

Psychology

a history in three chapters



The diagram illustrates a Skinner box, a behavioral chamber used for operant conditioning experiments. A rat is shown inside the box, which has a transparent top and a metal grid floor. Several components are labeled: a 'Speaker' at the top left, 'Signal lights' with a red light and a green light, a 'Lever' attached to a vertical rod, a 'Food pellet' dispenser connected by a tube to the lever, and an 'Electric grid' on the floor. A label '(a) Skinner box' is positioned above the top left corner of the chamber. A cable from the shock generator is visible at the bottom left.

SECVNDA SEPTIMI LIBRI FIGVRA
Cram Inde.

P.R. A. E. N.S. Figvra scilicet ferre primis et secundis sectiones hoc modo hanc
fum: quae maxime efficitur ut in alijs sectionibus. In hac sectione fundam aperte hincq[ue]
dinem dicit ad alij sectiones communem. Quod est in alijs sectionibus et in his quatuor
quidam pars ad decessione, utriusque unius ad alijs foliis, quae diverso membrorum dei-
tate generantur, & diverso membrorum lateris deo membrorum supererat pars, que deterser-
ceret pars ad alijs decessit, utique in alijs sectionibus figura tenuis. De alijs autem. De alijs
tunc generantur foliis, utriusque pars quae maxime ad eorum pertinet, &
foliis

A composite image featuring a woman's face with glowing blue eyes. The background is a complex circuit board pattern, symbolizing technology and cognitive processes. The image is overlaid with a large amount of code, likely related to JavaScript or web development, which is partially visible and obscures parts of the woman's face and the circuit board.

prehistory



"I am really distinct from my body and can exist without it."

- o Descartes gave a philosophical defense of the traditional conception that the mind, or soul, is essentially distinct from the body, otherwise known as dualism.
- o If science is the study of the physical universe, and the mind is separate from this universe, how can the mind be studied scientifically?

prehistory

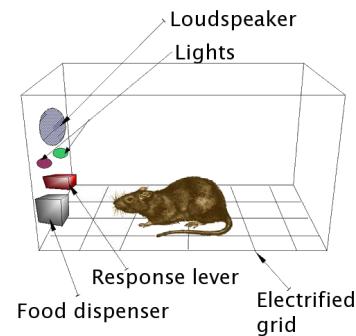
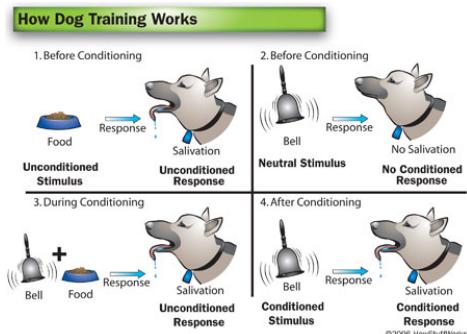


1. Behaviorism

J.B. Watson
1878-1958

"Psychology as the behaviorist views it is a purely objective experimental branch of natural science. Its theoretical goal is the prediction and control of behavior."

- Behaviorism ignores the "inner world" of conscious experience and focuses on what organisms with minds **do** in controlled experiments.
- Watson's vision of a scientific psychology was of a science with all of the predictive power of physics.



How predictable are people?



As predictable as a clock?



As random as dice?



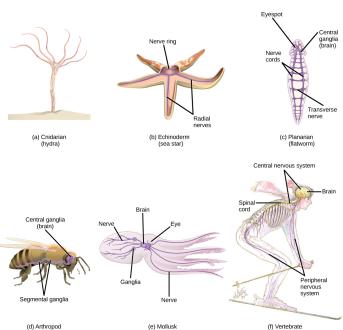
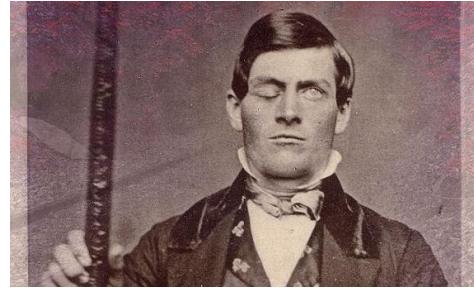
As chaotic as a storm?

2. Neuroscience

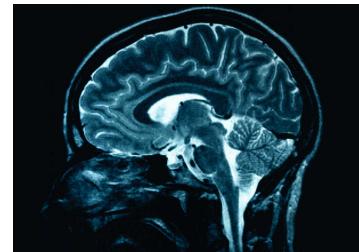
Hippocrates of
Cos
5th Century BCE

"From the brain, and from the brain only, arise our pleasures, joys, laughter and jests, as well as our sorrows, pains, griefs and tears. Through it, in particular, we think, see, hear, and distinguish the ugly from the beautiful, the bad from the good, the pleasant from the unpleasant"

- The role of the brain in mental life was suspected for thousands of years before a comprehensive theory was developed.
- What theoretical developments were crucial to the birth of neuroscience?



Is this all there is to me?



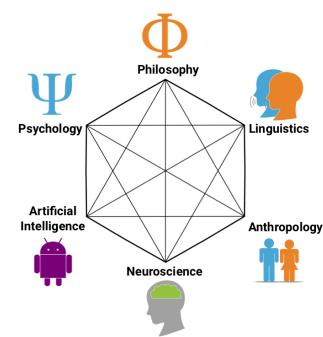
3. Cognitive Science

"A computer would deserve to be called intelligent if it could deceive a human into believing that it was human."

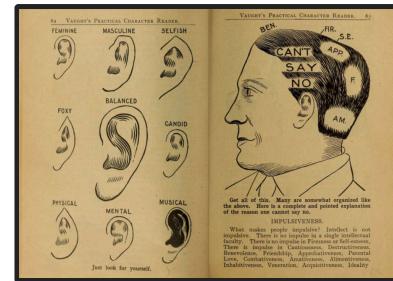
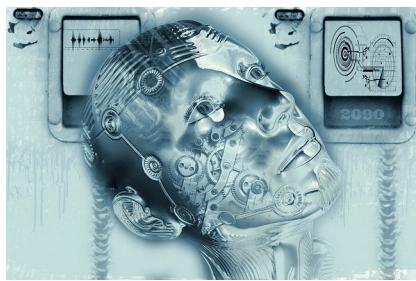


Alan Turing
1912-1954

- Turing laid the foundations for computer science as well as the new sciences of the mind collectively called "cognitive science."
- Cognitive science looks at the ways in which minds process information enabling organisms who have them to adapt to changing circumstances in real time.



Are we nothing but fancy biological machines?



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