arm. The subjects reported no pain or discomfort during these procedures. When their “hidden observers” were tapped into, however (usually by a prearranged sign or suggestion from the experimenter), there were reports of pain and discomfort (although not necessarily as severe as would be expected). In subjects particularly susceptible to hypnotic suggestion—those who could be rendered hypnotically deaf or blind, for example—the “hidden observer” could recall “heard” or “seen” objects.

Wins praise for writings

In addition to his important work as a researcher, Hilgard was also a noted author. He wrote a number of books and papers on the specific areas he studied, and his authorship was distinguished by an ability to make complex issues understandable. This was evident not only in his first book (written with Donald G. Marquis in 1940), Conditioning and Learning, but throughout his distinguished career, perhaps most notably in his textbooks for introductory psychology courses such as Introduction to Psychology (first edition 1953) with Rita and Richard Atkinson.

After teaching at Yale for three years, Hilgard accepted a position at Stanford in 1933. He headed the psychology department at Stanford from 1942 to 1951 and served as dean of the graduate division from 1951 to 1955. He became a professor emeritus in 1969 but continued on as head of the laboratory of Hypnosis Research. Among Hilgard’s awards over the years are the American Psychological Association’s Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award (1969) and the American Psychological Foundation’s Gold Career Award (1978). His memberships include the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the National Academy of Education.

George A. Milite

Further Reading


Robert Aubrey Hinde

1923–

British biologist, ethologist, psychologist, and author who has played an important role in integrating ethology with other fields.

Robert Aubrey Hinde has played an important role in integrating ethology (the scientific study of typical behavior patterns in animals) with other fields, such as psychology. He was born in 1923 in Norwich, England. The youngest of four children, Hinde’s father, Ernest Bertram, was a doctor, and his mother Isabella (maiden name Taylor) was a nurse. He got much of his early education at an English boarding school called Oundle that emphasized natural history.

After serving as a pilot in the Royal Air Force during World War II, he entered St. John’s College at Cambridge, where he received his bachelor’s degree with first class honors in 1948. He received his Ph.D. from Oxford University in 1950. At Oxford he was influenced by the eminent ecologist David Lack and Nikolaas Tinbergen, a Dutch-born British zoologist who won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1973.

After receiving his degree, Hinde became curator of the Ornithological Field Station of the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge. In this early research on birds, Hinde focused on such behaviors as those involved in courtship and conflicts in motivation. During the 1950s, spurred in part by research in imprinting (an ethological term for rapid learning that only takes place in a certain developmental period that is very resistant to change and effects later social interaction), and an interdisciplinary conference led by psychoanalyst John Bowlby. Hinde became interested in human and primate development. In the late 1950s Hinde established a group of rhesus monkeys at the field station to look at the consequences of short-term separation between mother and infant.

Hinde’s research with non-human primates in the 1960s and 1970s led to his interest in the nature and dynamics of relationships between people, and eventually to relationships between family members and between peers. Hinde’s interest in how psychology and ethology are related lead him to write Animal Behaviour: A Synthesis of Ethology and Comparative Psychology (1966), a groundbreaking scholarly work that helped integrate research in psychology and ethology.

He also has had an interest in how cross-cultural psychological characteristics have been adaptive biologically. In this respect he has looked at sexual relationships, mother-child relationships, and, more recently, religious systems as well as international wars. His most recent book is *Why Gods Persist* (1999).

Hinde was married to Hester Cecily Cotts in 1968. They had four children before divorcing three years later. He married his current wife, Joan Stevenson-Hinde, in 1971. They had two children. He is currently Professor Emeritus in the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, U.K.

Marie Doorey

Further Reading
Cambridge University Website. *Hinde’s Page*

Further Information
St. John’s College University of Cambridge. Department of Zoology, Downing Street, Cambridge, U.K. CB2 3EJ.

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**Histrionic personality disorder**

A maladaptive or inflexible pattern of behavior characterized by emotional instability, excitability, over-reactivity, and self-dramatization.

Individuals with histrionic personality disorder tend to seek attention by exaggerating events, even if insignificant, and are immature, self-centered and often vain. They react emotionally to the slightest provocation. Histrionic personality disorder is classified by psychologists with the group of personality disorders characterized by overly dramatic, emotional, impulsive or erratic reactions. People with histrionic personality disorder seek stimulation and novelty and easily become bored with routine situations and relationships. Their low tolerance for inactivity leads to hedonistic or impulsive actions. They tend to be preoccupied with their appearance and attractiveness, and their demeanor is often charming and seductive, even if this behavior is inappropriate. These individuals pursue a fast-paced social and romantic lifestyle, although their relationships usually are shallow and fleeting. They also tend to be dependent on others.

The use of the term “histrionic” by professional in psychology is relatively recent and replaces the term “hysterical,” which has been dropped due to its negative and sexist associations. Women are more likely than men to be diagnosed with histrionic personality disorder, although this may at least partly reflect gender and cultural biases that cause this pattern of behavior to be less easily recognized in men. Individuals with histrionic personality disorder can benefit from psychodynamic therapy or group therapy. The latter can help by enabling these individuals to learn how they relate to others and try out new ways of relating. The goals for individuals who undergo therapy should include gaining more control over emotional reactions and understanding how their overly dramatic behavior undermines their relationships or careers. Medication is ineffective in treating histrionic personality disorder, although it might be prescribed for accompanying symptoms, such as anxiety or depression.

Further Reading

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**Holtzman inkblot technique**

A projective test used for the assessment of personality characteristics

The Holtzman inkblot technique was developed in an attempt to minimize certain statistical difficulties that arise in the analysis of Rorschach results. In the Holtzman inkblot, the subject responds to each of a series of 45 ambiguous inkblots. These responses are scored to describe and to classify the personality of the subject. The main difference between the Holtzman inkblot and the Rorschach inkblot technique is that in the Holtzman technique, the subject is permitted to make only one response per inkblot. The empirical validity of the Holtzman inkblot technique, and other projective techniques, is disputed by some authorities.

See also Rorschach technique

Further Reading