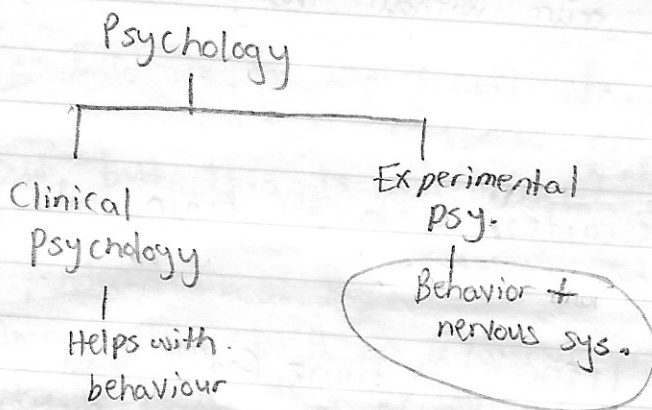


## Lecture 2 History of Psy.

What do think of psychology?

- Human behavior
- Mental Health.
- Culture
- Decision making.
- etc.

2 main branches:



Q's asked in Exp. Psy.

- Similarities bth. siblings?
- Childhood experience effecting behaviour?
- Best ways to study?
- What triggers moods?
- Social behavior?
- What do newborns perceive.

Psychology is a science, however it was looked at as a philosophic discussion.

## Concepts and Approaches:

### A. Dualism (1600s).

- humans consist of:
  - ↳ material body (behavior).
  - ↳ immaterial soul (abilities).
- mind and body were separate.
- 'threads' through body control movement. (nerve).
- behavior can occur without thought (reflex)

### Fire example.

Hobbes took Descartes' views: the brain could be understood through physical processes.

### B. Phrenology (1800's) → Franz Gall.

- Different parts of the brain control particular personality traits.
- Can detect your abilities and weaknesses by measuring bumps on head.

Ex. Large bump on back of head → devoted mother.

### C. Structuralism

- Breaking down our conscious experience down into basic elements to understand structures of the mind.
  - Used introspection to determine how the mind worked.
- Problem: This process had vast different perception abilities.  
Very biased.

#### D. Empiricism.

- Mind is a 'blank slate'
- Developed from experience. (supported scientific obs.)

#### E. Nativism.

- People are born with some in born knowledge in humans.
  - ↳ a priori knowledge.
  - ↳ a posteriori knowledge. (experience)
- Opposite of empiricists.

Ex. Evidence for a posteriori eff. on a priori ability:  
→ Our visual sys. is prepared to organize visual input, but this is influenced by experience.

#### · Carpentered World Hyp.

- Humans are built in a world with lots of straight angles, and  $90^\circ$   $\angle$ 's. This explains line-arrow optical illusion.
- We are used to seeing close things angled in and far things angled out.

#### F. Behaviorism (1900's - mid) → Watson, Skinner,

- focused on observable behavior
- Behavior develops through consequences:
  - +ve consequence: behavior increase ( $\uparrow$ )
  - ve consequence: behavior decrease ( $\downarrow$ )
- Does not focus on mental processes.

## Cognitive revolution

→ Behaviorism was eventually abandoned b/c it ignored mental process.

→ Eventually the cognitive revolution led to the development of psychology.

→ What is behavior?

→ Anything that an organism does. (observable or not).

→ Mental process?

↳ The way we interpret the things around us.

Psy: 3 main levels of analysis.

Behaviour and mental process are influenced by:

→ Biology: Genes, evolution, hormones etc.

→ Socio-cultural influences; family, culture, people, etc.

→ Psychology: Learning, emotions etc.

Fields of psy:

→ Evolutionary, natural selection.

→ Neuroscience.

→ Behavioural: Learning

→ Cognitive: Get + store info.

→ Sociocultural

→ Developmental

→ Clinical