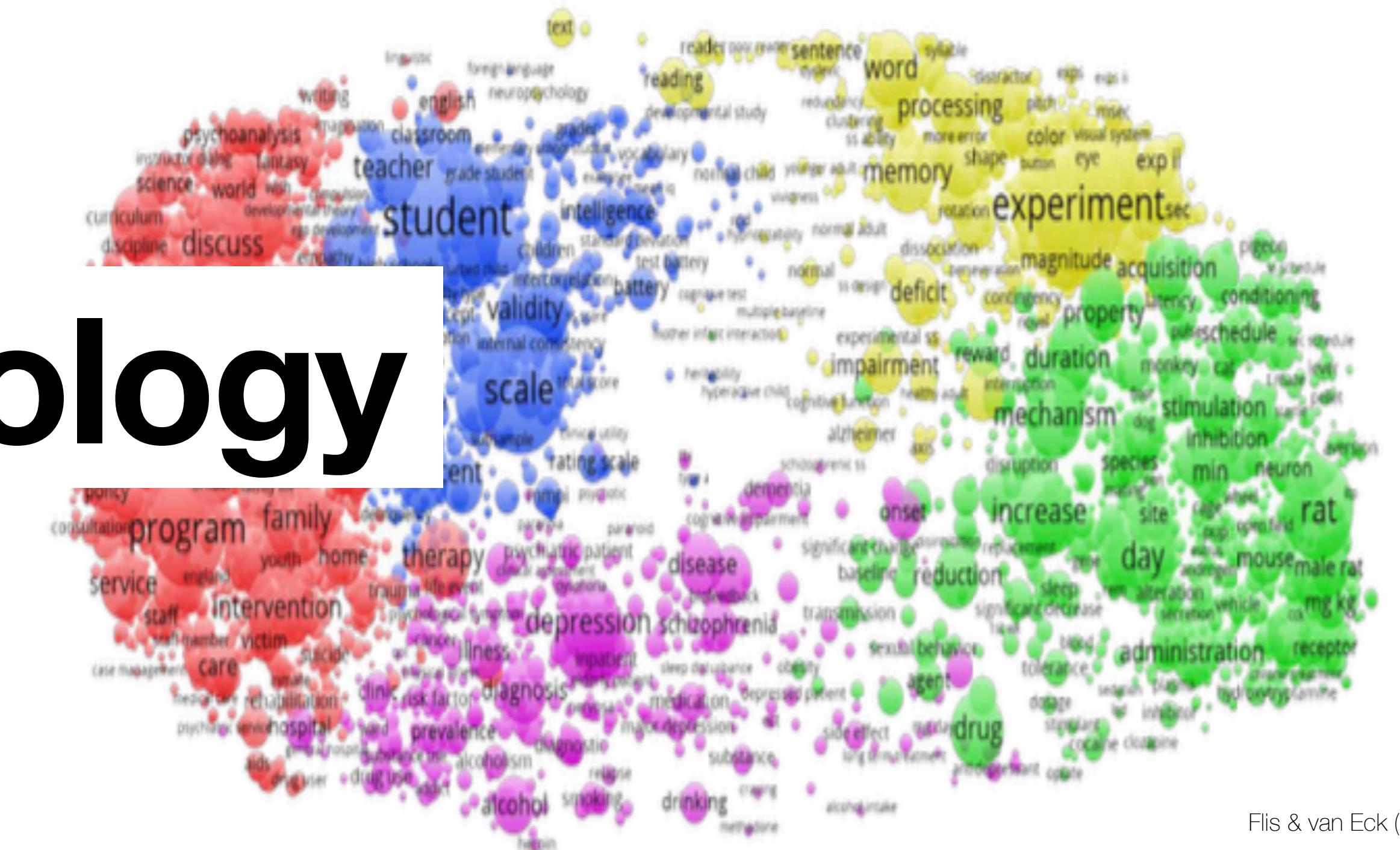


History of Psychology

Session 1: Introduction

Loreen Tisdall, Center for Cognitive and Decision Sciences
September 23, 2024



Flis & van Eck (2018)

Welcome!



Prof. Dr. Rui Mata

Center for Cognitive and
Decision Sciences (CDS)



Dr. Loreen Tisdall

Center for Cognitive and
Decision Sciences (CDS)

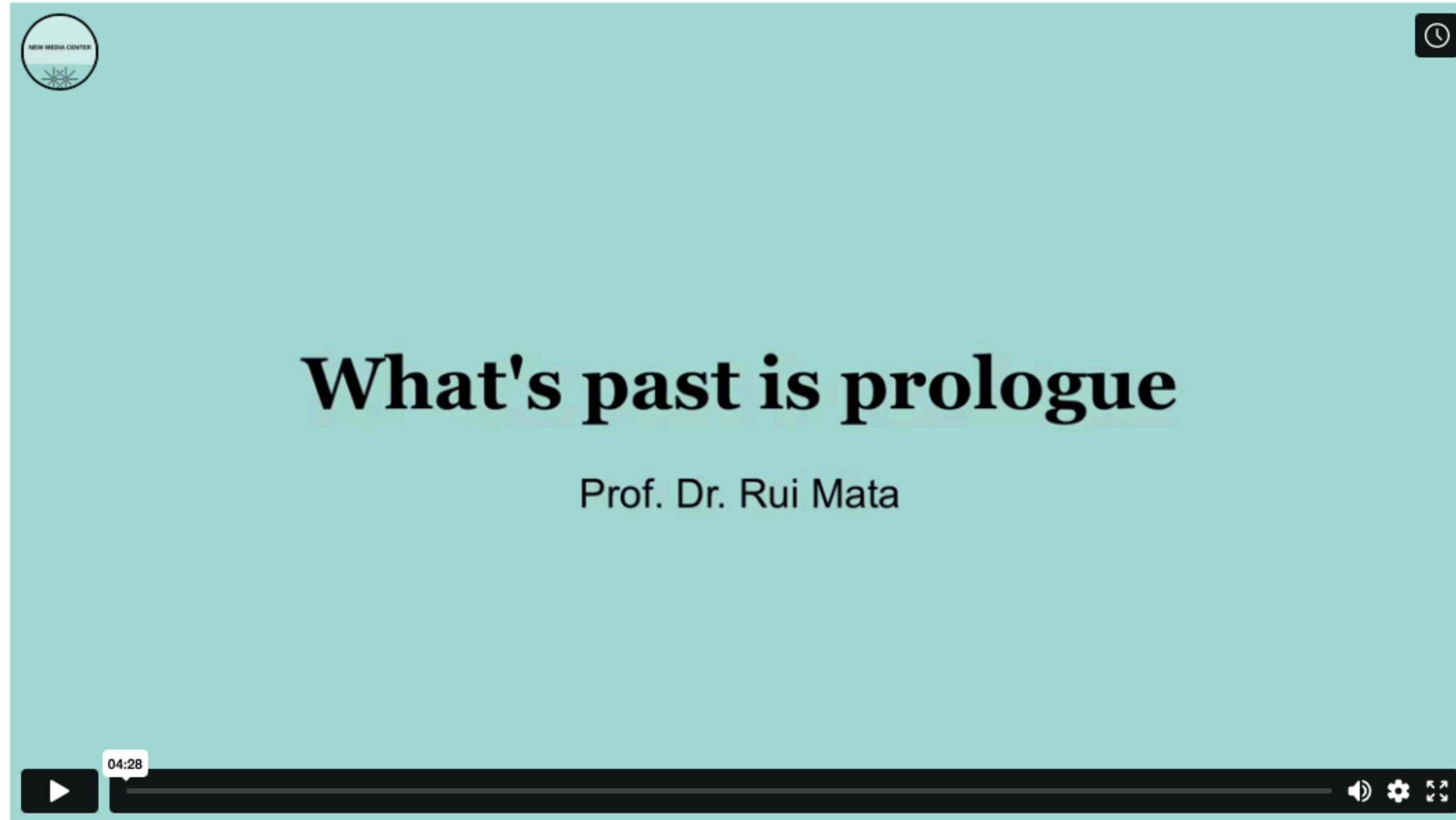
Agenda

- Course overview: sessions, materials, exam
- Why study the history of psychology?
- Problems with history
- Historiographic approaches to study and understand the history of psychology
- Summary

Learning outcomes for this session

- ✓ Know how this course works, where to find materials, etc.
- ✓ Consider the pros and cons (but mainly pros 😊) of studying the history of psychology
- ✓ Be aware of problems in the history of psychology
- ✓ Gain knowledge about historiographic methods
- ✓ Critically reflect on the impact that different historiographic methods have on students' perception of a discipline (e.g., the Great Man vs. psychological factories)

Course overview



Course materials

- **Slides**, available from course website (https://matarui.github.io/HISTPSY_HS24/), uploaded after the lecture
- **ADAM HS2024** (https://adam.unibas.ch/ilias.php?baseClass=ilrepositorygui&ref_id=1736796)
- **Vorlesungsverzeichnis** (<https://vorlesungsverzeichnis.unibas.ch/de/home?id=284661>)
- **Key readings** (cf. links on slides)

Website, sessions, & slides

History of Psychology

History of Psychology

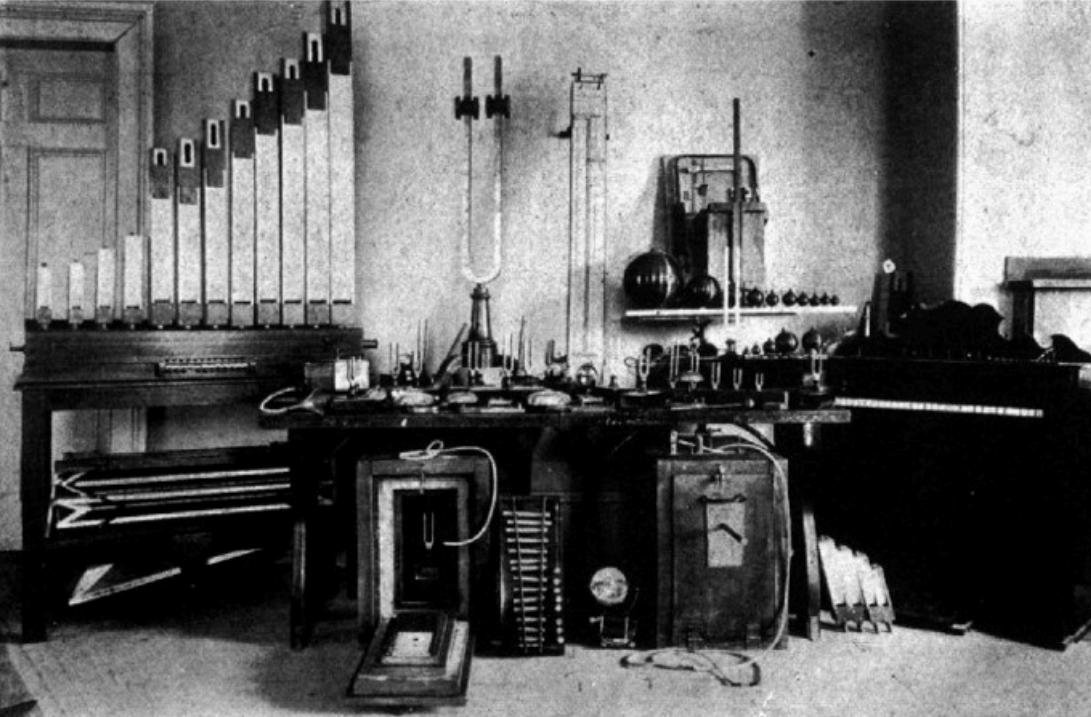
Welcome to the website for *History of Psychology* HS24 (24022-01)

Instructors: [Loreen Tisdall](#) and [Rui Mata](#), University of Basel

Last updated Mon Aug 26 17:43:35 2024

Contents

- [Session information](#)
- [What is this course about?](#)
- [What can you expect to learn?](#)
- [How should you use this website?](#)



Psychologists love labs!

Session information

Sessions take place Mondays, 8.15-9.45, Chemie, Organische, Grosser Hörsaal O

#	Date	Topic	Instructor	Slides
1	23.09.2024	Session 1: Introduction	Tisdall	
2	30.09.2024	Session 2: Pre-psychology	Mata	
3	7.10.2024	Session 3: The birth of psychology	Mata	
4	14.10.2024	Session 4: Psychoanalysis	Mata	
5	21.10.2024	Session 5: Behaviorism	Mata	
6	28.10.2024	Session 6: Gestalt psychology	Mata	
7	4.11.2024	Session 7: Cognitive psychology	Mata	
8	11.11.2024	Session 8: Psychology today	Tisdall	
9	18.11.2024	Session 9: Psychotherapy research	Tisdall	
10	25.11.2024	Session 10: Psychological testing	Tisdall	
11	2.12.2024	Session 11: Decision science	Tisdall	
12	9.12.2024	Session 12: What kind of science is psychology?	Mata	
13	16.12.2024	Exam (Bernoullianum, Grosser Hörsaal 148)		

Exam

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- In-person
- Multiple choice
- Mock exam (end of November)
- ADAM forum Q&A (use it, we are here to help!)

Any administrative questions?

A brief exercise to get us started

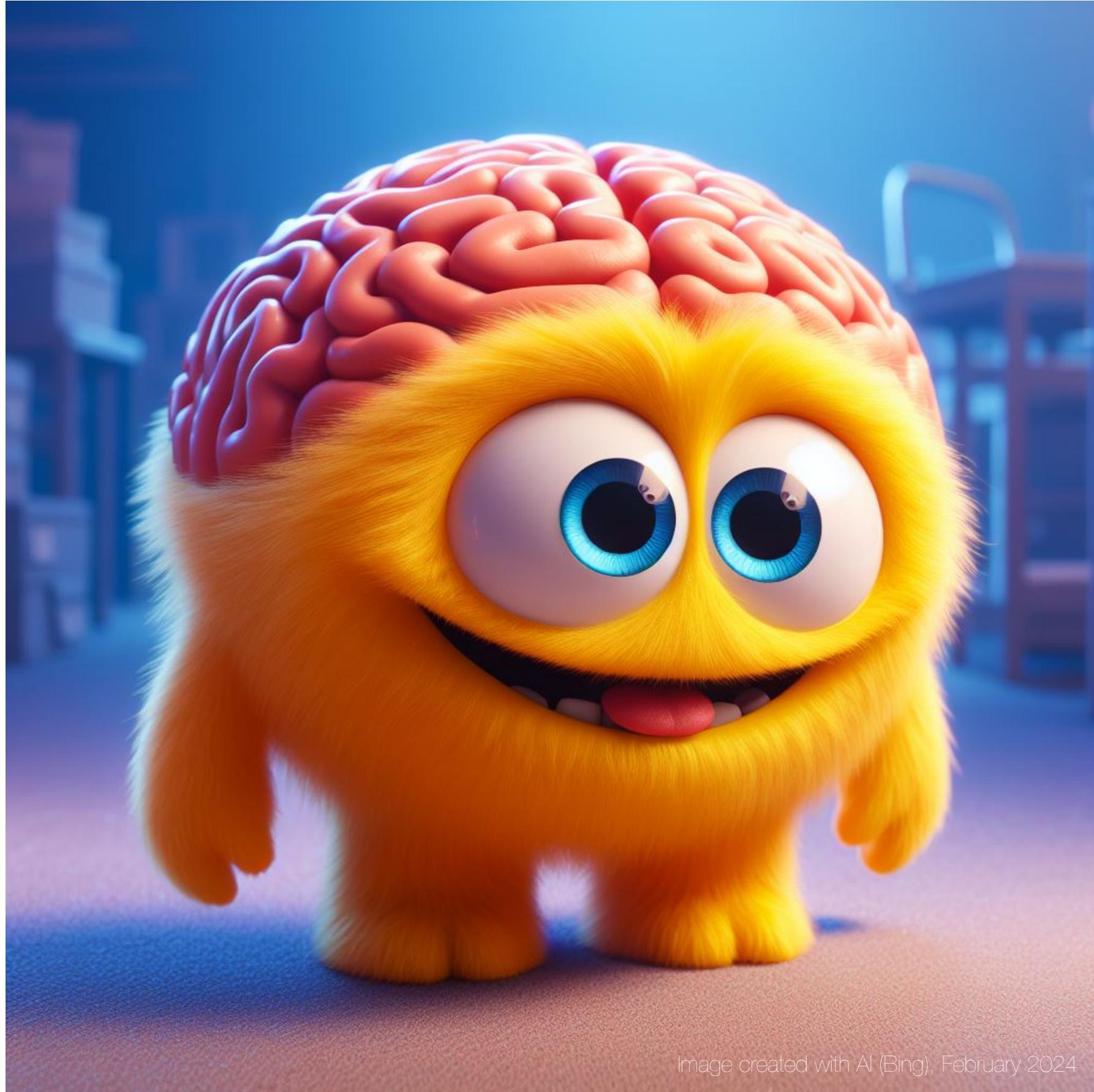


Image created with AI (Bing), February 2024

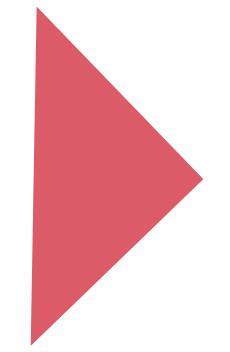
Your turn!

Write down 3 events or individuals that you think have significantly shaped psychology as a discipline.

~1 minute, keep for later

Why study the history of psychology?

- “What’s past is prologue”
- “Let sleeping dogs lie”
- “Out with the old, in with the new”
- “History repeats itself”
- “Don’t cry over spilt milk”
- “Standing on the shoulders of giants”



What is your (current) perspective,
and, importantly,
why is this your (current) perspective?

9 great reasons to study the history of psychology

- **Understanding the origins of ideas:** Studying the history of psychology helps us trace the origins of key psychological concepts and theories. This understanding provides insight into how modern psychological frameworks evolved from earlier philosophical and scientific debates, showing the progression from philosophical musings on the mind to formal scientific inquiry.
- **Contextualizing current theories:** Psychological theories are often shaped by the historical, social, and cultural contexts of their time. By studying history, we can understand how societal events, such as wars, political movements, or technological advancements, influenced the development of psychological thought and how these contexts impact current approaches.
- **Avoiding past mistakes:** Examining the history of psychology helps avoid repeating past mistakes, such as discredited theories (e.g., phrenology, eugenics). It encourages critical reflection on how certain concepts or methods, once widely accepted, were later rejected for ethical, empirical, or conceptual reasons.
- **Highlighting its evolution:** The history of psychology shows how ethical standards and other practices (e.g., open science) have changed over time. Understanding past ethical frameworks for psychological research (e.g., Milgram's obedience experiments) helps inform current ethical guidelines and promotes the protection of participants and researchers in contemporary research.
- **Recognizing contributions of diverse figures:** Studying psychology's history helps uncover contributions from lesser-known figures, women, and individuals from marginalized groups. This can correct historical biases that have often focused disproportionately on a few "great men" while ignoring the contributions of others.
- **Appreciating the interdisciplinary nature of psychology:** The history of psychology reveals its deep connections to other fields, including philosophy, biology, economics, and sociology. By examining these interdisciplinary roots, we can gain a more comprehensive understanding of the field and its future directions.
- **Encouraging critical thinking:** Learning the history of psychology fosters critical thinking by showing that scientific knowledge is not static. It demonstrates that theories are not immune to challenge or revision, encouraging students and professionals to remain open to new ideas and critical of established ones.
- **Inspiring new research:** By studying historical trends and developments in psychology, researchers may identify overlooked areas of inquiry or gaps in knowledge that can inspire new studies or theoretical advancements.
- **Building a sense of identity:** For those in the field of psychology, understanding its history helps build a professional identity. It connects modern psychologists with the intellectual traditions and foundational debates that shaped the discipline.

3 major problems for studying history (of psychology)

Causality



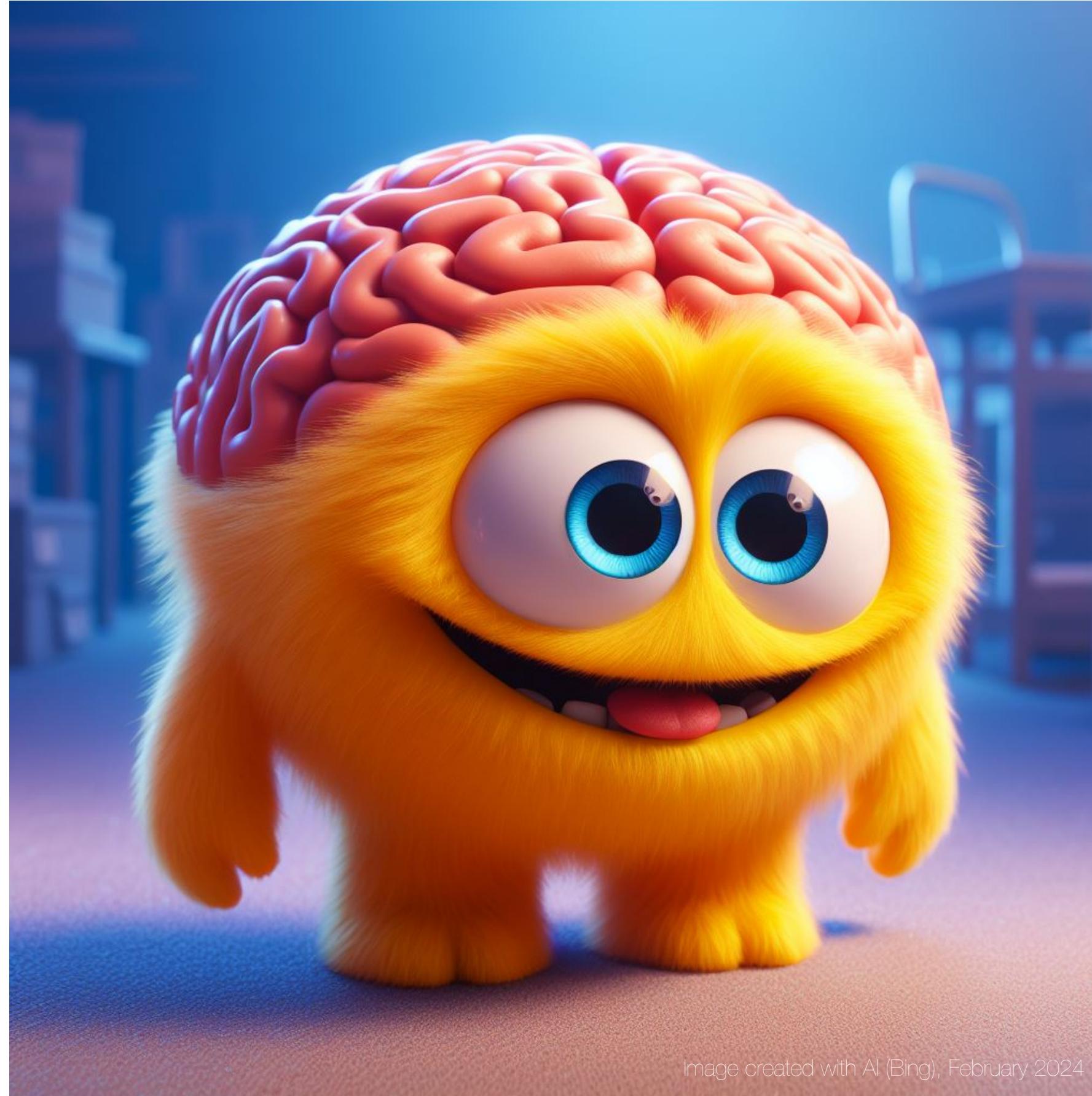
History offers us no counter-factuals, no multiverse. How do we know what/who led to what, and why?

Not value-free



Historians (academics) have motivations, too! Ask yourself, who writes history and why? #hind sight, #ethnocentrism

Remember me?



Find the 3 events or individuals that you think have significantly shaped psychology as a discipline.

By show of hands:

Who wrote 2 or 3 names of individuals?

Who is the history of psychology?

The 25 Psychologists Most Frequently Cited in the Professional Psychological Journal Literature

Rank	Name	Citation frequency
1	Freud, Sigmund	13,890
2	Piaget, Jean	8,821
3	Eysenck, H. J.	6,212
4	Winer, B. J.	6,206
5	Bandura, Albert	5,831
6	Siegel, S.	4,861
7	Cattell, Raymond B.	4,828
8	Skinner, B. F.	4,339
9	Osgood, Charles E.	4,061
10	Guilford, J. P.	4,006
11	Campbell, Donald T.	3,969
12	Festinger, Leon	3,536
13	Miller, George A.	3,394
14	Bruner, Jerome S.	3,279
15	Cronbach, Lee J.	3,253
16	Erikson, Erik H.	3,060
17	Edwards, A. L.	3,007
18	Rotter, Julian B.	3,001
19	Byrne, Donn	2,904
20	Kagan, Jerome	2,901
21	Wolpe, Joseph	2,879
22	Rosenthal, Robert	2,739
23	Underwood, Benton J.	2,686
24	Paivio, Allan	2,678
25	Rokeach, Milton	2,676

The 25 Psychologists Most Frequently Cited in Introductory Psychology Textbooks

Rank	Name	Citation frequency
1	Freud, Sigmund	560
2	Skinner, B. F.	310
3	Bandura, Albert	303
4	Piaget, Jean	240
5	Rogers, Carl	202
6	Schachter, Stanley	200
7	Harlow, Harry F.	175
8	Brown, Roger	162
9	Miller, Neal E.	154
10	McClelland, D. C.	153
11	Erikson, Erik H.	151
12	Milgram, Stanley	146
13	Seligman, Martin E. P.	143
14	Maslow, Abraham	142
15	Bower, Gordon H.	138
16	Kohlberg, Lawrence	128
17	Watson, John B.	127
18	Allport, Gordon W.	124
19	Festinger, Leon	121
20	Loftus, Elizabeth F.	120
21	Zajonc, R. B.	118
22	Pavlov, Ivan P.	117
23	Kagan, Jerome	116
24.5	Sternberg, Robert J.	114
24.5	Mischel, Walter	114

The 26 Psychologists Most Frequently Named in the Survey

Rank	Name	Frequency
1	Skinner, B. F.	58
2	Piaget, Jean	33
3	Freud, Sigmund	28
4	Watson, John B.	24
5	Bandura, Albert	23
6.5	James, William	21
6.5	Pavlov, Ivan P.	21
8	Lewin, Kurt	17
9.5	Rogers, Carl	14
9.5	Thorndike, Edward	14
11.5	Festinger, Leon	13
11.5	Hebb, D. O.	13
12	Allport, Gordon	11
12	Hull, Clark	11
12	Miller, Neal E.	11
12	Tolman, Edward C.	11
12	Erikson, Erik H.	10
12	Köhler, Wolfgang	9
12	Maslow, Abraham	9
12	Vygotsky, Lev Semenovich	9
12	Ainsworth, Mary D.	8
12	Eysenck, H. J.	7
12	Luria, Alexander R.	7
12	Schachter, Stanley	7
12	Simon, Herbert	7
12	Sperry, Roger W.	7

3 major problems for the study of history

Causality



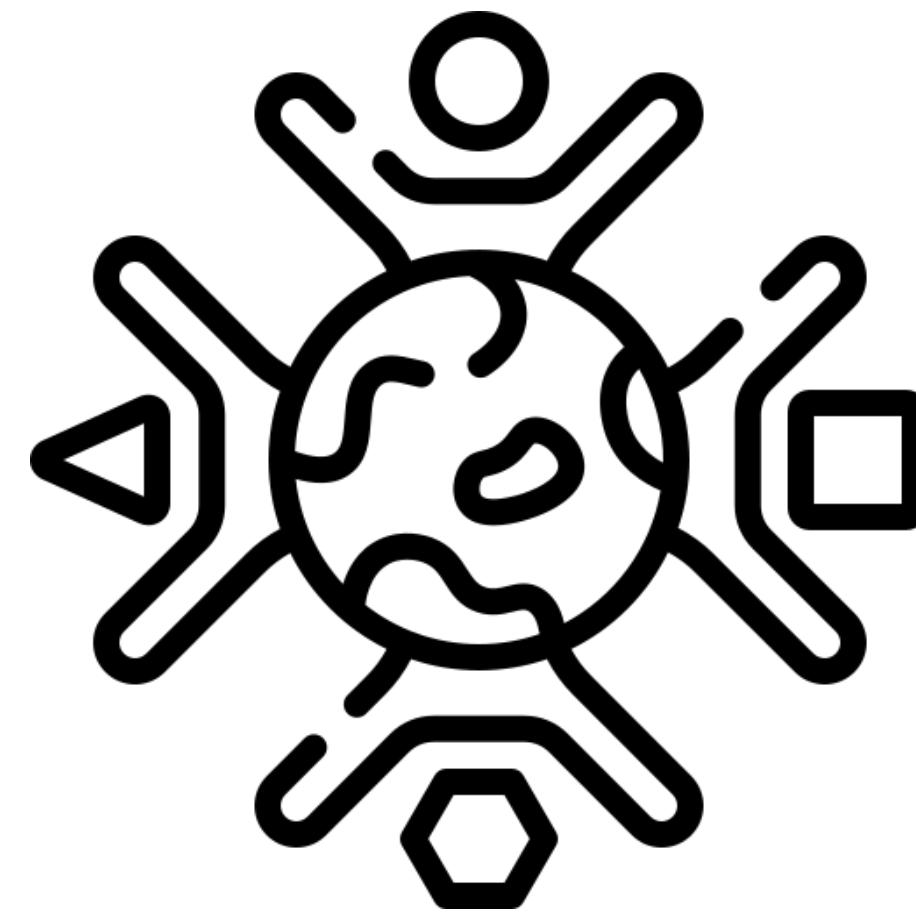
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Diversity



Jocelyn Bell Burnell discovered pulsars (neutron stars). Her PhD supervisor received the Nobel Prize for that ...

How to study the history of psychology?

If we agree on the notion that history does have a role in the discipline of history, we must ask ourselves:
How can the history of psychology be studied in a meaningful, productive way without hero-worship?

Historiometry

- Statistical approach to find patterns in historical data of human personality or behavior
- Focus on (groups of) individuals but considers the social factors
- Uses (auto)biographical data, historical records, societal and cultural data
- E.g., study groups of artists or scientists within a certain time frame to identify common patterns in their creative development
- Quantitative, data-driven

Psychological factories

- “A lab that has produced 10 or more scholarly articles per year for at least two years in a row.”
- Individual success happens within an ecology!
- E.g., use PsycNET to identify psychological factories —> study who has influenced psychology without the hagiography/hero worship (objective influence?)
- Quantitative, data-driven

Scientific personae & moral economies

- What are individuals’ values at a given time, and do they align with the status quo/mainstream of the discipline?
- Considers who rose to eminence at what time and in which cultural space?
- How and why do scientists engage with particular topics, methods, and evidence?
- E.g., open science, ethics, mentoring, objectivity, quantification, fairness
- Qualitative focus

Multisited ethnography

- Concerns itself with the proliferation/circulation of phenomena and social processes in different environments
- Examines people, practices, and interactions across various sites
- E.g., global spread of beliefs about specific individuals and impact of media and culture
- Mixed, but more of a qualitative focus

Biography of scientific objects

- Related to multisited ethnography
- Focuses on the historical and social life of a particular scientific concept, product or object, tracing its development, usage, and meaning across time and space
- E.g., lifecycle of a psychological test
- Mixed, but more of a qualitative focus

Example: A short history of psychology (and psychiatry) in context

Table 1: Timelines in the History and Development of Psychology

Time	Event / Development in Psychology Perspective	1890	1951
	All cultures and societies throughout history speculated on the nature of the world. This included the human mind, heart, soul, spirit and brain. Traditional societies attempted to interpret our world through society traditions and religion. This included standard practices of behaviour.	William James published <i>Principles of Psychology</i> , that later became the foundation for functionalism.	Cart Rogers publishes Client-Centred Therapy.
Stone Age	Mental illness was seen as a punishment from the gods.	The term 'Mental Tests' was coined by James Cattell, beginning the specialization in psychology now known as psychological assessment.	First edition of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) published by the American Psychiatric Association. This marked the beginning of modern mental illness classification.
469 - 399 BC	Socrates argued that the mind was the source of all knowledge.	Sir Francis Galton's work on heredity and interrelationships.	Sex-change operation performed on a transsexual.
430 - 377 BC	Hippocrates proposed four humors: blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile.	New York State psychiatric hospitals and institutions were established.	A study on psychotropic drugs found that chlorpromazine was more effective than placebo.
428 - 347 BC	Plato, a Greek philosopher, believed in the immortality of the soul.	James McKeen Cattell established the first American Journal of Psychology.	Established in the Department of Psychology at The University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign.
384 - 322 BC	Aristotle, a Greek philosopher, believed in the four elements: earth, air, fire, and water.	Edward Thorndike published first article on animal intelligence leading to the theory of Operant Conditioning.	1968 Martin Luther King Jr., the Civil Rights leader is assassinated.
1782 - 1852	Friedrich Nietzsche argued that God was dead.	The first American Journal devoted to vocational guidance, <i>The Vocational Guidance Bulletin</i> .	1969 Joseph Wolpe published 'The Practice of Behaviour Therapy'.
1795 - 1878	Ernst Heinrich Weber noticed the principle of 'just noticeable difference'.	Wilhelm Stern developed the scores on Binet-Stern intelligence test.	1952 Alfred Kinsey's 'Sexual Behavior in the Human Male' published.
1801 - 1887	Gustav Fechner developed the 'fechnerian law' of perception.	Max Wertheimer, Wolfgang Köhler, and Kurt Koffka founded Gestalt Psychology.	1953 Elizabeth Kübler-Ross published 'On Death and Dying'.
1802 - 1887	Dorothea Dix advocated for the humane treatment of mentally ill patients.	John B. Watson published 'Behaviorism'.	1954 Masters and Johnson published 'Human Sexual Inadequacy'.
1809 - 1882	Charles Daubeny argued that the mind is a product of the body.	Henry Murray publishes 'The Journal of Abnormal Psychology'.	1970 Esther Boserup published 'Women's Study'.
1818 - 1883	Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels developed the theory of historical materialism.	Carl G. Jung developed the concept of the collective unconscious.	1971 First Doctoral program in psychology at the University of Urbana/Champaign.
1822 - 1911	Francis Galton studied heredity and intelligence.	Margaret Floy Washburn published 'The Animal Mind'.	1990 Nelson Mandela is released from prison. Mandela fostered racial reconciliation, promoted democracy and social justice.
1832 - 1920	Wilhelm Wundt established the first laboratory of psychology in Germany.	Sigmund Freud published 'The Interpretation of Dreams'.	1990 Human Genome project launched.
1842 - 1910	William James Harvard University, developed the 'functionalism' perspective.	Alfred Binet and Theodore Simon developed the first intelligence test.	1990 Dr. Jack Kevorkian performs his first assisted suicide.
1849 - 1936	Ivan Pavlov conducted classical conditioning experiments.	National Vocational Guidance Association (NCGA) was established.	1990 Noam Chomsky publishes 'On Nature, Use and Acquisition of Language'.
1856 - 1939	Blaise Pascal argued that the mind is a slave to the body.	Lightner Witmer established the first psychological clinic in Pennsylvania.	1991 Steven Pinker publishes an article in 'Science' introducing his theory of how children acquire language, which he later details further in his book 'The Language Instinct'.
1859 - 1938	René Descartes argued that the mind and body are separate substances.	Philippe Pinel is named the chief physician at La Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, including unchaining mental patients and allowing them to walk outside.	1993 Annual Prozac sales reach \$1.2 billion. Fluoxetine (Prozac) was the first major breakthrough for the treatment of depression.
1865	Edmund Husserl developed phenomenology.	First American hospital exclusively for mental patients.	1994 The DSM IV is published.
1869	Charles Darwin published the 'On the Origin of Species'.	Franz Mesmer detailed his cure for some mental disorders known as hypnosis.	1994 Stephen Pinker's 'The Language Instinct' is published.
1874 - 1949	Jean-Jacques Rousseau argued that education should be based on natural instincts.	John Dewey established the University of Chicago.	1997 Deep Blue, the supercomputer at the time, beats the World's best chess player, Kasparov, marking a milestone in the development of artificial intelligence.
1875 - 1961	Immanuel Kant argued that the mind creates the reality we experience.	Donald Broadbent, British cognitive psychologist, developed the 'filter model' of attention.	1998 Annual Prozac sales reach \$2.8 billion.
1876	William Tuke founded the York Retreat, a rural community for the mentally ill.	First American journal of psychology was established.	1998 Viagra goes on sale in the United States.
1877	John Dewey argued that education should be based on natural instincts.	John B. Watson published 'Behaviorism'.	1998 Martin Seligman chooses positive psychology as the theme for his speech to the American Psychological Association, as its incoming president.
1878	Alfred Adler developed the concept of 'inferiority complex'.	Stanley Milgram conducted the 'obedience experiment'.	1998 Terrorist attacks in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania Nairobi, Kenya at the USA Embassy buildings in which over 300 people are killed and other injured. Terrorism and trauma become a concern in psychological studies.
1879	Gregor Mendel published theories of genetics.	Electro convulsive therapy (ECT) was first used on a person. It became a common treatment remains in use today.	1998 Psychology advances to the technological age with the emergence of e-therapy.
1880	Carl Wernicke published his work on the frontal lobe damage and language development.	Albert Bandura developed the 'observational learning' approach.	1999 Killing rampage at Columbine High School stirs public concern about identifying and treating dangerousness in children.
1881	Wilhelm Wundt established first laboratory for psychology in Germany. Psychology becomes a field of empirical research.	Carl Rogers developed client-centered therapy.	1999 U.S. Supreme Court rules that mental patients have a right to treatment in the community rather than institutions when it is available.
1882	John B. Watson published 'Behaviorism'.	John Marston developed the 'sociometric method' for determining social status.	2000 Genetic researchers finish mapping human genes. Scientists hope to one day isolate the individual genes responsible for different diseases.
1883	Edward Thorndike published 'Animal Intelligence'.	Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) was developed.	2000 Seligman proposes positive psychology. Seligman has expanded Positive Psychology to education, health, and neuroscience.
1884	Alfred Binet developed the 'Binet-Stern-Elliot Test'.	Carl Rogers developed client-centered therapy.	2000 DSM-IV-TR (4th Edition, Text Revision) is published.
1885	Maria Montessori developed the 'Montessori Method'.	Lawrence Kohlberg developed the 'stages of moral development'.	2001 Terrorists attack America in the infamous September 11.
1886	John Dewey developed the 'pragmatist philosophy'.	Alfred Kinsey reports on sexual behavior in the United States.	2001 The case of Andrea Yates who drowned her five children highlights the disorder postpartum psychosis.
1887	Clifford Beers published 'A Mind That Found Itself'.	Martin Heidegger founded the 'University of Phenomenology'.	2001 The United States Surgeon General published a supplement to the first-ever Surgeon General's report on Mental Health.
1888	Freud makes his first visit to America.	World Health Organization is established.	2001 The American Psychological Association officially recognized forensic psychology as a specialization within psychology.
1889	Carl Jung, a Swiss psychiatrist, developed 'analytical psychology'.	Electro Convulsive Therapy (ECT) was first used for bipolar disorder.	2002 New Mexico becomes the first state to pass legislation allowing licensed psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medication.
1890	Wilhelm Wundt established first laboratory for psychology in Germany. Psychology becomes a field of empirical research.	The first International Congress of Psychology took place in Paris, France.	2002 Steven Pinker publishes 'The Blank Slate', arguing against the concept of tabula rasa.
1891	Lev Vygotsky, a Russian psychologist, developed 'cultural-historical theory'.	Canadian Donald Hebb, introduced the concept of 'recency effect'.	2002 Psychologist Daniel Kahneman is awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics for his research (conducted with Amos Tversky) on how judgements are made in the face of uncertainty (Tversky died in 1996 and the Nobel is not awarded posthumously).
1892	John Stetson developed the 'Stetson hat'.	Frank Parson published 'An Introduction to Psychology'.	2002 The push for mental health parity gets the attention of the White House as President George W. Bush promotes legislation that would guarantee comprehensive mental health coverage.
1893	James McKeen Cattell becomes the first professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania.	The Great Depression began.	2008 Obama becomes the first African American President of USA.
1894	Emil Kraepelin publishes textbook on psychiatry, likening mental disorders to physical diseases.	The Great Depression ended.	2013 The DSM - 5 is published.
1895	The first laboratory of psychology in America is established at Johns Hopkins University.	Stock market crash of 1929.	
1896	Herman Ebbinghaus introduced the 'method of successive presentation' as a means to study memory processes.	Electro Convulsive Therapy (ECT) was first used for depression.	
1897	Sigmund Freud begins treating patients in Vienna, Austria.	The first International Congress of Psychology took place in Paris, France.	
1898	G. Stanley Hall founded 'The American Journal of Psychology'.	Walter B. Cannon published 'The Function of the Supraoptic Nucleus of the Hypothalamus'.	
1899	James McKeen Cattell becomes the first professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania.	Chlorpromazine, first antipsychotic drug, tested.	
1900	The first International Congress of Psychology took place in Paris, France.		

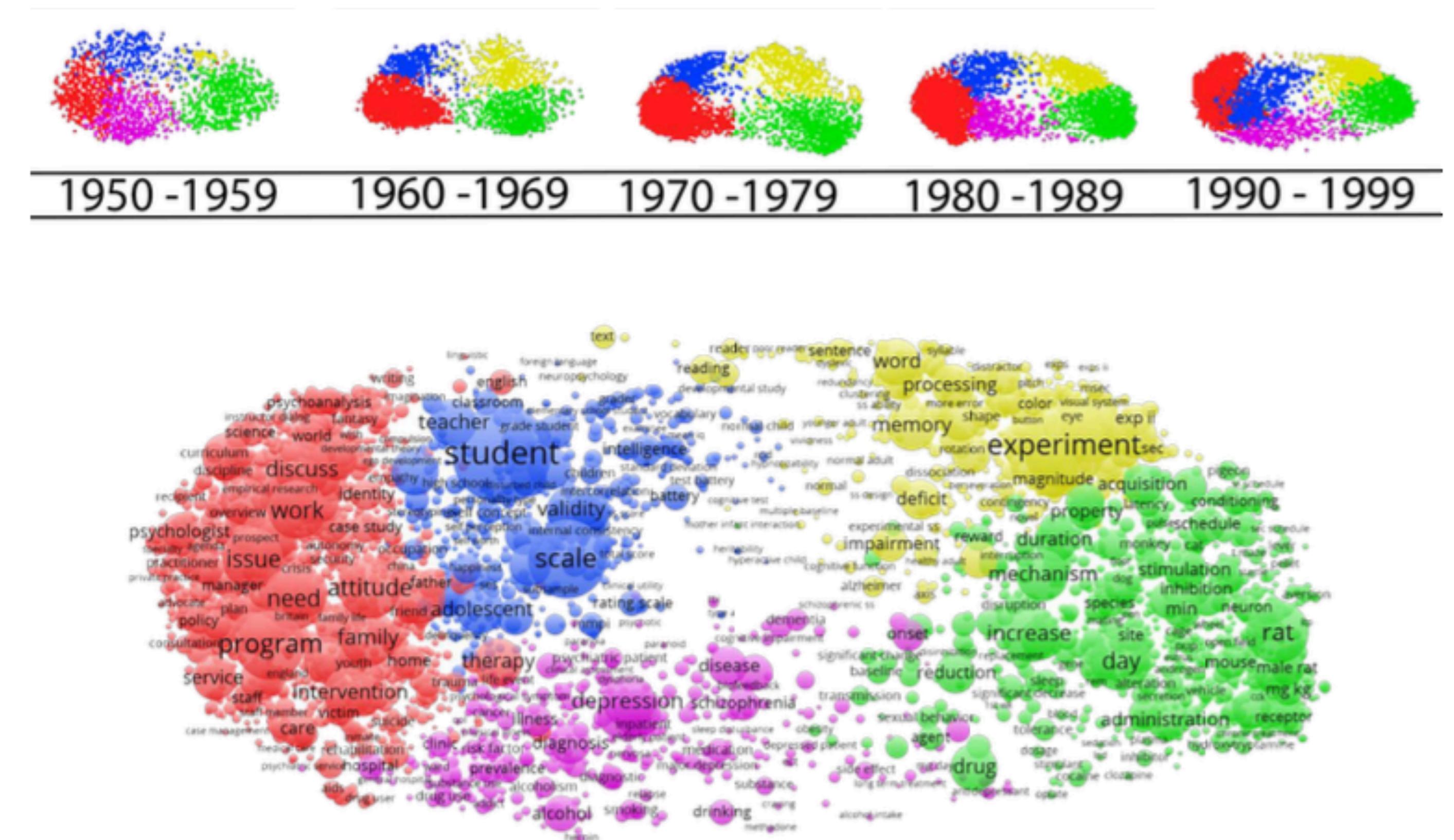
Example: Bibliometric analysis of key psychological terms over time

What is at the core of psychology as a discipline, and (how) has this changed over time?

- ▶ “Considering the popularity of the unity/disunity debates among psychologists and historians, we approach the question of disciplinary formation by *reframing it into a history of methods.*”
- ▶ “If we take a bird’s-eye view of psychological research, made possible by *new ways of analyzing large amounts of data,* can we identify a) the growth of the literature b) the fundamental changes in the content of the science c) the methodological traditions akin to the ones Cronbach talks about?” [...] We aim to explore exactly that through a *large-scale analysis of the content of psychological journals.*”
- ▶ “We aim to show that even though the growth of the literature was massive, the fundamental changes in the content of psychological research were not structural. The *structure of the field remained the same, and at the center was a methodological core.*”

Example: Bibliometric analysis of key psychological terms over time

- data-mining terms from scientific journals
- sample of 676,393 articles published in journals indexed in PsycINFO from 1950 to 1999, and conduct an analysis of the relevant terms they use in their abstracts and titles
- terms are visualized in two-dimensional *co-occurrence maps of the discipline*
 - *the larger the number of abstracts/titles which contain the same two terms together, the closer those terms will appear in the map*
 - *co-occurrence maps as a proxy for the discipline of psychology ("digital history")*



Example: Bibliometric analysis of key psychological terms over time

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 - sample of 676,393 articles published in journals indexed in PsycINFO from 1950 to 1999, and conduct an analysis of the relevant terms they use in their abstracts and titles
 - terms are visualized in two-dimensional *co-occurrence maps of the discipline*
 - ➔ the larger the number of abstracts/titles which contain the same two terms together, the closer those terms will appear in the map
 - ➔ co-occurrence maps as a proxy for the discipline of psychology (“digital history”)

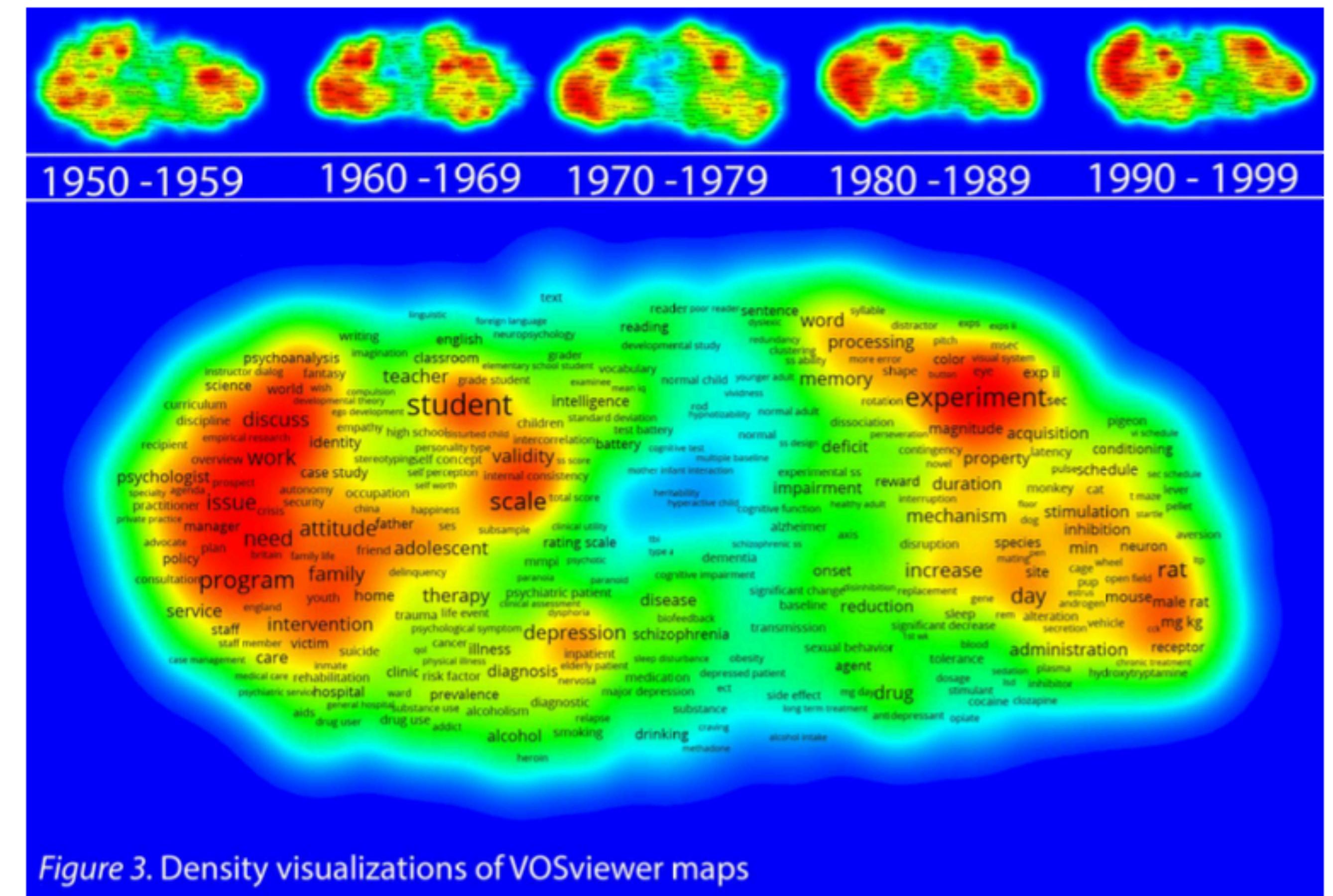
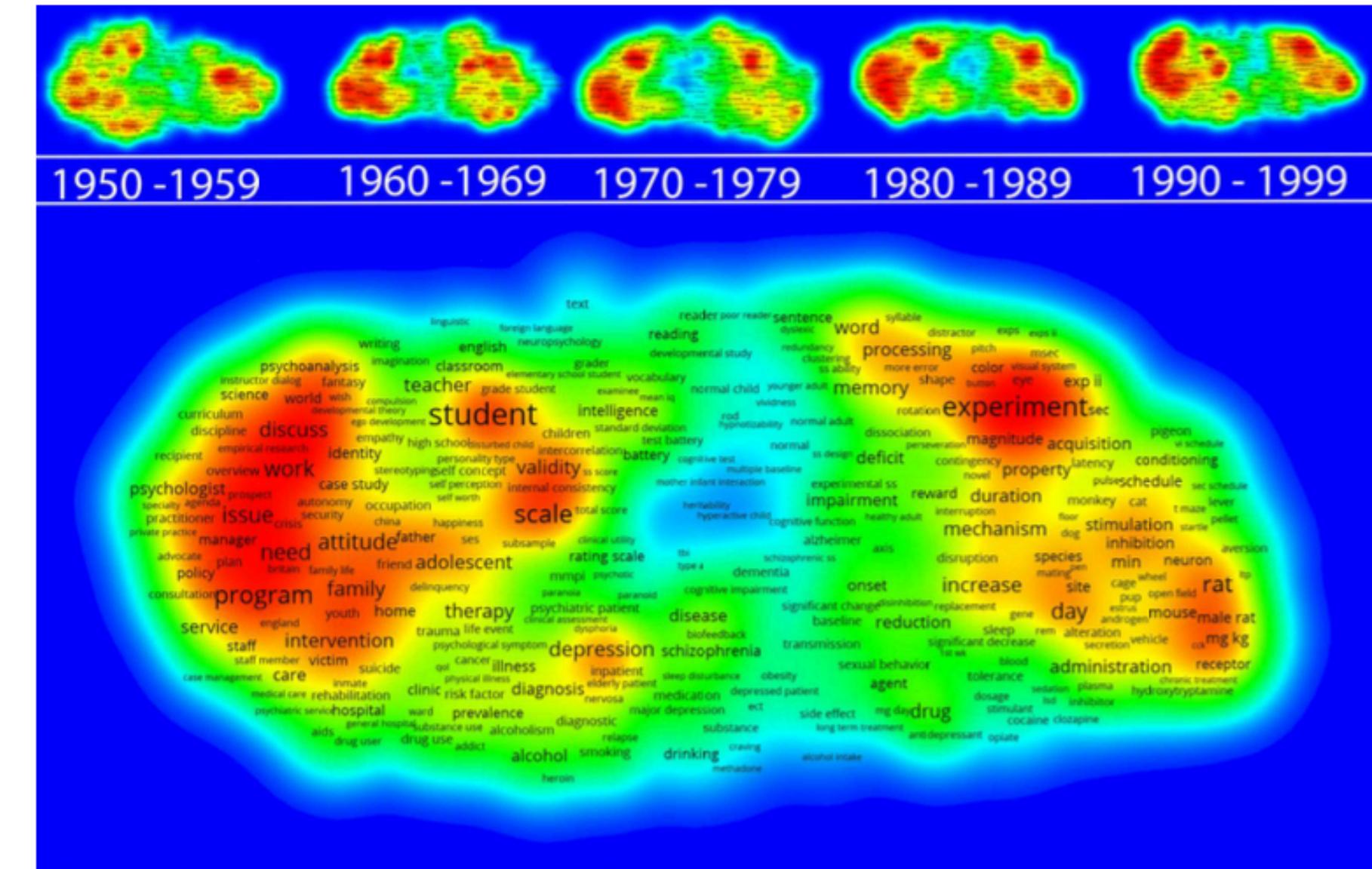
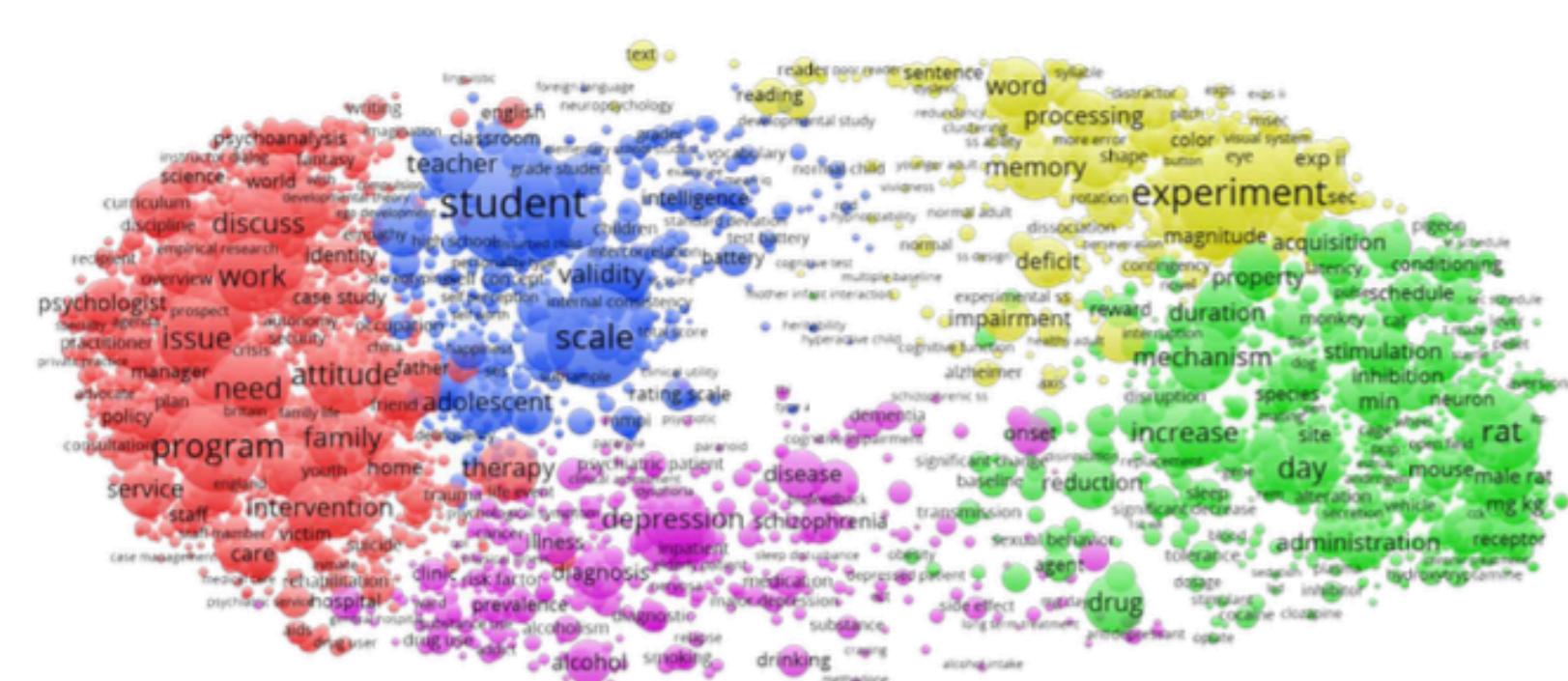
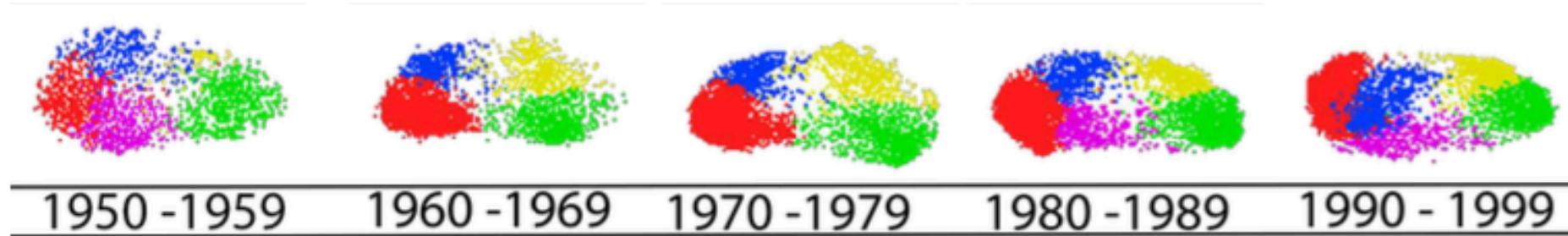


Figure 3. Density visualizations of VOSviewer maps

Example: Bibliometric analysis of key psychological terms over time



“There is a certain democracy of large numbers involved in taking the term-mining perspective, where the terms that dominate texts frame our view - not analytical categories like individual or institutional reputation. The *Big Names* still exert their influence over historical trajectories of terms by virtue of their importance, but by taking the term-mining road, they are not the point from which we start as historians.”

Summary of this session

- **Studying the history of psychology as a scientific discipline allows us to understand** the evolution of theories, methods, and approaches that have shaped our understanding of human behavior, as well as to **critically evaluate** past assumptions, recognize how **cultural and societal influences** have impacted the field, and appreciate the contributions of key figures in advancing psychological knowledge and practice.
- **Studying the history of psychology is plagued by various problems**, including the limited exploration of counterfactuals, which constrains our understanding of alternative causal paths, the tendency to view historical developments through a retrospective and motivational lens that is not value-free, and the lack of diversity in recognizing contributions from marginalized or underrepresented groups in the field.
- **Studying the history of psychology can be approached through a variety of historiographic methods**, which offer valuable insights into the contributions of specific individuals or groups, while avoiding the pitfalls of the hero-worship of a few "Great Men".

Key reading(s)

Ball, L. C. (2012). Genius without the “Great Man”: New possibilities for the historian of psychology.
History of Psychology, 15(1), 72. <https://oce.ovid.com/article/00120507-201202000-00005/PDF>