

## History of Psychology - Chapter 4 Review

### **Wilhelm Wundt (1832-1920)**

What made him the founder of psychology?

- He founded the first lab for psychological research
- He made an intentional and deliberate act to officially be the founder
- He separated psychology from philosophy by analyzing the workings of the mind in a more structured way, with the emphasis being on objective measurement and control.

What goal did he announce in his book *Principles of Physiological Psychology*?

- In his famous book published in 1873, Wundt announced that the goal of psychology was to identify components of consciousness and how those components combined to result in our conscious experience.

### **Gedankenmesser**

- Is an experiment carried out only in thought.
- First used by Einstein to describe his unique approach of using conceptual rather than actual experiments in creating the theory of relativity.

What two important things happened during the Leipzig years?

- Wundt established an independent lab for psychology therefore creating the subject to be a separate branch of science and an independent field of study.
- Wundt formed a journal for psychological research, the first of its kind.

What two parts did psychology get divided into?

- The two first psychological schools of thought were structuralism and functionalism.

What did Wundt believe that psychology should be the study of?

~~Voluntarism~~

~~Mediate and immediate experience~~

- Wundt viewed psychology as a scientific study of conscious experience and that trained observers could accurately describe thoughts, feelings and emotions through a process known as introspection.

Voluntarism

- The view that human behaviors are, at least in part, the result of the exercise of volition.
- Wundt believed it to be the process of organizing the mind.

Mediate and immediate experience

- Mediate experience - associated with physical science, it is experience that is mediated by some device of accurate measure. e.g. using a thermometer to determine how hot or cold something is.
- Immediate experience - The experience of the psychological researcher. It is not mediated by anything external or objective. e.g. toothache with immediate pain

Introspection according to Wundt

- Looking at oneself and examining personal thoughts and emotions

Wundt's three goals of psychology

1. Analyze conscious processes into their basic elements.
2. Discover how these elements are synthesized or organized <sup>sized</sup>
3. Determine the laws of connection governing the organization

Two elements of psychology

1. Feelings
2. Sensations

## Franz Brentano (1838-1917)

Contrast with Wundt

- The movement started by Brentano now known as Act Psychology opposed Wundt's views.
- He opposed that psychology should only study the content of conscious experience and that mental processes don't involve contents / elements.

What did Brentano argue should be the proper subject matter of psychology?

- Brentano argued that the subject matter of psychology should be mental activity rather than mental content.

In what two ways did Brentano believe you could study mental acts?

- Through introspection - the process of examining one's own conscious experiences.
- By analyzing the intentional object - which is the object that a mental act is directed towards.

## Carl Stumpf (1848-1936)

Stumpf was a major rival of Wundt's - what did he argue should be the primary data of psychology?

- Stumpf argued that subjective experiences should be the primary data of psychology.
- This contrasted Wundt's emphasis on objective measurements of physical and physiological processes.

What is phenomenology according to Stumpf?

- The study of conscious experience as it is directly perceived and lived by the individual.

## Oswald Kulpe (1862-1915)

### Doctrine of apperception – the law of psychic resultants

- Every psychical compound shows attributes which may indeed be understood from the attributes of its elements after these elements have once been presented, but which are by no means to be looked upon as the mere sum of the attributes of these.

### Wundt's legacy

- Wundt founded experimental psychology as a discipline and became a pioneer of cultural psychology. He created a broad research programme in empirical psychology and developed a system of philosophy and ethics from the basic concepts of his psychology bringing together several disciplines in one person.

### Hermann Ebbinghaus (1850-1909)

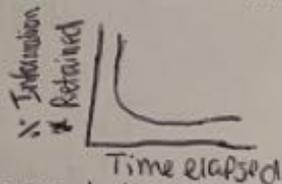
The first to investigate learning and memory experimentally.

What did Ebbinghaus learn about nonsense syllables?

- Ebbinghaus found that he could remember meaningful material, such as a poem, ten times more easily than nonsense lists.
- He also found that the more times the nonsense syllables were repeated, the less time needed to reproduce the memorized information.

### Forgetting curve

- Ebbinghaus created the forgetting curve where he found that as the time elapsed increased the % of information retained decreased.
- He developed the curve to illustrate how human memory declines after learning new information.



Sentence completion exercise (still used in psychology today)

- Ebbinghaus created sentence completion exercises to research on verbal intelligence.
- They served as a model for further studies on cognitive abilities and psychological evaluations.

How did Kulpe define psychology?

- The Science of mental processes or acts, such as thinking, reasoning, problem-solving, decision making and perception.

What was Kulpe's systematic experimental introspection?

- A method that asked participants to perform tasks and report their conscious experiences in order to investigate complex mental processes like problem solving and decision making.

- It was an important step in the development of cognitive psychology.

What did Kulpe mean by imageless thought?

- Mental processes that occur without any associated mental image or sensory experience.

### History of Psychology - Chapter 5 Review

#### **Edward Bradford Titchener (1867-1927) and Structuralism**

Although he claimed to represent Wundt's ideas and theories in America, he did not actually do this - how exactly did he change Wundt's theories?

- Titchener made significant changes to Wundt's original ideas by emphasizing the analysis of conscious experience into its basic components or structures through introspection, creating the version of psychology known as Structuralism.

What did Titchener view the central task of psychology to be?

- Believed the main goal of psychology should be to study conscious experience through introspection and describe the structures and elements of the mind in a systematic way.

1901-1905: During these years he wrote Experimental Psychology, why is this noteworthy?

- Has numerous practical applications
- Placed a key role in the development of new technologies
- Findings are often generalizable to the broader population

Titchener's view of women

- Held sexist and discriminatory views towards women believing that they were biologically inferior to men and better suited for domestic roles.
- Women were less intelligent and less rational so shouldn't pursue higher education or careers outside of the home.

What did he believe the subject matter of psychology should be?

- The study of conscious experience through the analysis of basic elements of consciousness and their organization into complex mental structures.

What was meant by stimulus error?

- A type of error that can occur when researchers unintentionally influence study participants responses by the way they present or phrase the stimuli used in the study.
- can have significant impact on the validity and reliability of research findings.

For Titchener what was meant by introspection?

- The process of observing and reporting on one's own conscious experiences, thoughts and sensations.

Titchener's three essential problems of psychology

1. The problem of finding the elements of consciousness.
2. The problem of determining the laws of combination of the elements.
3. The problem of connecting the elements with their physiological conditions.

### Titchener's three elementary states of consciousness

1. Sensations
2. Images
3. Affections

Titchener presented a list of what he believed to be 44,500 elements of sensation – all of which he believed could be categorized according to four characteristics basic to all sensations.

1. Quality
2. Intensity
3. Duration
4. Clearness

### Criticisms of Structuralism

- Lack of practical application
- Lack of empirical evidence
- Highly subjective

### Contributions of Structuralism

- Identification of basic elements of consciousness
- Influence on psychology
- Introduced introspection.