



# Main Idea

- Criminal and deviant behavior is a direct result of a missing link between the normal development of the brain and the processes by which we learn new things.
- This missing link can cause a multitude of unwarranted responses from individuals suffering from this issue.
- Since this issue is so difficult to pinpoint, this can make diagnoses and remediations a hard task to accomplish.



## Possible Causes

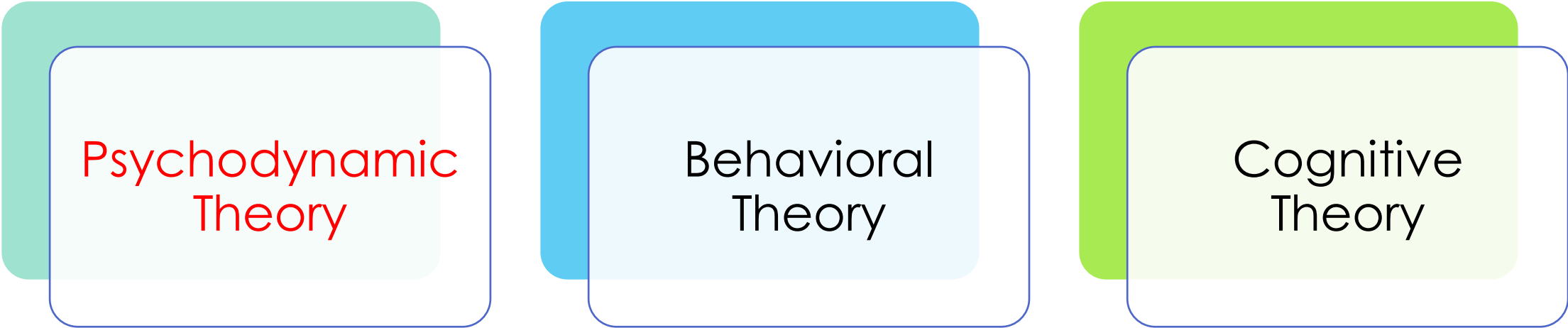
Failures in brain development

Learned behaviors of aggression

Inherent personality traits

Mental Illness

# Three Major Psychological Theories



Psychodynamic  
Theory

Behavioral  
Theory

Cognitive  
Theory

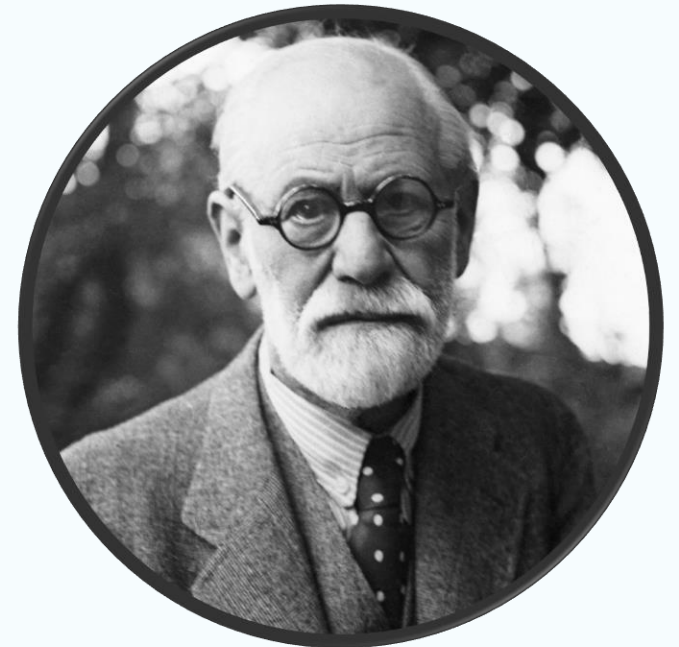
# Psychodynamic Theory

Developed by Sigmund Freud

- Claimed that an individual's personality is controlled by a subconscious mental process that is grounded in the process of early childhood brain development.

Three Structures of the Human Personality:

- The ID
- The Ego
- The Superego



# The ID, The Ego, and The Superego

## ID

- Biologically driven attributes of an individual that includes needs like food, water, sex, and other necessities.

## Ego

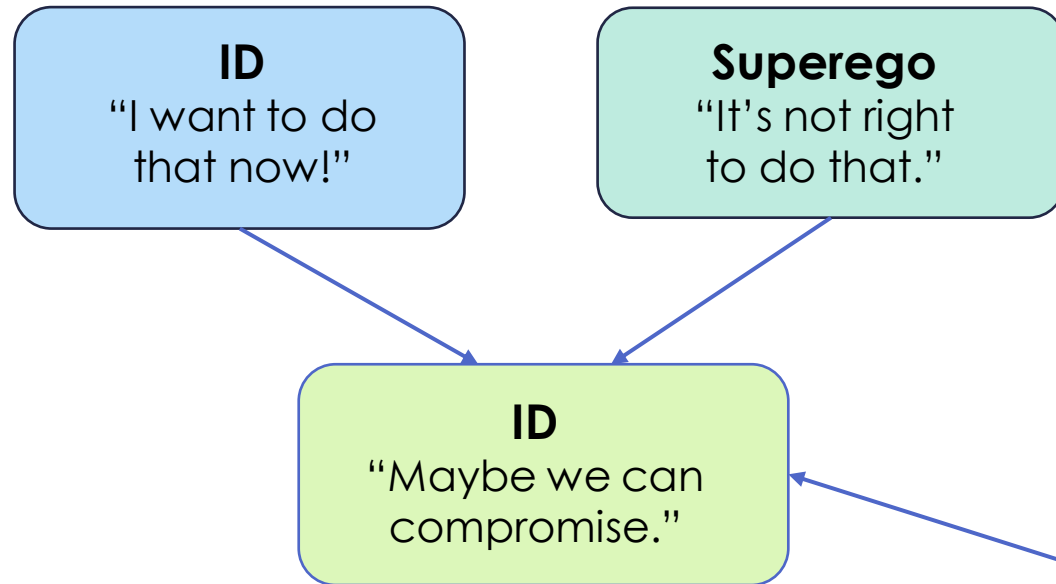
- An attribute that develops early in life and compensates for the ID by guiding it into conformity within societal boundaries of behavioral expectations.

## Superego

- The attribute that focuses on morality and serves to pass judgement on the actions and behavioral intentions of individuals. It also tends to develop more as people grow and are influenced by those within their society and social environments.

The ego mediates between the id's desire for instant gratification and the strict morality of the superego

# The Connection



Neutralization Theory



## Negative Results of the Psychodynamic Theory

An underdeveloped superego, leading to an unawareness between right and wrong (social norms vs. non-social norms).

Mental Disorders

Conduct Disorders in Children

Oppositional Defiance in Children

Personality Disorders



# Mental Disorder Attributes and Causes

## Mental Attributes

- Depression
- Rage
- Social Isolation
- Narcissism

## Criminal Attributes

- Fighting
- Rape
- Property Damage
- Burglary
- Murder

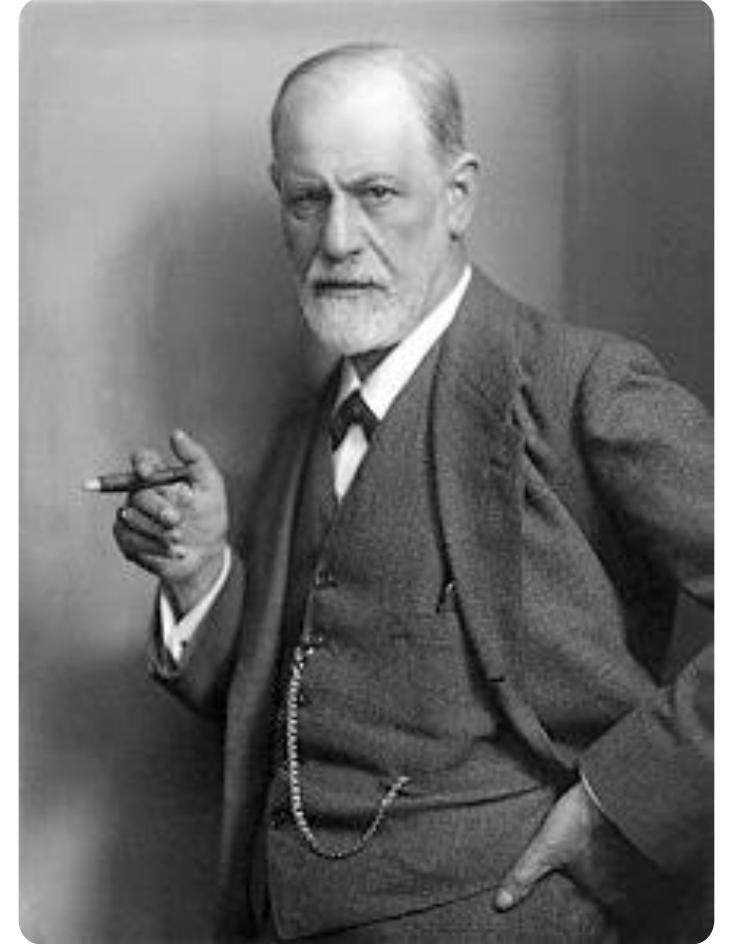
## Causes

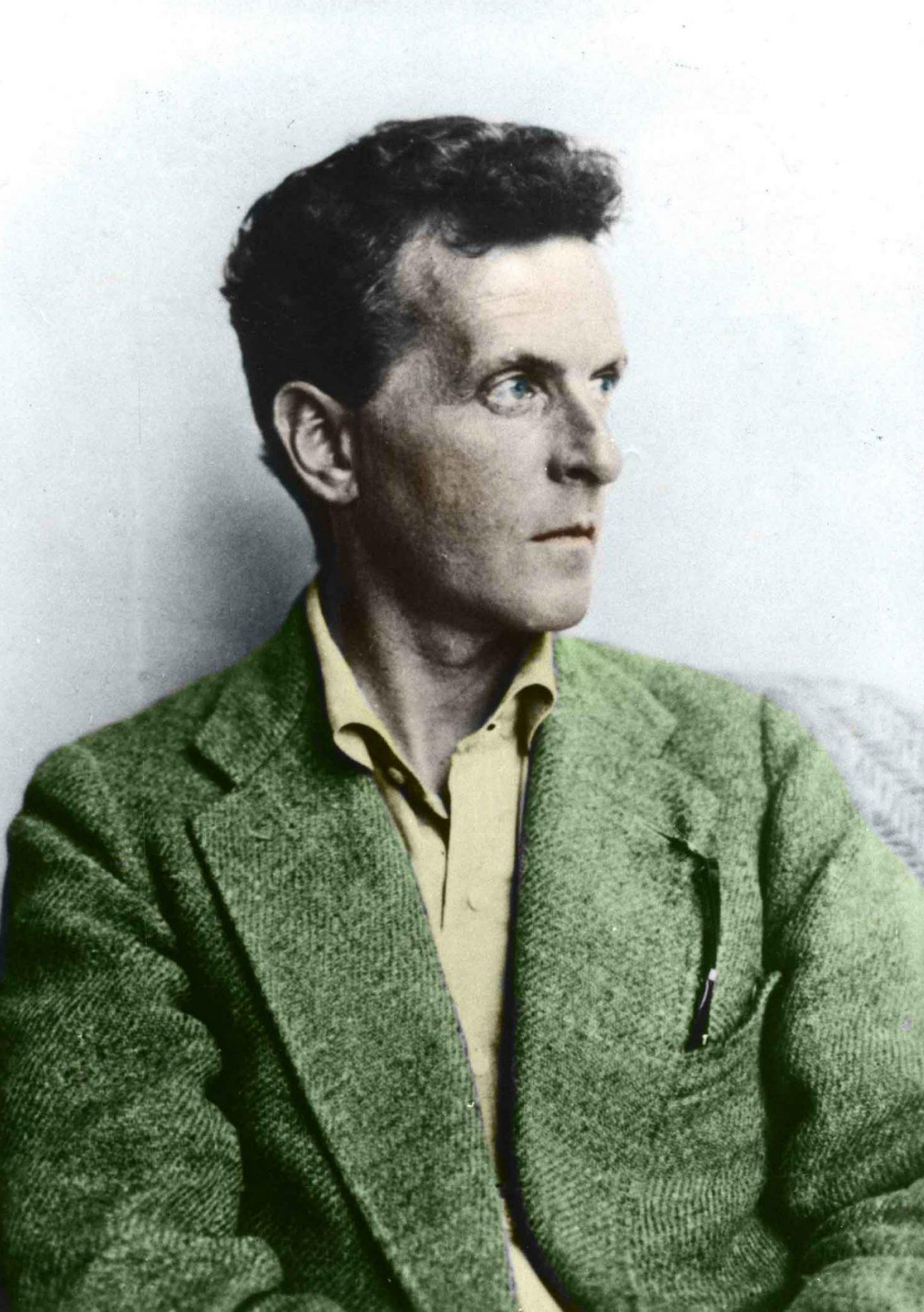
- Brain Damage
- Child Abuse
- Genetics
- Traumatic Events



# About Sigmund Freud

- Born in Moravia, Austria.
- He was an Austrian neurologists, psychologists, and criminologists.
- Had a deep passion for helping those with mental illnesses and disorders to be understood by the normal population.
- Conducted hundreds of case studies to help those suffering with mental illness.
- Published the novel *Criminality from a Sense of Guilt* in 1916, that first introduced his psychoanalytic theory containing the ID, ego, and super ego.
- Died at the age of 83 from cancer.





# Psychodynamic Theory Criticism and Rebuttal

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Criticism by **Ludwig Wittgenstein**, he claimed Freud “always had something to say”.

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Did not understand why Freud dismissed biological possibilities as a causation of crime.

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However, Freud was a secular realists, and sought to use logic and reasoning to complete his case studies and determine causation for crime and abnormal behavior.

# What is a case study?

- In-depth research and study that focuses on interviewing the subject and those close within their societal environment.
- Less constructive and routine-based as other methods of research.
- More fluid and authentic.
- Freud would observe his subject's behavior and their interactions with those in close relationships with them.
- He would then document this raw data and organize it into consumable information that would build his case.




# Emma Eckstein Case Study

- In November of 1894, Freud conducted a case study on a young woman named Emma Eckstein
- Emily was suffering from chronic gastrointestinal pain and pain during her menstrual cycles.
- A physician and close friend of Freud's, Wilhelm Fleiss could not find an adequate cause for Eckstein's issues.
- However, after a long case study, Freud claimed that Eckstein's problems were a direct relation to her past child-hood trauma of sexual abuse, which Freud called "the affect of fright".




# Psychodynamic Theory Conclusion

The Psychodynamic Theory developed by Freud, sought to find different ways to interpret cognitive behavior issues.



Through case studies and in-depth research, Freud was often able to find the cause of crime through past childhood trauma.



In most of his cases he drew back on the idea of the ID, ego, and superego, claiming that most of his subjects had an underdeveloped superego that led to their abnormal behavior or health issues

# Three Major Psychological Theories



Psychodynamic  
Theory

Behavioral  
Theory

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Theory

# Behavioral Theory

Developed by Gabriel Tarde

Claims that behavior and psychological reactions are based upon learned behavior from family, friends, the media, or society.



## Main Points

Learned behaviors  
of aggression in  
children

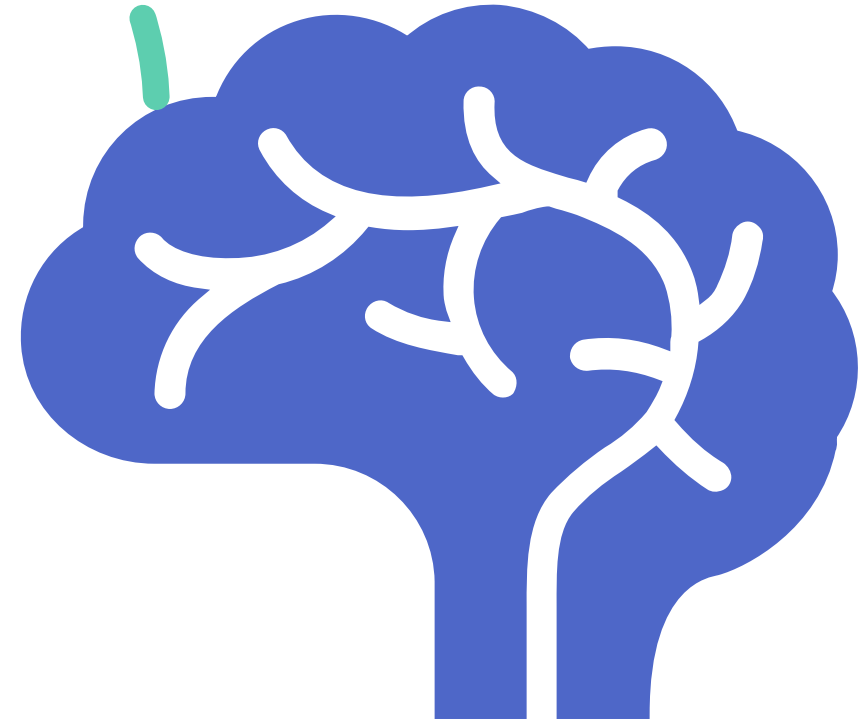
Media Influence

Moral  
Responsibility and  
Laws of Imitation



# Laws of Imitation

- Tarde believed that as the brain began to develop and as the ego began to expand, developing individuals would begin to imitate those around them.
  - Most of the time those who were imitated were family members, and close friends.
- Tarde saw this mostly in children imitating the actions of their parents.
  - Therefore, a common side effect for children within a toxic family environment would be mental disorders.



# Moral Responsibility

Tarde also developed the idea of moral responsibility.

The claim was that all people actively dealt with individual identity and social similarity.

## Individual identity

- The concept of self.
- The critique by the mind.

## Social Similarity

- The familiarity of self within society.
- The comparison of the mind.



# Tarde's Effect on the Court and Prison System

- Tarde realized a lack of education and awareness towards defendants suffering from psychological issues in the court rooms.
- He proposed that a committee of psychologists and doctors be present during the times of the trial that would help resolve the issues via a psychological basis.
- Tarde also argued for “conditional liberty” programs for prisoners in order to foster good behavior from them
  - They would be rewarded for good behavior.
  - Rewards would include more free time, more frequent visitors, and sometimes decrease in sentences.



# Albert Bandura

- Believed that individuals were not born with the innate desire to commit crime.
- Believed that people who live in more crime-ridden areas are more prone to mimic the environment around them.
- Because of this, these individuals do not link with Tarde's moral responsibility concept.

# Bandura's Focus on the Media

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According to Bandura, one of the biggest influences in the Behavioral Theory is the media.

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This can include pop culture stars, professional athletes, movies, video games, and news stations.

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Being exposed to negative influences through the media will cause the superego to deteriorate and the individual's moral responsibility will deteriorate as well.



# Desensitization

- Behavioral Theory claims that desensitization can cause people to lose their sense of morality.
- Not only this, but desensitization can lead to abnormal reactions from someone with a mental disorder, when they are faced with an overwhelming amount of stimuli.
- Claims that desensitization is caused by an increase in negative influences in a person's environment, often times from the media.



# Three Major Psychological Theories



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# Cognitive Theory



Developed by Wilhelm Wundt  
and William James

Focuses on understanding the “normal” brain processes of someone suffering with a major mental disorder (MMD) and how they compare to someone without an MMD.



## Main Points

Moral Development  
Branch

Information Processing



# Wundt's Focus



Wundt sought to conceptualize the importance of psychological perception and recognition.



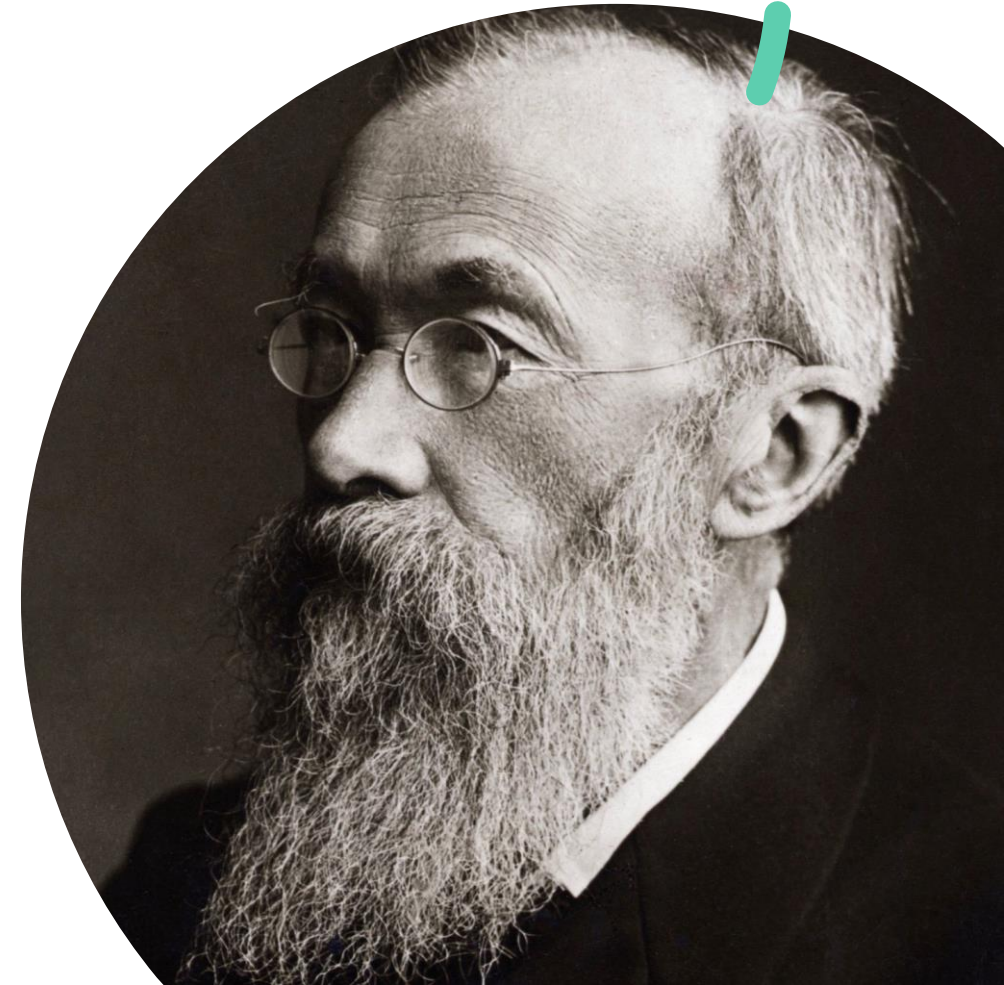
Wundt focused on evaluating the "higher mental processes" among individuals.



Moral Development Branch




Information Processing





# Moral Development Branch

- Goes hand and hand with Freud's ego concept.
- States that as individuals begin to grow, they start to learn right from wrong, some quicker than others, and some not at all.
- The problem occurs when individuals do not continue through the cycle causing a hindrance in mental and moral development.



# Lawrence Kohlberg's Six Steps of Moral Development

## 1. **Punishments and compliance**

- At a young age individuals are taught right from wrong and are challenged to accept those truths.

## 2. **Recognition of Societal Boundaries**

- The individual recognizes societal expectations towards behavior.

## 3. **Belief of Societal Standards**

- The individual believes these standards are plausible and real.

## 4. **Adherence to Societal Standards – (Most Important)**


- The individual starts to follow and be compliant with these standards of behavior.

## 5. **Social Contract**

- The individual begins to compare societal rules with individual liberties. This is the beginning of the compromise from the ego.

## 6. **Principled Conscious**

- The individual compares the truth of laws to their recognition and respect for humanitarian issues.



# Information Processing

- Claims that those who correctly gather, store, and react to information are less likely to be prone to an MMD than those who do not.
- Steps:
  1. Retrieval of the Information
  2. Understanding of the Information
  3. Storage of the Information
  4. Reaction to Information
- The process happens in less than a second, and those who have the “missing link” in brain development may respond in a way that can seem abnormal or deviant.

# Common Behavior of MMD Patients

Antisocial

No Guilt

Charm

High IQ

Manipulative

Impulsive

Ego-centric

Lack of  
Emotion



# Causes for Psychopathic Behavior

- Low levels of neurological engagement
- **Child-hood traumatic events**
- Genetics
- Children interacting with psychopathic parents
- Lack of discipline during the moral development process



# Remediations to Psychological Issues

## Community Care Programs

- Long-term Care
- Less-expensive than other options (hospitalization)
- Stops re-offense rates for convicted felons with MMDs.
- Helps MMD patients learn new skills and develop them.
- Shows MMD patients how to rightly act within a functional society; teaching them to all work together towards a common goal.

## Psychotherapy

- Private
- Group-based

## Public Education Towards Psychological Issues

- Teaching the public how to see signs of MMD and react to them accordingly.
- Help families create a nurturing environment that fosters brain development.

# Conclusion

## Psychodynamic Theory

- Using childhood past and personality structure to find causes for psychological issues.

## Behavioral Theory

- Psychological issues caused by imitation.

## Cognitive Theory

- Psychological issues caused by faulty brain processes.

## Mitigation Strategies

- Healthy Family Environment
- Psychotherapy
- Community Care Programs



If these remediations are adhered to and taken seriously, a decrease in criminal like behavior from mentally unstable individuals will occur.



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