

# Hergenhahn's An Introduction to the History of Psychology

## Eighth Edition

EIGHTH EDITION

HERGENHAHN'S  
An Introduction to the  
History of Psychology



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## Chapter 20

### Psychology Today

# Learning Objectives (1 of 2)

After reading and discussing Chapter 20, students should:

- Be aware of the diversity of contemporary psychology.
- Be familiar with the uneasy relationship between pure scientific and applied psychology.
- Be acquainted with the controversy concerning the training of clinical psychologists.
- Be aware of psychology's two cultures.
- Be aware of the concern over psychology's status as a science.

# Learning Objectives (2 of 2)

- Know what postmodernism is and understand its influence on psychology.
- Be aware of new topics in psychology.

# Divisions of the American Psychological Association

- American Psychological Association (APA)
  - Founded in 1892 with a handful of charter members.
  - Today there are 54 divisions representing diverse areas of interests and specialties.
    - (See Table 20.1 in the text.)

# Basic and Applied Psychology (1 of 8)

- Science versus Application
  - From psychology's inception as a science there was tension between those wanting psychology to be a pure science (such as Wundt) and those wanting psychological principles to be applied to practical matters (such as Hall, Cattell, and Münsterberg).
  - The founding of the APA did not decrease this tension.
  - The tension resulted in Titchener refusing to participate in any of its activities and he created his own organization, The Experimentalists.

# Basic and Applied Psychology (2 of 8)

- History
  - While scientific psychology continued to progress strongly, applied psychology and particularly clinical psychology evolved slowly.
    - World War I produced the necessity to evaluate the incoming recruits and various tests, particularly the Army Alpha and Beta tests were developed.
    - Following the war testing continued to develop.
  - In 1925, the APA created a membership category for those who did little research but did applied work.

# Basic and Applied Psychology (3 of 8)

- In 1944, APA organized into 18 divisions and changed its stated purpose to include psychology as a profession and a means of promoting human welfare.
- After World War II, the need for psychotherapy increased dramatically.
  - As the need increased, so did the number of different types of psychotherapies.

# Basic and Applied Psychology (4 of 8)

- Clinical Psychology
  - When clinical psychologists began engaging in psychotherapy, they began competing with psychiatrists.
    - Thus, they engaged in battles for the kinds of services they could provide.
  - The only battle they had lost up to this point was the ability to prescribe medicine.
  - However, state psychological associations are working toward legislation to gain these privileges.



# Basic and Applied Psychology (5 of 8)

- Training clinical psychologists
  - Witmer established the tradition that clinical psychology would be closely aligned with scientific psychology.
    - The tradition of scientist-practitioner model was reconfirmed at the Boulder conference.
  - A few years later a new professional degree, the doctor of psychology (PsyD.), was instituted for those who were trained as applied clinicians without the research training.

# Basic and Applied Psychology (6 of 8)

- Split between clinicians and scientific practitioners
  - APA continued to evolve into an organization in which the applied members began to outnumber the research-oriented psychologists.
  - In 1959, a group of scientific psychologists left the APA and formed their own organization
    - The Psychonomic Society
  - Later, another group was organized to form the American Psychological Society (APS), which is now called the Association for Psychological Science.

# Basic and Applied Psychology (7 of 8)

- Psychology's two cultures
  - Characteristics of the Cultures
    - William James argued that philosophers could be divided into two groups:
      - The tender-minded
        - » Snow observed that the tender-minded temperament characterizes members of the humanities
      - The tough-minded
        - » Snow observed that the tough-minded temperament characterizes scientists
      - Communication between the two groups are thus all but impossible.

# Basic and Applied Psychology (8 of 8)

- Research conducted by Kimble found that experimental psychologists tend to be tough-minded and humanistic psychologists and psychotherapists tend to be tender-minded.
- Role of Personality
  - Apparently, psychology's history and the Zeitgeist have combined to create a psychological smorgasbord
    - It is the psychologist's personality that determines which items in that smorgasbord are appealing.

# Psychology's Status as a Science (1 of 2)

- Is it a science?
  - Koch concludes that psychology is several disciplines, some of which are scientific, some of which are not
  - Koch believed that it would be more realistic to refer to our discipline as psychological studies rather than as the science of psychology.

# Psychology's Status as a Science (2 of 2)

- Unification of psychology
  - A question is “Can psychology ever be unified?”
    - Again, the answer is based on the individual's view of “unified” and the question remains: should it be unified?
- Diversity in psychology
  - Most would agree that psychology is still a collection of different facts, theories, assumptions, methodologies, and goals.

# Postmodernism (1 of 6)

- History
  - Premodernism refers to the belief that all things, including human behavior, can be explained in terms of Church dogma.
    - Prevalent during the middle ages
  - Church authority began to be questioned and more objective modes of inquiry developed.
  - The enlightenment ensued; experience and reason were emphasized in the quest for knowledge.
  - The terms modernism and enlightenment are used synonymously.

# Postmodernism (2 of 6)

- Detractors against enlightenment
  - Ideas of the enlightenment began to be attacked by such philosophers as Hume and Kant and later by romanticism and existentialism.
- Contemporary view
  - Postmodernism, also called social constructionism, began its attack on enlightenment ideals in the mid-1960s.



# Postmodernism (3 of 6)

- Postmodernism believes that “reality” is created by individuals and groups within various personal, historical and cultural contexts.
- What postmodernism shares with the Sophists, skeptics, romantics, existentialists, and humanist psychologists, is the belief that “truth” is always relative to cultural, group, and personal perspectives.

# Postmodernism (4 of 6)

- Wittgenstein's language games
  - According to Wittgenstein, language is a tool used by members of a community to communicate with one another.
  - Each community creates its own language games, which in turn create its own “form of life.”
  - To understand a community is to understand its language games.
  - According to Wittgenstein, most if not all disputes among philosophers and psychologists could be resolved by understanding that different philosophical and psychological paradigms reflect their own language games.

# Postmodernism (5 of 6)

- Family resemblance
  - Philosophers in the past believed that to be a member of a category required the possession of some defining characteristic.
  - Wittgenstein rejected this argument.
    - He believed the search for essences or universals is doomed to failure.
      - Thus he replaced the traditional concept of essence or universal with that of family resemblance.

# Postmodernism (6 of 6)

- The debate between modernists and postmodernists continues in psychology
  - Modernists believe that science can unveil the truth about human nature
  - Postmodernists believe that science is one approach among many to understand human nature

# Is There Anything New in Psychology?

## (1 of 2)

- Still addressing basic questions?
  - Throughout psychology's history, emphases have changed and research tools have improved
    - However, it seems that psychology is still addressing the same questions it has addressed since its inception.
  - Some of these questions are:
    - What is the nature of human nature?
    - How are the mind and body related?
    - To what extent, if any, is human behavior freely chosen as opposed to completely determined?

# Is There Anything New in Psychology?

## (2 of 2)

- Ambiguity within Psychology
  - Psychology is not a place for people with a low tolerance for ambiguity. There is growing recognition that psychology must be as diverse as the humans whose behavior it attempts to explain.