

GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

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PSY 101NZB/NLSB

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What is Psychology?

■ Psychology

- *Psyche* (mind, spirit, soul)
- *Logos* (word, knowledge, study)

■ Psychology

- the science of behavior and mental processes



Why Study Psychology?

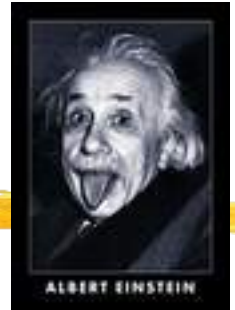


Isn't Psychology anti-Christian?

- Imago dei = image of God
- Incarnation of Christ

Isn't Psychology just basic
common sense?

Why Study Psychology?



- Goal #1: Understand behavior
- Goal #2: Describe behavior
- Goal #3: Control behavior
- Goal #4: Predict behavior



Some Problems in the Study of Psychology?



■ **Subjective subjects (human beings)**

- People don't always tell the truth or even know what they believe

■ **Subjective researchers (human beings)**

- Researchers are not always trustworthy

■ **Therefore . . . true objectivity does not exist**

Some Problems in the Study of Psychology?



■ **Bias in Assessing Relationships**

- Tendency to see relationships between events that are not, in fact, related
- Example: Are girls evil?

First we state that girls require time and money.

$$\text{Girls} = \text{Time} \times \text{Money}$$

And as we all know "time is money."

$$\text{Time} = \text{Money}$$

Therefore:

$$\text{Girls} = \text{Money} \times \text{Money} = (\text{Money})^2$$

And because "money is the root of all evil":

$$\text{Money} = \sqrt{\text{Evil}}$$

Therefore:

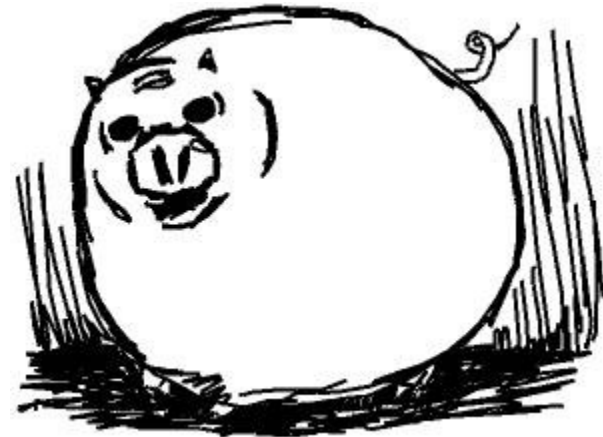
$$\text{Girls} = (\sqrt{\text{Evil}})^2$$

And we are forced to conclude that:

$$\text{Girls} = \text{Evil}$$

Some Problems in the Study of Psychology?

- Example: Drawing Tests
 - Pig Personality Test



Some Problems in the Study of Psychology?



■ **Bias in Inferring Causation**

- Tendency to see cause-and-effect relationships that do not exist
- Example: NDNHB Inventory

THE NORTH DAKOTA NULL-HYPOTHESIS BRAIN INVENTORY



1. I salivate at the sight of mittens.
2. If I go into the street, I'm apt to be bitten by a horse.
3. Some people never look at me.
4. Spinach makes me feel alone.
5. My love life is A-okay.
6. When I look down from a high spot, I want to spit.
7. I like to kill mosquitoes.
8. Cousins are not to be trusted.
9. It makes me embarrassed to fall down.
10. I get nauseous from too much roller skating.
11. I think most people would cry to gain a point.

THE NORTH DAKOTA NULL-HYPOTHESIS BRAIN INVENTORY



- 12. I cannot read or write.
- 13. I am bored by thoughts of death.
- 14. I become homicidal when people try to reason with me.
- 15. I would enjoy the work of a chicken flicker.
- 16. I am never startled by a fish.
- 17. My mother's uncle was a good man.
- 18. I don't like it when somebody is rotten.
- 19. People who break the law are wise guys.
- 20. I think beavers work too hard.
- 21. I use shoe polish to excess.
- 22. I like mannish children.
- 23. I have always been disturbed by the size of Lincoln's ears.
- 24. I always let people get ahead of me at swimming pools.

THE NORTH DAKOTA NULL- HYPOTHESIS BRAIN INVENTORY



- 25. Most of the time I go to sleep without saying goodbye.
- 26. I am not afraid of picking up doorknobs.
- 27. I believe I smell as good as most people.
- 28. Frantic screams make me nervous.
- 29. It's hard for me to say the right thing when I find myself in a room full of mice.
- 30. I would never tell my nickname in a crisis.
- 31. A wide necktie is a sign of disease.
- 32. As a child I was deprived of licorice.
- 33. I would never shake hands with a gardener.
- 34. My eyes are always cold.

THE NORTH DAKOTA NULL- HYPOTHESIS BRAIN INVENTORY



“Correct Answers”

5. False

6. True

8. True

16. True

20. True

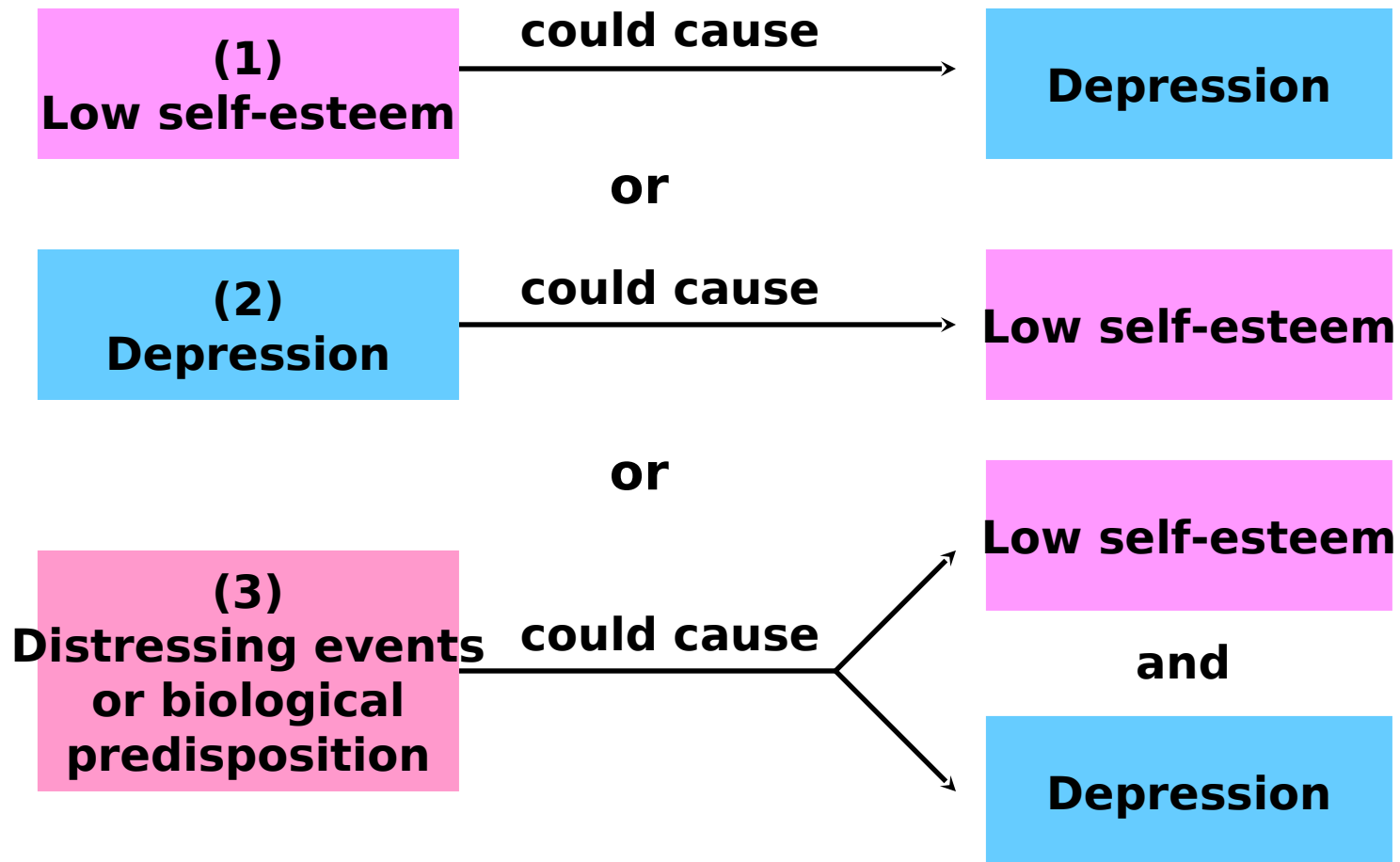
24. True

27. True

29. True

Correlation and Causation

Three possible cause-effect relations



Some Problems in the Study of Psychology?



■ **Social Desirability Bias**

- We tend to ignore people's desire to be liked and admired

Some Problems in the Study of Psychology?



■ **Hindsight Bias**

- Tendency to believe, after learning an outcome, that one would have foreseen it
- The “I-knew-it-all-along” phenomenon

■ **Overconfidence**

- We tend to think we know more than we do

Some Problems in the Study of Psychology?



■ **Bias ignoring Context**

- Tendency to ignore the context of behavior when seeking to understand that behavior

Some Problems in the Study of Psychology?



■ **Self-serving Bias**

- Tendency to interpret the world in a manner most consistent with my view of the world
- Tendency to interpret the world in a manner most flattering to self

The Need for Psychological Science



- Critical Thinking
 - Thinking that does not blindly accept arguments and conclusions
 - examines assumptions
 - discerns hidden values
 - evaluates evidence