

The formation of associations is the cornerstone of how we learn to navigate the world.<sup>1</sup> In psychology, this is known as **Associative Learning**.<sup>2</sup> While infrasound is a physical stimulus, these psychological theories explain the actual "software" that would be required to program a specific emotion like hatred.

Here are the three primary frameworks for how associations are formed.

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## 1. Classical Conditioning (Pavlovian)

This is learning by **automatic association**.<sup>3</sup> It occurs when two stimuli are repeatedly paired until a response originally elicited by the first stimulus is instead elicited by the second.<sup>4</sup>

- **The Components:**

- **Unconditioned Stimulus (US):** Something that naturally triggers a response (e.g., pain or a foul smell).<sup>5</sup>
- **Conditioned Stimulus (CS):** A neutral object or person (e.g., a specific brand or a political figure).<sup>6</sup> like my grandfather for example
- **The Result:** If you pair the person (CS) with a painful experience (US) enough times, the brain creates a "shortcut." Eventually, simply seeing the person triggers the feeling of distress or anger.

**Example:** In the infamous "Little Albert" experiment, a child was conditioned to fear a white rat (CS) by pairing its appearance with a loud, frightening noise (US). He eventually associated the fear with anything white and furry.

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## 2. Operant Conditioning (Skinnerian)<sup>7</sup>

This is learning through **consequences**.<sup>8</sup> Instead of associating two stimuli, the brain associates a **behavior** with a **result** (reward or punishment).<sup>9</sup>

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- **Negative Association:** If interacting with a certain object leads to a social "punishment" (like being mocked or losing status), you develop a negative association with that object to avoid the pain of the consequence.
- **The "Hate" Link:** People can be manipulated into hating things if they are "rewarded" (with praise or belonging) for expressing that hate, or "punished" for showing any affinity

toward the target.

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### 3. Social Learning Theory (Modeling)<sup>10</sup>

Proposed by Albert Bandura, this theory suggests we don't need direct experience to form associations; we can learn them by **observing others**.

- **Observational Learning:** If a child sees a parent or a "leader" react with disgust or hatred toward a specific group, the child forms a mental association: *Target = Bad*.
  - **Narrative Framing:** Unlike the raw physical discomfort of infrasound, social learning uses **language and stories** to give the emotion a target. This is the primary mechanism used in propaganda.
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### Why "Hate" is Easier to Form Than "Love"

The human brain is subject to **Negativity Bias**.<sup>11</sup> From an evolutionary standpoint, it was more important to remember which berry was poisonous (negative association) than which one was just "okay."

Feature	Negative Associations	Positive Associations
<b>Speed</b>	Can form in a single event (One-trial learning).	Usually requires many repetitions.
<b>Intensity</b>	Triggers the <b>amygdala</b> (fear center).	Triggers the reward system (dopamine).
<b>Persistence</b>	Very difficult to "unlearn" (extinction).	Can fade quickly if not reinforced.

### The "Hardware" of the Brain

Physiologically, these associations are stored in the **Long-Term Potentiation (LTP)** of neurons. When two neurons fire together repeatedly (e.g., "Image of Object" + "Feeling of Nausea"), the connection between them physically strengthens. This is why associations feel like "gut reactions"—the neural pathway has become a "high-speed rail" in your brain.

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