

## The 1950s: Opposition to Psychoanalytic Theory and Behaviourism

- Humanism (Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow)

– Believed that psychoanalytic theory and behaviourism were dehumanising theories



- Emphasised human qualities

– Free will and potential for personal growth

- Maslow's hierarchy of needs



## Psychology as a Profession

- Psychology as a profession began to develop

– Applied psychology – focus on practical problems

- Impact of World War II on rise of Clinical psychology

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## Cognition

- Cognition focuses on the mental processes involved in acquiring knowledge
  - Noam Chomsky – Language
  - Jean Piaget – Cognitive development of children

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## Neuroscience

- Neuroscience (or biological psychology) explains behaviour in terms of physiological processes
  - James Olds – Electrical brain stimulation
  - Roger Sperry – Brain specialization
  - Donald Hebb – Brain cells form networks that are involved in our behaviour

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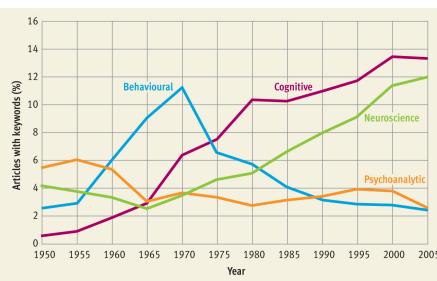
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Source: Adapted from Spear, J. H. (2007). Prominent schools or other active specialties? A fresh look at some trends in psychology. *Review of General Psychology*, 11, 363–380. Copyright © 2007 by the American Psychological Association.

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## Contemporary Psychology: Cultural Diversity

- Psychologists try to derive general principles
  - BUT used mostly white middle- and upper-class males

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## Contemporary Psychology: Cultural Diversity

- Why?
  - Monetary factors
  - Stereotypes
  - Ethnocentrism
- 1980s – increased interest in how cultural factors influence behaviour




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## Evolutionary Psychology

- Developed fairly recently
  - Focuses on the adaptive value of a behaviour for a species over many generations
- Criticism: Untestable and post hoc

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## Positive Psychology

- Understand the positive, adaptive, creative, and fulfilling aspects of our existence
  - Subjective experiences
  - Individual traits
  - Positive institutions
- Criticism: Oversimplified

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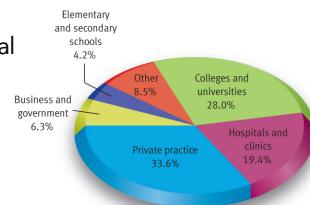
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## Psychology today

- Psychology today is the science of behaviour
  - Studies physiological and cognitive processes that underlie behaviour
    - Application




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## Psychology today

- Psychology today is the science of behaviour
  - Studies physiological and cognitive processes that underlie behaviour
    - Application
  - Psychology vs. Psychiatry

WORK SETTINGS*	PERCENTAGE (%)
Academia	26.9
Independent practice—solo	23.6
Independent practice—group	12.2
Hospital/health care	25.1
School/education	13.7
Government	7.3
Private sector	5.6
Research	5.5
Corrections	2.4
Military	0.7
Community	3.7
Not-for-profit/non-governmental organization	5.5
Other	4.7

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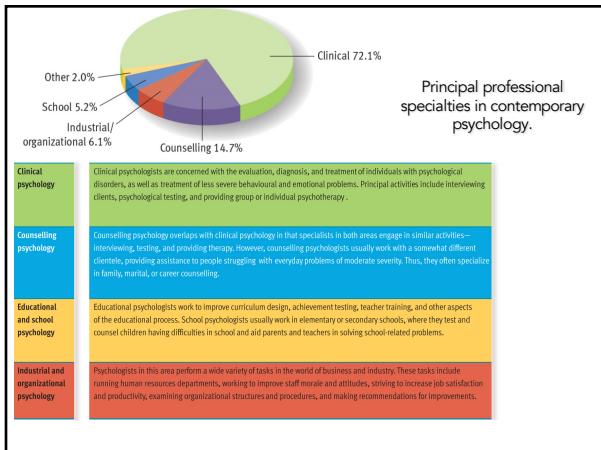
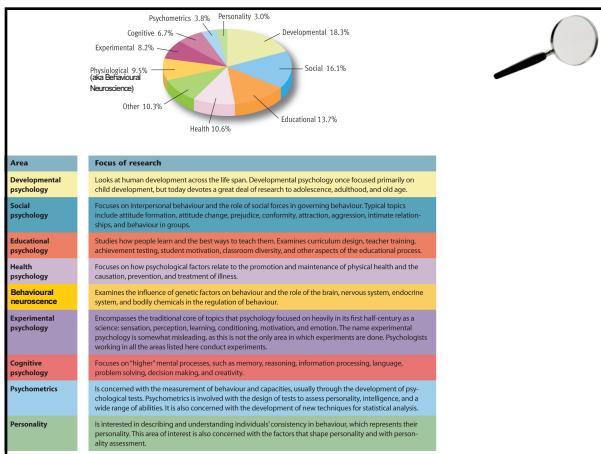
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## Studying Psychology: Seven Organizing Themes

- 1) Psychology is empirical

– Empiricism: Knowledge acquired through observation

**DATA: BY THE NUMBERS**

The comic strip consists of four panels:

- Panel 1: A person is shouting "YES! FINALLY!" while holding a large computer monitor.
- Panel 2: The person is looking at the monitor with a confused expression, thinking "What does it all mean?"
- Panel 3: The person is sitting at a desk, looking at a keyboard and thinking "blah blah blah..."
- Panel 4: The person is presenting a slide titled "RESULTS" to an audience, thinking "That's it?"

[www.phdcomics.com](http://www.phdcomics.com)

## Studying Psychology: Seven Organizing Themes

- 2) Psychology is theoretically diverse
  - Theory: Set of statements that explains and proposes relations among observations
  - Different theories to explain one observation
    - e.g., Observe someone yelling at their restaurant server

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## Studying Psychology: Seven Organizing Themes

- 3) Psychology evolves in a sociohistorical context
  - Trends and issues influenced by psychology and vice versa
- 4) Behaviour is determined by multiple causes
  - e.g., performance in course

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## Studying Psychology: Seven Organizing Themes

- 5) Behaviour is shaped by cultural heritage
  - e.g., eating everything on your plate
  - e.g., shop hours




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## Studying Psychology: Seven Organizing Themes

- 6) Heredity and environment jointly influence behaviour
  - Nature/nurture is not all-or-none

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## Studying Psychology: Seven Organizing Themes

- 7) People's experience of the world is highly subjective
  - Hastrof and Cantril (1954)
    - Princeton and Dartmouth game
  - Kelley (1950)
    - 2 sets of students – viewed the same lecture



Mr. Blank is a graduate student in the Department of Economics and Social Science here at MIT. He has had three semesters of teaching experience in psychology at another college. This is his first semester at MIT. He is 26 years old, a veteran, and married. People who know him consider him to be a very warm person, industrious, critical, practical, and determined.

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