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Psychology

Psychology is the science of the mind and its processes. Although theories about how the human mind functions have been prevalent since ancient times, modern psychology was born in the late nineteenth century with efforts to turn it from a philosophical pursuit into a rigorous scientific discipline. Even by the turn of the century, "psychology" was not a separate field at all and was pursued by researchers trained (and often working in) philosophy departments. Several schools of thought emerged among academic researchers by the early twentieth century, notably structuralism and functionalism, only to be dominated in the mid-twentieth century by behavioral psychology. Meanwhile, other outlooks captured the public imagination, particularly the work in psychoanalysis.

The most well-known names associated with psychology in the twentieth century were Sigmund Freud (1856–1939) and Carl Jung (1875–1961). However, their "applied" psychology (working with clients to help with mental problems) was not entirely well received among research psychologists. Freud published his Interpretation of Dreams in 1900, and in subsequent years he developed his most influential theories about the unconscious mind, identifying categories such as the id, ego, and superego. He founded psychoanalysis, which focused on the individual and sought to address the unconscious mind as the interplay of sexual drive and past experiences. His goal in therapy was to bring these unconscious aspects into the conscious realm. Freud's most famous student, Carl Jung, eventually broke away from psychoanalysis and its emphasis on sexuality, and developed his own method of personality development called analytical psychology. One of his innovations was the controversial theory of the "collective unconscious," shared by society as a whole. He believed in the existence of a series of universal archetypes, images holding symbolic meaning, in the dreams and unconscious minds of all people.

Mainstream research in psychology was less connected to personality development and much less focused on variables—such as dreams—open to a wide range of interpretation. One of modern psychology's principal founders, Wilhelm Wundt (1832–1920), began in Leipzig in the 1870s a school of physiological psychology in which he attempted to study human behavior in the context of very detailed studies of anatomy. He emphasized the role of organs such as those...
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