

Ethical Issues in Research

Social

- Most experiments into obedience + prejudice would be considered unethical by today's guidelines
- Obedience research **removes the right to withdraw** as they are gradually ordered to comply
- Both obedience + prejudice research create potential for **psychological harm** esp. when groups put against each other + conflict encouraged
- Consider reasons why issues were necessary!

Cognitive

- Case studies kept anonymous^(HM) maintains their **right to privacy**, if not, privacy can be violated (live w)
- Most research gains participant **consent**
- Some research uses **deception** but **right to withdraw** is offered
- Most ^{experimental} research follows BPS guidelines
- Case studies are rare + unique so sometimes **overstudied** which affects personal life
- HM said to **enjoy** his testing but maybe he can't remember the prev tests?

Biopsych

- Animals used for invasive, **harmful** procedures that would be unethical for humans
- Animals are used because they have **simpler but similar CNS**, the **environment can be controlled** and they **avoid socialisation effects**
- see separate BPS code for non-humans
- Improved technology = less need for animals
- PET scans go against **protection** due to injection, extended period + enclosed space

- Control group for Racine's scans were done for medical purposes (not just study)
- Criminals for Racine wished to gather evidence
- After brain scan Ps may leave with knowledge that changes their view of themselves which goes against idea you should leave as you came

Learning

- Harmful behaviour to animals
 - Skinner electrified rats
 - Pavlov restricted food (to an extent)
- Watson + Rayner deliberately distressed little Alb.
- Little Albert never debriefed/desensitised
- Bandura caused distress and frustrated children by exposing them to aggressive models.

Clinical

- harm can be caused during clinical trials, esp if they are vulnerable
- use of a placebo is deceiving
- with trials, one group is denied potentially life changing treatment

Child

- Children are vulnerable individuals + cannot give informed consent due to a lack of understanding
- Trained to recognise non-participative behaviours + are sensitive to the needs of children
- Psychological knowledge but before wellbeing w/ Genie?
- Neglect cases have confidentiality + privacy issues due to the media
- SS procedure deliberately causes distress

Practical Issues in the Design and Implementation of Research

Social

- **demand characteristics** in obedience research (deception used to prevent this)
- attempts to measure prejudice are affected by **social desirability bias** as people try to mask their prejudices
- prejudice is **too subtle to be detected** by questionnaires
- **split-half technique** used to assess validity of the questionnaire
- **test-retest method** used to check prejudice being measured is consistent over time
- construct validity checked using **peer reports**

Cognitive

- tasks lack **mundane realism**
- lab experiments lack **ecological validity**
- lab experiments are necessary to study memory without variables that could affect findings
↳ eg. trigrams allow us to study memory without meanings associated to words
- therefore ecological validity is lost in order to have **internal validity**

Biopsych

- although ppl say brain scans are **objective measures**, others say they are **flawed** and **don't do what they claim to**
- **unreliable** as if only shows one area of the brain as active bc most activities use multiple
- no way of knowing if activity is just a

small part of large brain activity patterns
(Raine - prefrontal cortex)

- some activity patterns for aggression may occur by **chance**
- if scanning method flawed → evidence has no **reliability**

Learning

- Cannot **generalise** findings from animals to humans
 - ↳ same biological basis BUT animals don't have self awareness
- Humans have self-awareness so show **demand characteristics**

Clinical

- Focus on **qualitative data**
 - ↳ bc of variety of possible factors
 - ↳ BUT difficult to analyse
 - ↳ conclusions can be **unreliable + subjective**
- Have to weigh up more valid data = less reliable

Child

- you get **observer effects** w/ observational research
- data can be affected by **observer bias** which makes findings **subjective**
- to reduce subjectivity you can develop **specific coding** or use more than 1 observer to get **inter-rater reliability**
- meta analyses give us an overall picture of effect sizes but use **secondary data**
 - ↳ difficult to compare diff methodological designs
 - ↳ procedural differences could account for diff outcomes.

Reductionism

Social

- Sherif resisted explaining prejudice at a dispositional level eg. personality theories because he thought they were reductionist & believed prejudice is caused by interconnecting social processes
- Social impact theory reduces obedience to an **equation** and ignores interaction and other individual/social factors
- **dispositional explanations** focus only on character and ignore social conditions

Cognitive

- **multi-store model** underplays the interconnections between different memory systems
- previously used to separate cognitive functions eg. perception, memory to make studying easier
- **Bartlett** recognised link that memory is based on what we perceive ie. they are related
- **working memory model** divides STM into slave systems without recognising connections
- we need to acknowledge interplay between stores (evidence from brain-imaging and amnesia pts)

Biopsych

- **Brain functioning** as an explanation for aggression ignores other poss causes eg. social learning
- **Evolutionary theory** argues that our behaviour can be simplified to evolutionary pressures from years ago
- Argued that to be scientific, reductionism is needed
- Behaviour reduced to testable set of **variables**
- Reductionist views are **deterministic** (suggest a

Lack of free will)

- Theory suggests behaviour due to 1 area of the brain but Raine found multiple.
- Explanations forget factors at other levels that **interact** with each other eg. genes alone cannot explain but diathesis stress can.

Learning

- Learning theorists (eg. Skinner) are happy to explain **all** behaviour as an outcome of previous learning and we behave the way we do **due to the sum of our experiences**
- **classical and operant conditioning** explain behaviour as due to stimulus-response connections. these are basic units used to explain complex behav.
- makes study of behav. less complicated as each stim-resp link can be isolated
- ignores **other factors** that affect how/what we learn
- **Bandura** DOES take into account both behavioural + cog factors in obs + imitation.

Clinical

- **dopamine hypothesis** ignores complex interrelationship between neurotransmitter levels + bio, cog, social fact
- **biological explanations** simplify complex behaviours
- not appropriate to use biochem treatments eg. **drug therapy** because ignore influ. of environ factors
- **family therapy** is better because it looks at multiple components of MFPDs eg. s, e, communication

Child

- most research takes account of interaction of variables
- **attachment types** only look at child-parent relations and ignore temperament

Comparisons of ways of explaining behaviour using different themes.

Social

- The main difference between **realistic conflict theory** and **social identity theory** is **competition**.
↳ the minimal group paradigm experiments were created to ensure there was no competition
- comparison is useful to understand their **emphasis**
- different ways are usually ~~the~~ because they **reflect current social and historical events**
- **social impact theory** focuses on social conditions whereas **agency theory** looks at evolutionary basis, socialising factors and psychodynamic forces

Cognitive

- can compare by looking at whether it's about **structure/function**, the **research method**, its **application** and the role of **nature/nurture**
- **MSM** views memory as a series of stores and **WMM** similarly looks at components, but **reconstructive memory** views memory as a process/function.

Biopsych

Learning

- **Phobias** can be explained in many diff ways inc. learning theories, biology, psychodynamic + cognitive
- usually can explain a behav. w/ ~~all~~ all the learning theories so should consider which is the **most appropriate**

Clinical

- it considers explanations for MHDs from all different approaches
- a common theme is the use of **biological factors**
- different disorders will have various other factors eg. sociocultural can explain anorexia but not OCD
- can use 2 different **diagnostic manuals** which have slightly different routes to same end.

Child

- explanations of attachment from **learning theories** can be good (mum+food) but Bowlby found evidence that food is not reason for attachment
- **Bowlby** used evolutionary concept, cognitive themes (internal w.m)
- developmental theorists usually take an **integrative approach** using many themes to explain behaviour.

Psychology as a Science

Social

- social impact theory is falsifiable as a prediction in human behaviour using 'equation' is either observed or not observed.
- not until 1924 social psych began to focus on experimentation and science
- variables are controlled and carefully manipulated in Milgram's research + Sherif's Robber's Cave
- BUT by doing experiments can be criticised for not being able to generalise to the real world as group dynamics are affected by social, historical + cultural events.

Cognitive

- central executive is a theoretical concept w/ limited experimental support because it is abstract so not directly testable
- lots of research into working memory model is experimental + laboratory based
- Bartlett's experiments had a lack of control and standardisation and findings were qualitative
- laboratory experiment is considered most scientific of the research methods
- Baddeley operationalised his variables
- in the practical a hypothesis was first proposed which follows the hypothetico-deductive method

Biopsych

- animals allow scientific rigour to be applied and more control is possible which enables objective data to be collected + clear cause + effect
- most scientific bc it looks at physical aspects of

behaviour that can be objectively measured.

- the scientific techniques increase the credibility and status of psychology.
- correlational method isn't scientific as a clear cause + effect cannot be drawn.
- Use of scientific techniques have led to deeper understanding of CNS.
- too scientific can = reductionist → need balance.

Learning

- the behaviourism manifesto sets out that research should be conducted using scientific methodology + principles and only directly observable behaviour should be investigated.
- behaviourists use testable hypotheses, collect empirical data and use objective methods.

Clinical

- there is a lot of objective data to support bio explanations of senix that use reliable equipment.
- Courlisson's evidence focuses on scientific methodology eg, brain scans that use v precise methods + produce highly objective data.
- the medical model dominates which is v scientific as it builds theoretical explanations through empirical research methods.

Child

- effects of institutional care are researched w/ natural experiments which aren't scientific as no random allocation.
- case studies lack generalisability as unique.
- SS is highly standardised and uses coding + inter-rater reliability.
- evolutionary theories are not falsifiable.

Culture and Gender Issues in Psychological Research

Social

- Milgram's research is androcentric BUT he did one study w/ women and found no significant difference
- social psych theories explain behaviour as due to social circumstances + forces which are not mediated by gender.
- Crutchfield found women to be more compliant but argued as a result of methodological bias - same issue with Kilham and Mann + culture.
- cross-cultural obedience research is not methodologically comparable
- distinction between collectivistic and individualistic cultures make it easier to research cultural differences

Cognitive

Biopsych

Learning

- learning theories are based on nurture so different cultures will have different experiences + that affect development
- specific behaviours to a culture will be observed

- and those deemed acceptable will be reinforced
- learning theories can explain gender differences as stereotypical behaviour from same-sex role models is observed and reinforced.
 - gender inappropriate behaviour may be punished

Clinical

- Not perfect agreement between European ICD and American DSM which means diagnosis can depend on culture
- Recent DSM-V aims to harmonize differences and takes an integrative approach w/ more cultural sensitivity eg. panic attack symptoms
- cross-cultural methods aid clinicians understanding of cultural factors they should take into account.
- conflict of cultural values between Ps + researcher can mean conclusions lack validity
- definition of abnormal behaviour is culturally determined
- existence of culturally specific disorders challenges the medical model
- DSM V includes guidance on how to conduct a clinical interview with someone from a diff culture

Child

- attachment type proportions are not the same in all cultures
- strange situation is an inappropriate tool where separation is uncommon (eg. Japan)
- different beliefs about childhood + development ⁱⁿ diff cultures
- maternal sensitivity is western + culturally biased

The role of both Nature and Nurture in Psychology

Social

- Milgram was trying to show that obedience was not a **dispositional** trait (nature), but a consequence of **situation** (nurture)
- Arendt (1963) - describes obedience as an **ingrained** behaviour established through **socialisation**
- **personality explanations** of prejudice account for nature
- **intergroup dynamic theories** look at conditions so nurture side of debate
- nurture not ignored completely in personality theories - Adorno says authoritarian character develops from **harsh parenting**

Cognitive

- **schemas** can be inferred as **biological structures** (nature) BUT they are affected by **upbringing** so a product of nurture
- Schmolik thought that **HM's language impairment** was perhaps due to low socioeconomic status + interrupted education (nurture) rather than surgery (nature)
- **computer metaphor** mentions both sides as we are born with hardware (nature) but ~~exper~~ software is altered due to experiences (nurture)

Biopsych

- Freud + Biopsychologists agree aggression is due to internal factors (**id, ego, superego / genes**) BUT acknowledge external factors (**car accident → brain damage**) do have a role
- Freud said id, ego + superego are affected by events in first 6yrs of life
- **genetic theories** show heredity of aggression (nature)

- **evolutionary approach** also nature because **genes** that have an adaptive advantage survive BUT cannot be scientifically tested
- **brain structure** (nature) is affected by experience (nur.)
- McGuire et al found **hippocampal differences in taxi drivers** → lifestyle contributes to brain structure changes
- rather than pick a side, it is more **interactionist**

Learning

- **Watson and Rayner** assume natural feared reaction but show that it can be adjusted so **interactionist**
- **gender appropriate behaviours** can be attributed to learning (nurture) but many are determined by biology (nature)
- **Aka people** have reversed gender roles → suggests learned
- **classical + operant conditioning** are nurture
- believed **unscientific** to investigate innate influences + cognitive processes on behaviour (**clean slate**)

Clinical

- **biological explanations** ^{of schiz} ignore role of external influences
- **social drift theory** looks at nurture + schiz
- **diathesis-stress model** good solution → combo. of factors
- cognitive psychs. talk about '**stressors**' that trigger ^{underlying} problem

Child

- **Bowlby's** theory is **evolutionary** and suggests attachment as **innate** (nature)
- **Cupboard love** theory is learning/conditioning (nurture)
- **cross-cultural research** shows **universality** of attachment
- qualities of attachment differ due to nurture (**childrearing practices / maternal sensitivity**)

How Psychological Understanding Has Changed Over Time

Social

- previous **race theories** endorsed **white supremacy** and black inferiority but after war attitudes changed
- prejudice research began to focus on **group dynamics** which when considered with underlying dispositional characteristics has led to an **interactionist approach**
- social psych knowledge is influenced by **social changes in attitudes** and **historical events**

Cognitive

- **multi-store model** is a valuable framework that stimulated research despite criticisms - it caused better, more precise theories to be made
- **episodic buffer** was added to WMM to fine-tune
- recently there has been a big interest into **reconstructive memory** which has led to research about **eyewitness testimony**

Biopsych

- Lombroso **linked a form of behaviour to a physical difference** between people (1835-1909)
- His ideas still seen today that genes → criminal behavior
- **phrenology** - maps behavioural characteristics to bumps on the head (brain structure link)
- early treatments included **trepanning** (hole to let 'evil spirits' out) now only done in emergencies with help from **brain scans**
↳ also link to phrenology

Learning

- contributed a lot but knowledge has pretty

much stayed the same (principles of theories)

- areas of application have changed
- nowadays behaviourism is used in a practical context & known as behaviour analysis

Clinical

- in 1880s was believed that psychiatric disorders should be studied as a branch of medical science and could be classified by symptoms + diagnosed
- diagnostic system constantly reviewed as it is important to be reliable + valid to get treatment correct
- 4 versions of DSM since 1952 to reflect change in understanding
- new DSM include more culture-bound syndromes
- change in treatments: typical antipsychotics (chlorpromazine) → atypical (clozapine)

Child

- Autism explanations have changed to reflect research findings. Used to think MMR vaccination caused it
- Bowlby shaped our understanding of attachment and research stems from his.

The Use of Psychology in Social Control

Social

- **social impact theory** can be used to help us develop forms of useful social interaction (eg. teacher: student ratio)
- understanding obedience can help us **prevent blind destructive obedience** in the future
- can be manipulated to create high levels of obedience
- police officers wear **uniform** + can punish
- can be positive as **superordinate goals** can reduce prejudice by controlling levels of intergroup hostility

Cognitive

- memory research has been influential in **directing legal practice** (eyewitness testimonies)
↳ dictates who can testify + what conditions

Biopsych

- in 20th century knowledge of **brain structure** + aggression was used to 'create' aggressive mental patients with a **lobotomy**
- **biological** basis found could mean people are scanned for risk + **labelled** as violent which causes unfair treatment
- may **unnecessarily treat** people to control them + prevent behaviour happening
- previously did **chemical castration** (+ → avoid prison, - → excessive punishment?)
- not a definitive cause so control + monitoring could be unfair
- Uni of Lincoln developed **genetic test** for dogs

to help owners manage behaviour + prevent accidents

Learning

- **token economies** have been used controversially in treatment of abnormal behaviours
 - ↳ benefits staff rather than patient?
 - ↳ lose access to property + choice of treatment
- **deterministic principles** suggest that behaviour can be manipulated (shaped by environ)
- Skinner wrote how societies could **exercise control** over citizens using **schedules of reinforcement**
- lots of **psychological therapies** use behaviourist principles to manage behaviour
- **flooding** is a distressing form of social control
- token economy in prisons shown to have no therapeutic benefit

Clinical

- in **diagnosis** clinicians have a lot of power ~~and~~
- **labeling** has serious implications → if section they can be treated without consent
- **medication** has been used to make behaviour more manageable for staff (esp. typical) → **pharmacological straitjackets**
- pharmaceutical companies more interested in money
- **electroconvulsive therapy** for schiz

Child

- **Bowlby** - hospital visiting times, childcare practices BUT working mother guilt/anxiety
 - ↳ women pressured to give up jobs

The use of Psychological Knowledge in Society

Social

- Prejudice research has been used to **reduce prejudice** eg. in classrooms the **jigsaw technique** has been used
- Our knowledge of **stereotypes** allows us to educate people to be mindful of similarities rather than focusing on differences
- **Intergroup hostility** occurs due to **lack of equal status contact** which explains NI where land was divided into protestant/catholic
- **Social identity theory** has been used to reduce negative out-group bias + intergroup conflict through **desegregation housing projects (NY)**

Cognitive

- Knowledge that **short recall tests reinforced knowledge for long term memory of a lecture** has been used in **educational practice** to help students learn more effectively
- **Working memory research** has led to a variety of **classroom interventions** to improve learning for children with poor working memory skills
- concept of **cue dependent recall** can be used to aid recall
- general understanding of memory led to **mneumonics to aid revision and chunking info**
- help **treatment for learning impairments** eg. dyslexia
- changes in Police + Criminal Evidence act due to **reconstructive memory + eyewitness testimony**

Biopsych

- Understanding of **drug addiction** has furthered **treatment** + can be used to **prevent relapse**
- Understanding of **aggressive behaviour** allows us to **avoid it** and allows for **predictions of risk**

Learning

- **Token economy** used in education by using patterns of reward to shape behaviour
- **Classical conditioning** has been used as a **marketing strategy** to associate products with pleasurable feelings
- Theories also used for **clinical treatment** eg, phobias

Clinical

- **Genetic explanation** of anorexia has **changed people's view** of the disorder
- Knowledge provides **effective treatments**
- development of **medication** prevents institutionalisation and invasive treatments

Child

- Attachment theory has informed **hospital practice** and **parental visitation rights**
- **Day care practice** has also been changed eg, **key worker**, **staff:child**

Issues related to Socially Sensitive Research

Social

- Any prejudice research can potentially be socially sensitive for participants involved or the groups they represent
- Early social research exaggerated differences between races and produced biased evidence
↳ This led to social/educational/economic divisions

Cognitive

Biopsych

- Research into biological causes of crime suggests criminals are not responsible.
- Also suggests that violent people can be detected by brain scans so interventions strategies may be used unnecessarily
- Biology linked to behaviour has been used to justify extremist views and social policies

Learning

- Treatments can be seen as ss because the client's behaviour is managed by the therapist
- Aversion therapy was used for homosexuality
- Treatment brings debate over what is acceptable/unacceptable behaviour in society

Clinical

- Research into mental health involves **labelling** which can have neg outcomes for the patient.
- **Guardia**: people with low self-esteem are encouraged to compare body size which can make **self-esteem** worse

Child

- Research suggests **day care has negative effects** can have negative implications for day-care uses
- Parents may feel **guilty** for using day care
- Stress on **maternal sensitivity** causing attachment type **blames** the parent
↳ even worse for mothers with **postnatal depression**