A Brief 1,000,000 Year History of Psychology

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Why Study History?

- To be an informed scholar within a discipline. To build on past traditions. [To illustrate biases.]
- To understand the present context
  - “If you do not know where you have been, you cannot know where you are. If you do not know where you are, you cannot know where you are going. If you do not know where you are going, then any ol’ fool can take you there.”
- To avoid blind alleys
- To anticipate future developments
His-Stories: “If the lion wrote history...”

- Temporal Centrism
- Ethno-Centrism
  - “More than 300 years B.C., Aristotle, the world’s first published social psychologist, wrote: ‘We believe good men more fully and more readily than others...’” (Aronson, 1999, The Social Animal (8th Ed), p. 74.)
- Male-Centrism
Fairchild Timeline of Human History

Origins
- Giant Leaps of Development
  - Speech
  - Community Organization
  - Religion and the Arts
  - Tools, Fire, Domestication of Animals

Egypt
China
Greece
Modernity

-1M  -0.5M  -0.25M  -1.25  -2.5K
Years
Fairchild Timeline of Epistemology

Early Greek Philosophers
- Pythagoras
- Plato
- Socrates
- Aristotle

Rome
- Dark Ages (300BC-500AD)
- Religious Period (Faith Ruled, 500 – 1200 ad)
  - St. Augustine (1225-75, introspection; curiosity re: homo sapiens)

Scientific Revolution
- Copernicus (1543)
- Galileo, Descartes (cogito),
- Locke (tabula rasa)
- 1859: Darwin
- 1869 Galton

Modernity

Years
- -2.5K (500 BC)
- 200
- 750 AD
- 1400
- 1700
- 2003
Fairchild Timeline of Modern Psych.

Wilhelm Wundt, 1879, Leipzig, Germany (Structuralism)
William James, 1879, Harvard University (Functionalism)
Ivan Pavlov (1901)
John Watson (1912-1930s, behaviorism)
Sigmund Freud (1920s +; psychodynamics) → Gestalt School (1930s)
BF Skinner – Behaviorism →
1916: Stanford Binet & the Age of Testing →
3/16/49: Birth of Fairchild Age of the Computer
1968: ABPsi
Women in Psych
Special Interests
Obama
Areas of Specialization

- Child Development
- Cognitive – study of thinking processes
- Health
- Cross-cultural
- Psychology of Women
- Psychology of Gender
- Clinical – PTSD
- Personality
- Evolutionary – Sociobiology
- Comparative (animals)
- Experimental

- Sex and sexuality
- Social
- Education/School
- Sport
- Industrial/Organizational
- Parapsychology
- Ethnic Minority Psychology
- African American/Black
- Latino
- Asian American
- Native American