

Katherine McCalla Johnson
Professor Amy Flavin
Psychology 321: History of Psychology
March 30, 2023

Chapter 9

The Zeitgeist in American psychology in the first two decades of the twentieth century did much to promote and support behaviorism. Objectivity had become all the rage among the prominent psychologists in academia. At Columbia University, Professor Robert Woodworth was one of the first to state that he was in favor of moving away from consciousness and instead to have psychology described as the science of animal and human behavior. Just a few short years later, Walter Pillsbury echoed Woodworth's sentiment. Then came Max Meyer and Willaim McDougal who were both advocates for change as they each wrote books on human behavior. Knight Dunlap, a peer of Watson's at Johns Hopkins University, argued that the word "introspection" ought to be made taboo when it came to the new psychology. Next to join in the chorus was William Montague. He vehemently opposed the idea of consciousness or the mind, but rather insisted that behavior be the focus of all psychological study. J.R. Angell was yet another supporter of increased objectivity in the field and petitioned that the term consciousness would be left to the annals of history. It was not long before the elites in the field agreed with John Watson that the new psychology ought to be known as the science of behavior.