

Psychologists on the march - science, practice, and professional identity in America, 1929-1969

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Strong binding and uncreased spine.

**Psychologists on the March: Science,
Practice, and Professionalism in
America, 1929**

With the support of the federal
government, the field entered a prolonged
period of exponential growth that saw
major changes in the institutional structure
of the field that spread to include the
epistemological foundations of psychology.

Organizations of Experimentalists
It did not take long after the founding of the APA for experimentalists to begin their long history of efforts to organize separate groups within or outside of the new organization. In 1898, just 6 years after the APA was founded, Lightner Witmer, the University of Pennsylvania psychologist celebrated as the founder of the first psychological clinic, initiated an effort to form an organization of laboratory-based psychologists to be independent of the APA (Goodwin, 1985). The effort failed, and Edward B. Titchener, the structuralist psychologist and head of the laboratory at Cornell University, was partially responsible. A number of issues were involved in Witmer's attempt, but the perceived domination of the APA by individuals other than experimentalists was pivotal.
The Experimentalists. Titchener would wait another 6 years before founding his own group, popularly known as the "Experimentalists" (Boring, 1938, 1967). Titchener wanted a smaller meeting of representatives from different laboratories who would meet in a laboratory and could handle the apparatus there. They would exchange frank criticisms in a smoke-filled atmosphere that would exclude women. The first meeting was held at Cornell in April 1904. After that, the meetings rotated among various laboratories in the northeastern United States. Although a core of laboratories was to be invited, the host exercised some freedom in determining both the guest list and some aspects of the format of the meetings. As the meetings began to get larger, forcing some changes of format, it became apparent that various changes needed to be made. This happened fairly soon after Titchener's death in 1927.



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Notable in particular is his ability to synopsise psychologists' work in various government programs.

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. They should not be preoccupied at that stage of their education with specialties of professional practice or scientific research in psychology. Though largely ignored by psychologists, Gilbert's qualitative work lives on in the fields of history and cinema.

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In other words, it was not abstract knowledge but real individuals who were being called upon to render national service. Soon after the trial, Gilbert's status as the psychologist of the Nazi mind was eclipsed by a young psychologist who had begun work on an experiment at the same time Gilbert was on the witness stand in Israel.

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To summarize, while the science of psychology and some of its public service applications are a century old, the development of psychology as a profession with formally recognized specialties of practice is much younger. In the second part pp.

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Psychologists on the March is thus an impressive book. A group of psychologists formed the unofficial Office of Psychological Personnel and used it to place psychologists where their expertise would have optimal impact. The subcommittee also considered it possible that a psychologist, in one or more specialties, might want or need to become certified in a narrower scope of service than is characteristic of a specialty.

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