

Katherine McCalla Johnson
Professor Amy Flavin
Psychology 321: History of Psychology
January 25, 2023

Modern psychology is historically viewed as having roots in ancient scholarly philosophy as well as in both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The reason for this is that early philosophers closely examined humanity in both general and specific ways. Eventually a shift occurred when the methodologies of other fields of science were applied to philosophy causing rise to further questions and reasonings. This led to formal investigations which gave birth to the field of psychology as a separate discipline.

Then just before the dawn of the twentieth century, psychology began to distinguish itself as a major and important social science. Many theorists in the field soon found areas of commonality. Methods and theories were shared and all ideas were given weight. It was not until recent times that psychologists found themselves in a heated debate as to the capstone of their endeavors: mind or behavior. Furthermore, the number of practitioners has grown exponentially in the past few decades and many have creative license to explore precepts in a variety of directions. In addition, funding is now readily available as competition makes way for lively and fruitful debate. Most psychologists today stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before them from ancient philosophers to modern day behaviorists. All have contributed to the well established field of psychology.