

THE INTERBEHAVIORIST

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QUOTATION

This molar notion of behavior -- this notion that behavior presents characterizable and defining properties of its own, which are other than the properties of the underlying physics and physiology -- has been defended by other theories than ourselves. In particular, acknowledgement must be made to Holt, de Laguna, Weiss, and Kantor.

- E. C. Tolman (1932, p. 8).
Purposive behavior in
animals and men. New
York: Century.

(Submitted by Dennis J. Delprato,
Eastern Michigan University, as part
of his "Comments" for this issue.)

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The Interbehaviorist is a quarterly publication of news, information, discussion, journal and book notes, book reviews, comments, and brief articles pertaining to interbehavioral psychology -- a contextualistic, integrated-field approach to the natural science of behavior.

The newsletter publishes professional communications that fall between informal correspondence and colloquia, and formal archival publication. As such, the newsletter supplements contemporary journals dedicated to basic and applied research, to the history and philosophy of the behavioral sciences, and to professional issues in the field. The newsletter strongly encourages submission of notes about current professional activities of its subscribers, news and observations about interbehavioral psychology and related perspectives, comments on journal articles and books of interest, more extended book reviews, and brief articles. All submissions should be sent in triplicate to the editor and should conform to the style described in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (3rd edition).

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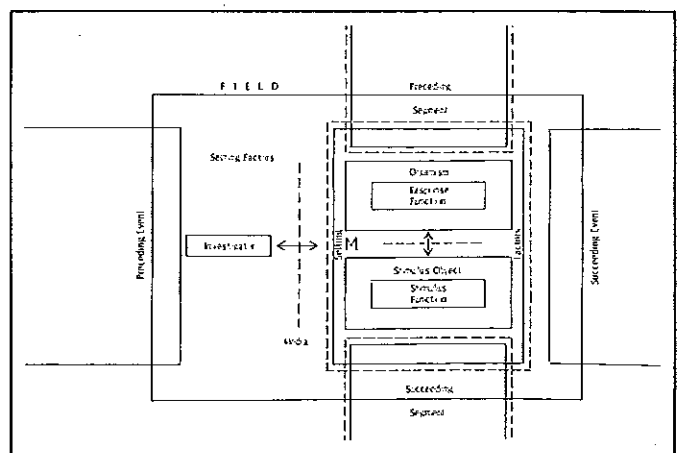
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THE AGORA

This issue of the newsletter brings us back more in line with our January-April-August-October publication schedule. Moreover, the August issue is already well under way, in large part because Harry C. Mahan has graciously accepted our invitation to serve as its guest editor. We think you will find his material lively and intelligent, and look forward to bringing you that issue.

Space is short, so let us move directly into the contents of the current issue.

The Annual ABA Convention

The annual meeting of the Association for Behavior Analysis (ABA) will be held in Nashville, TN from May 25-28. This year, more than a dozen papers will be presented by newsletter subscribers, and even more subscribers are involved as discussants, chairpeople, and the like. In addition, Linda J. Parrott will chair the "Interbehaviorists in ABA Special Interest Group" on Wednesday, May 27 (5:00-6:20).

The ABA convention is one of the few opportunities interbehavioral psychologists have to interact with one another as a critical (sic) mass. This, combined with all the other excellent sessions and professional activities, makes the convention intellectually invigorating. If you are interested in attending, please contact Shery Chamberlain, ABA Offices, Department of Psychology, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

We list below ABA papers and posters of possible interest to subscribers.

Sidney W. Bijou: "Social Skills Training Research in Handicapped Elementary School Children"

Kristina R. Blount, and W. Joseph Wyatt: "Attention Deficit Disorder: Validity of Self-Reports of Children"

Philip N. Hineline: "Directional Masking of Mentalism, and of Anti-Mentalism"

Iver Iversen: "Visual Display of Behavioral Data"

Iver Iverson: "Superstitious Behavior in Normal Adult Humans"

Edward K. Morris: "Context, Cognition, and Biology in Applied Behavior Analysis"

Bryan D. Midgley and Edward K. Morris: "The 'Reflex' or the Integrated Field:

Which Is to be the Fundamental Unit of Psychology?"

Roger D. Ray et al. "The Structural Analysis of Behavioral Systems: How Naive Observers Discriminate Behaviors"

Susan M. Schneider and Edward K. Morris: "The Operant-Respondent Distinction - and Beyond?: A Brief Review"

Susan M. Schneider, James T. Todd, and Edward K. Morris: "Effects of Signaled Timeout on High and Low Rate Responding"

Wanda L. Smith: "Development of Dependent Variables for Measuring Therapeutic Drug Effects in Individuals with Alzheimer's Disease"

James T. Todd and Edward K. Morris: "What the Laboratory Has to Say about Private Events"

Notes from the Field

Sidney W. Bijou was honored by numerous colleagues at the 21th Banff conference on behavior modification held March 15-19 in Banff, Canada. The topic of this year's conference was early childhood education and intervention.

The Winter (1987) issue of The Psychological Record contained material from numerous newsletter subscribers. Patrick M. Ghezzi and Sidney W. Bijou were authors on "Influence of Age of Listener on Preadolescents' Linguistic Behavior" and Harry C. Mahan published "Interbehavioral Perspectives: On Act Psychologies and Psychological Nouns." Book reviews and notes were also prepared by Donna M. Cone, Parker E. Lichtenstein, and Harry C. Mahan.

The January issue of the American Psychologist contained two comments by newsletter subscribers: Paul T. Mountjoy's "Nonhuman Animal Research and Historical Research" and Lisa M. Johnson and Edward K. Morris's "Public Information on Research with Nonhumans."

New Subscribers

The new subscribers since the last issue are:

Doug Keyes

Enrique J. Molina

D. Kenneth Nicholas

Diane L. Polster

Paisley College of Technology Library

Joy Ilene Simon

Karen I. Simpson

Baldwin, J. D., & Baldwin, J. I. (1981). Beyond sociobiology. New York: Elsevier North Holland.

In this volume, the Baldwins provide conceptual balance to the reductionistic theories of behavior put forth by some sociobiologists (cf. Todd & Morris, 1982). The book should be of interest to newsletter subscribers in that it presents material that is conceptually consistent with the work of Bijou and Baer (1978), Kantor (1959), and Smith (1973).

The heart of the book lies in its discussion of the features of what is termed balanced biosocial theory. Such a theory takes into account the interactive influence of (a) genetic and biological variables and (b) the processes of natural learning (e.g., operant conditioning) in accounting for behavioral development. In this, the theory is consonant with field-based, interactive theories such as Kantor's.

The Baldwins present several defining characteristics of balanced theories, and then evaluate the work of sociobiologists on that basis. Not surprisingly, they conclude that sociobiology is unbalanced, especially in its heavy emphasis on more distal, evolutionary causes of behavior. This is followed by a discussion of the fundamentals of natural learning processes, and how they may interact with more distal causes in the development of primate behavior. Interbehavioral readers may be particularly interested in material on the "mapping" of the fields of reinforcing and punishing interactions in which an organism is involved.

In presenting an example of a balanced biosocial theory, the Baldwins focus on exploratory and play behavior in primates, (see also Baldwin & Baldwin, 1977, 1978). Their analysis of the variables that may account for the development of such behavior is similar to that of interbehaviorally-oriented authors. For example, the Baldwins emphasize the initial role of sensory stimulation, and its potential reinforcing and punishing properties. This is similar to Bijou's (1976, 1980; see also Bijou & Baer, 1978) discussion of "ecological reinforcers," which result from interactions of organisms with stimuli in the environment, and which may be functional in shaping and

maintaining behavior. The book concludes with a discussion of the importance of extending our understanding of the function of learning processes to the natural environment, and briefly outlines a balanced theory of human behavior and sociocultural development, including both micro- and macrosocial variables.

The text has been favorably reviewed by workers from other disciplines (e.g., Thomas, 1982), and has much to offer those interested in conceptual and empirical work that attempts to integrate organismic and environmentally-based variables. It is heartening that scientists from a variety of disciplines are interested in developing and promoting such frameworks for the study of behavior. (Robert O'Neill, University of Oregon)

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Blackmore, S. (1986). The adventures of a parapsychologist. Buffalo, NY: Prometheus Books. (249 pp., \$19.95)

This book lives up to its title as an "adventure," yet accomplishes an extremely valuable service. It shows how one firm believer in parapsychology came to doubt its validity because she insisted on rigorous experimental analyses -- which yielded consistently negative results. The book is enjoyable as well as enlightening; the writing is lively, personable, and entertaining. As one episode unfolded after another, I found myself eager to read yet another chapter.

Blackmore notes that the progress being made in studying things people experience, but cannot explain -- such as "OBE's, near-death experiences, lucid dreams, apparitions, divination, and mystical experiences" (p. 240) -- is not occurring within parapsychology, but rather outside of it. She asks if a new parapsychology might not emerge, one not committed to psi. But, she is forced to conclude that many parapsychologists are interested only in the paranormal, and would reject such a proposal.

Perhaps what Blackmore is implicitly recognizing is that nature is replete with unexplained events -- these are what keep scientific investigation going. Science has been fruitfully pursued on the assumption that the unexplained is natural, and can potentially be accounted for by natural events. The assumptions of parapsychologists have proven less fruitful: "...psi, as I had learned so painfully, is a useless hypothesis" (p. 241). In the next sentence, she asks if psi could be "just a red herring," and ends the book on the following page with the surprising answer, "I don't know!" Suspended judgment is an important part of science, and the burden of proof rests with those who make a claim. When evidence is lacking or negative, then a claim may be dismissed until supporting evidence is available. After ten years of negative evidence, Blackmore would have been more than justified in answering her question, "Yes!"

Psi has had a multitude of claims, but no supporting experimental evidence replicable by nonparapsychologists. This cannot be excused by claiming that the phenomena are not subject to scientific procedures, for the claimants themselves

have tried to use such procedures for support. Because both evidence and logic are lacking, the claims of the parapsychologists need to be put aside and research directed in more fruitful directions -- perhaps to the study of those who make paranormal claims (a few studies have been conducted) or to areas in which Blackmore notes progress has been made "outside of parapsychology."

I plan to adopt this book for a seminar that critically evaluates the paranormal. Of late, I have been using James Randi's Flim Flam (1982), but it is so confrontational that students who believe in the paranormal react with resentment. His book is so good, however, that I intend to continue using it, but to precede it with Blackmore's book. Because she begins from the standpoint of a believer, I anticipate that students will easily follow her ever-increasing skepticism. Randi's confrontational style should then be easier for them to accept. Blackmore's book might also be useful for beginning courses in experimental methodology. It explains issues in methodology and statistics in the context of material of already high interest. Instructors could even select among experiments Blackmore presents and then explain the relevant methodology. The book could not stand alone, of course, but it could pave the way for more traditional texts.

Finally, a word of commendation should be given the publishers for bringing out Blackmore's and Randi's books, and a host of others that evaluate claims of the occult. Prior to Prometheus's venture into this area, most publishers rejected such manuscripts for fear of jeopardizing their profits from occult books. The latter still saturate the market, but Blackmore's and Randi's works provide critically needed voices of reason. About ten years ago, I taught a course that evaluated occult claims and found such a dearth of good material that I did not repeat the effort for another five years. Now, thanks in large part to Prometheus Press, there is an abundance of material. (Noel W. Smith, State University of New York at Plattsburgh)

Reference

Randi, J. (1982). Flim flam. Buffalo, NY: Prometheus Books.

J. R. Kantor's Contributions to Scientific Psychology

Dennis J. Delprato

Eastern Michigan University

After I discovered Kantor's work, I began attending to comments in the literature regarding his contributions, and unsystematically recorded them. The items below are direct quotations from some of this collection; I will provide others in a subsequent issue of the newsletter. These quotations may be useful in providing an indication of both the breadth of Kantor's influence and its impact on certain influential figures.

This material, of course, is not complete. For example, it does not include applications of the interbehavioral perspective to emotion by Brady (1975), general psychology by Pronko (1980), child behavior therapy by Wahler and Graves (1983), behavioral organization by Delprato (1986), behavioral medicine by Delprato and McGlynn (1986), and clinical psychology by various individuals (Ruben & Delprato, in press). At the very least, though, perusal of the following quotations suggests that Kantor's ideas have always been fresh and far-ranging, and remain fertile soil for today's students.

A. F. Bentley (1935)

We retain eleven systems for closer analysis [in Bentley's assessment of the science of psychology], the presentations of the following writers: Madison Bentley, J. F. Dashiell, John Dewey, Knight Dunlap, W. S. Hunter, J. R. Kantor, C. K. Ogden, Margaret Floy Washburn, John B. Watson, Albert P. Weiss, and R. S. Woodworth (p. 14).

Let us appraise the significance of Kantor's approach by removing ourselves, for the purpose of its inspection, as far as we can from the present-day psychological turmoil. Suppose that a Man from Mars should come along....If our inquirer then wandered further and came across Kantor's construction, he might return to the behaviorist and say: "You started by telling me that organisms and non-organic things were all alike natural. Here, now, I have found a system that treats them that way. Where it finds

'seeing' or 'knowing' or 'remembering,' it takes both man and object into account in the common activity. Is not that just what you ought to be doing if they are both natural in the world?."

The behaviorist's answer I shall not attempt to guess. Too many evanescent sparks would probably fly. But the final remark which the Man from Mars would make is clear enough: "You seem to me pretty sentimental over your little fragments of 'man'; I think I prefer the tough-minded Kantor" (p. 94).

Recall the present status of confusion with respect to the term "environment" as we have seen it in chapters VII and XI. Dewey sets up a principle, but leaves it imperfectly developed. Hunter and Weiss attempt to section environments. Madison Bentley proposes their ejection from all psychological research. Kantor alone in the psychological field makes direct constructive study of the behavioral extension upon which the term "environment" insists. (p. 339)

Bijou (1976)

The analysis presented here...is theoretical in interpreting behavior in terms of the empirical concepts and functional laws that have been generated by laboratory and field experimental research in the last fifty years and organized into a system founded on the assumptions embodied in the philosophy of modern behaviorism presented by B. F. Skinner and J. R. Kantor. (p. xi)

Bijou and Baer (1978)

The theory presented here brings together the contributions of many psychologists. ...our most basic debts are to B. F. Skinner, J. R. Kantor, F. S. Keller, and W. N. Schoenfeld (p. xi).

This formulation can readily be identified with the philosophy of science and behavior theory of B. F. Skinner and J. R. Kantor. (p. 33)

Dewey and Bentley (1949/1973)

The other natural approach to logic to

be considered is that of J. R. Kantor in his book Psychology and Logic.... He makes his development upon the basis of his interbehavioral psychology which rates as one of the most important advances in psychological construction since William James. (p. 152)

Ekehammer (1974)

Although interactionist thought can be traced back to Aristotle..., probably one of the first attempts in psychology toward an interactionist conceptualization was made by Kantor (1924, 1926).... (p. 1027)

Fuller (1973)

Without the influence of Kantor, operant studies might have stayed exclusively in the animal laboratories a long, long time. (p. 324)

Goldstein (1940)

Certainly any reaction is understandable only if we consider the individual phenomenon in reference to the condition of the whole organism. In animal psychology, too, such a conception has of late gained more ground. I should like to mention especially the work of K. S. Lashley and Kantor. (p. 132)

Kanfer (1968)

A functional approach to verbal behavior was suggested by J. R. Kantor....The functional approach was further developed by Skinner (1957).... (p. 255)

Kanfer and Karoly (1972)

Almost 50 years ago, Kantor (1924) argued eloquently against the use in psychology of metaphysical abstractions, which find extreme representations in the "bodyless mind" of the psychists and the "mindless body" of the mechanists. His analysis retains its timeliness. (p. 399)

Kanfer and Phillips (1970)

As must be true for a volume that reviews the experiments and theories of a large field, we have been influenced not only by personal contacts but by the many writers and colleagues whose efforts have created the field of behavior therapy. J. R. Kantor deserves particular recognition as a teacher who has deeply influenced the senior author's view of human behavior. (p. viii)

Krasner (1982)

By the end of World War II, there was already in existence a historically long-established "behaviorism" stream, solidly based on a "scientific" psychology and influenced by the laboratory studies of Pavlov (1928); the Mowrers' conditioning approach to enuresis (1938); John B. Watson's research and theoretical formulations (1924); and a stream of research and theory produced by, among others, Thorndike, Kantor, Bain, J. S. Mill, Bentham, and Locke. (p. 23)

In the first article devoted to the topic of "behavior therapy" published in the Annual Review of Psychology, Krasner (1971) argued that 15 streams of development within the science of psychology came together during the 1950s and 1960s to form the approach to behavior change generally known as "behavior therapy." These streams may be briefly summarized as follows:

1. The concept of behaviorism in experimental psychology, (e.g., Kantor, 1969). [Note: Krasner appears to be referring to Kantor's historical analysis here.] (p. 25)

Revusky and Garcia (1970)

Dedicated to J. R. Kantor because he gave Revusky an insight into the breadth of psychology. (p. 1)

Riegel (1978)

A few far-sighted psychologists, for example Jacob Kantor, have for many decades recognized the problem of interactive changes, but their voices have been drowned by the loudspeakers (and not the radicals) of modern psychology. (pp. 62-63)

Rotter (1954)

Three of these, with whom I have had the exceptionally rewarding experience of studying personally, should be mentioned for their specific contributions to the basic theoretical orientation of this book. They are J. R. Kantor, and the late Alfred Adler and Kurt Lewin. (p. viii-ix)

(References on back page.)

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