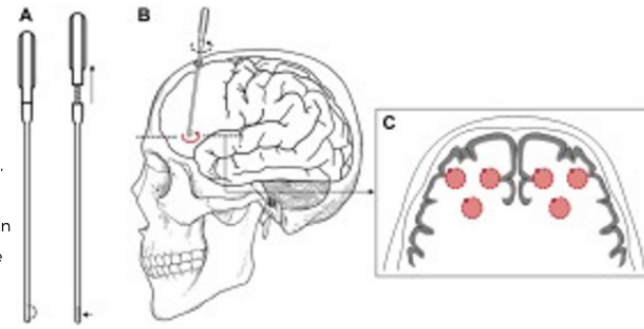


## WHEN PSYCHOLOGY AND SURGERY OVERLAP

Dr. Walter Freeman and his colleague, Dr. James Watts, performed the first ever trans-orbital lobotomy operation as a treatment for psychosis, in the US. As a critic of mental institutions, Freeman proposes that transorbital lobotomy through severing connections between the frontal lobe of the brain and the thalamus, which he describes to be in charge of human emotions, is much more effective. He defines mental illnesses to be caused by excessive self-awareness and overactive emotions, leading to obsessions about problems and challenges throughout one's life. First, the patient is made unconscious by administering electric shocks. Several holes are drilled on the skull to insert leucotomes- long surgical needles. Afterwards, the procedure involves coring the frontal lobe using the leucotomes. On September 14th, 1936, a one Mrs. Hammatt from Topeka, Kansas, who suffered from agitated depression went over the procedure. Post operation, Mrs. Hammatt was completely changed; she was transformed from a state of anxiousness, agitation, and depression, into contented happiness. All of her symptoms were gone. Although Mrs. Hammatt remembered having fears prior to the operation, she had completely forgotten the root of her fears and considered them to be unimportant. It is crucial to note that the psychiatric community is still hesitant in accepting transorbital lobotomy as a treatment for mental disorders.



## A PHYSIOLOGICAL MODEL FOR STRESS

Hans Selye, Austrian endocrinologist who moved to the US in 1931, proposed this 3 stage model of physiological changes to explain stress. Alarm is the initial response, also known as "fight-or-flight" response, mediated by the sympathetic nervous system. In the resistance phase, the body attempts to regain homeostasis. Resistance signs include irritability, frustration, and poor concentration. Lastly, the body enters exhaustion, from prolonged stress. Physical, mental, and emotional resources are drained. Signs of exhaustion include fatigue, burnout, depression, anxiety, decreased activity of the immune system and decreased stress tolerance.

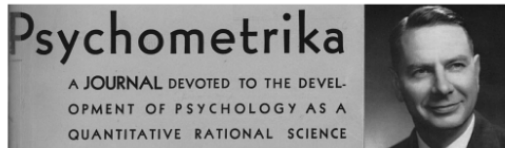


## AN ATTEMPT TO UNIFY DIVERSE FIELDS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Kurt Lewin, German-American social psychologist published his book, "Principles of Topological Psychology". It is heavily influenced by Lewin's behavior equation,  $B = f(P, E)$ , which states that human behavior (B) is a product of the interactions between the person (P) and environment (E). This book provides a set of constructive psychological concepts, determined through empirical studies and historical cases. It is quite unique due to the application of mathematical and physical sciences in explaining human psychology. Lewin takes advantage of mathematical topology to generate a map of psychological constructive concepts, unifying diverse fields of psychology. This book argues that human psychology is dynamic and can be changed by appropriately manipulating and changing the interactions one has with the surrounding environment. As a result, by understanding this psychological map, people can strategically change different aspects of their life and environment to achieve a particular goal. Lewin mentions that coming up with this book was a task that took him years of work and cooperation with colleagues in different fields of psychology. He endorses for cooperation between psychologists globally, to better understand and move the science of theoretical and experimental psychology forward. He also acknowledges that this book requires further work and is far from perfect.

## PSYCHOMETRIKA PUBLISHES ITS FIRST ISSUE

Starting with an extensive application of mathematics to psychology and some minor touch on biophysics.



## GREAT PURGE BEGINS IN THE SOVIET UNION

The Soviet secret police, NKVD, under direct orders from the Russian dictator, Joseph Stalin, has fabricated evidence against political opponents and critics of the Russian dictator. Such evidences have been provided to the courts against prominent Old Bolsheviks, in order to legitimize any actions by the state and lessen the chance of any subsequent uprising. Many were executed and some were imprisoned. The first trial was held on August 1936, when 3 prominent Bolsheviks involved in the October Revolution of 1917 and 13 codefendants were accused and found guilty of forming a terrorist organization and planning to overthrow and kill Stalin. All were executed. It is expected to see a rise in Russian immigrants as such actions continue.

## CAPITALIST DEMOCRATIZATION AND WORKER MILITANCY

This year was the year for workers. Under socioeconomic conflicts, especially in western capitalist economies such as the US, France, and Belgium, workers made unions to fight for rights over their employments. Workers have held demonstrations and strikes many times, and demanded for the rights to form unions, collectively bargain with the employer class, have higher wages, and better working conditions. In the US alone, more than 2100 strikes have been held by unions. Workers have ultimately asked for more control over their lives and regulations to protect workers from being exploited by the employer class. It is important to note that these mass strikes and demonstrations have only strengthened the capitalist system of economy, through democratic reforms which changed the system in favour of the working class. This is probably one of many advantages that democratic societies have over autocratic dictatorships: to be heard and accounted by the leaders instead of being ignored.

## THE RISE OF EXTREMISM HAS PUT SCIENCE IN DANGER

Extremist political movements across the globe has forced scientists to flee Europe and Asia, seeking refuge in American and the Great Britain. Nazi Germany has reoccupying Rhineland. Spanish extremist army leaders have revolted against the government, causing civil war. Germany and Japan signed the Anti-Comintern Pact. Under such global unrest, Herman Lehmann, German physician and biochemist, and Chien-Shiung Wu, Chinese physicist, are two of many scientists who have fled their countries this year. American geneticist, Hermann Joseph Muller, was forced to leave the Soviet Union after being criticized as a bourgeois, capitalist, imperialist, and promoter of fascism. The 11th International Congress of Psychology, scheduled to take place in Madrid, was canceled due to the Spanish civil war. This massive displacement of the scientific community to the US and the Great Britain, has slowed down scientific works, while giving the two nations an advantage over their opponents.

## BERLIN OLYMPICS GAMES - SPREADING FASCIST IDEOLOGY ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Despite calls for international boycott due to human right abuse, 49 countries still attended the Berlin Olympics games, including the US, where the Nazi party showed its opposition towards the Jewish community in the first ever televised Olympics games. The Nazi regime took advantage of this publicity technological development as a propaganda tool. Nazi Germany was asked for assurances to not discriminate against Jewish athletes. Although the Nazis removed anti-Jewish signages, Nazi ideology was promoted all across Berlin; pamphlets and flags supporting Nazi ideology was placed all over the commonplaces.



## GOODBYE DR. PAVLOV

September 1849 - February 1936

- Russian Physiologist
- Behaviorism and Classical Conditioning contributor
- Physiology Nobel Prize winner

