Chapter 1: Evolution of Psychology

Ruminations & Reflections

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“...all of our subjective experiences arise from the electrical and chemical activities of our brains” (p. 2)

- Electrical?
- Or Electrochemical?
- The electricity is a flow of potassium & sodium ions.
- What is the speed of “electricity”? 
“fMRI allows scientists to “scan” a living brain and see which parts are active when…” (p. 2)

- Cells have “resting rates”
- Sometimes “inactivity” means something.
Psychology’s Roots

- “For 2,000 years, thinkers… had pondered such questions” (p. 4) [about human nature]
- “Plato (428 BC – 347 BC) and Aristotle (384 BC – 322 BC) were among the first to struggle with fundamental questions about how the mind works…” (p. 4)
• Damage to the left side of the brain affected language.
Structuralism & reaction time

- Wundt (1879): structure of consciousness
- “Choice reaction time” (having to make a decision before responding) is slower (Helmholtz)
- & Jensen’s chronometric analysis of intelligence
- & Fairchild’s micro-analysis
Eurocentric origins

- Greeks, Wundt, Tichener, Freud, Charcot, Broca
- Acupuncture - 4000+ years old
- Egyptian texts - Coming forth by day; Teaching of Ptah Hotep - 4000+ years old
- 8,000 Years of Chinese Wisdom
- Aztec Calendars
“Schools of Thought”

- Structuralism
- Functionalism
- Behaviorism (Watson) →
- Psychoanalysis
- Skinnerian psychology (S-R)
- Cognitive Psychology
- Neuroscience
Freud’s Psychoanalysis

- Emphasis on sexuality was tied to his theory of psychosexual development.
- Sex = hedonism & satisfaction of instinctual urges (not sex per se)
- Untestable, self-contained, immune to criticism
Noam Chomsky

- The “miracle” of language acquisition.
- & peace activism
• The brain works holistically.
• Visual and aural memories were processed all over the place.
Green – memory of visual; red = memory of aural; yellow = both
- Pawlowski, Dunbar & Lipowicz, 2000
- Tall men bear more offspring than short men…. Another article
- Vs. contrary evidence
- & Rushton’s sociobiology
“Non-whites” in psychology

- …the percentage of non-White members continues to grow…” (p. 24)
- & APA Publication Manual
What psychologists do

- & Monsour Counseling Center
- 47% clinical
- How much do psychologists make?
- Low end: with MA, about $50-80K
- High end: with PhD, millions (but, typically, $100-200K)