "Seven plus-or-minus Two" (7 +/- 2) Established Center for Cognitive Studies, which provided the name (cognitive) for new movement Opposed behaviorism, studied all other things – thinking, consciousness, memory, language, etc.

Neisser article

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Ulric Neisser

Published *Cognitive Psychology* (1967) "sensory input is transformed, reduced, elaborated, stored, recovered, used ... cognition is involved in everything a human being might possible do" (text, p. 500) Computer hardware/software used as metaphors for brain/cognitive processing Field became laboratory-based, experiments on basic cognitive functioning. Application to artificial intelligence

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Cognitive Psychology is a strong perspective today that is infused in nearly all areas of psychology: personality, social, developmental, comparative, clinical, etc.

Criticisms do exist and theorists are working to address factors such as: emotion, cognition beneath the level of awareness, integrating many small, diffuse theories, and practical application

End of pt. 1 ; Mandler article ; Overskeid article

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Evolutionary Psychology

You may recall that Darwin had a great influence on early Psychology, particularly functionalists.

William James wrote of "Evolutionary Psychology" in 1890.

Some Functionalists emphasized instinct/genetics

However, Behaviorism emphasized "Nurture"

In 1975, E. O. Wilson published *Sociobiology*, which was thought-provoking but controversial.

In the 1990's, Evolutionary Psychology grew into a movement

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The text cites general tenets of Evolutionary perspectives (pp. 512-513), including:

Basic psychological mechanisms originate from evolution in some way

Evolved Psychological mechanisms are functional, they solve adaptive problems faced by ancestors.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Evolutionary Psychology has been popular the past 15-20 years. It has been integrated into many perspectives/areas of Psychology

As with any area, critics remain. For example, it is hard to perform rigorous tests of ideas that evolve over generations (experimentation can't be done, for example). Some also feel this area has some "baggage" (e.g., eugenics, racial bias)

After being gone for decades, evolution is popular again and has the potential to develop into a "school"

End pt. 2; DeWaal article

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Tie It all Together.....

In 1800's Philosophers (thinking/conscious), Physiologists, and "biologists" (evolution) worked independently.

Wundt (and others) integrated some ideas using a "rigorous" scientific approach to create Psychology

A spirit of application emerged in early 1900's

After 150 years, Psychology is a more unified field in which cognitive, neuroscience, learning, and evolutionary approaches are applied to many aspects of psychology (development, social, clinical, counseling, I/O, school, community, etc.)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---