

**Course on Great Experiments in Psychology**  
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**Module 4**  
**Lecture No 20**  
**Summary of the Sessions**

Hello again so this is going to be a session where I will shall summarise what we have done for these four weeks in great experiment in psychology. So when I started designing this course I had a feeling that this would be really easy to do with and to be honest with you this designing 20 lectures in fact 19 of them is has really taken up a lot of time and consideration and conflicts and burning the midnight lamp.

One of the major reasons being there is so much to be covered in psychology and especially the experiments and studies, initially I thought that I will only discuss about the experiments but then I felt if I leave out some of the major studies that have been done in psychology then I will be doing injustice to the subject.

So I so what we have talked about so far in these 4 lectures to summarise we have spoken about history of psychology in the first module primarily we have discussed about philosophers and their contribution to psychology and then we moved into the psychophysical part. So where the physiologist, physicists, mathematicians were having were contributing to the subject of psychology and then we spoke about Weber Fechner and then finally we moved into modern psychology and the establishment of psychology as a science and there we spoke about Wundt, Titchener and after that we spoke about Darwin and Galton and their contributions to psychology as a science.

Moving on from that in the second week we spoke about I plan to structure this as cognitive and social psychology and there I face a lot of confusion primarily because there are just too many experiments in cognitive and social psychology that I would like to discuss, but I just selected Ebbinghaus where I felt that when I am talking about memory I need to mention Ebbinghaus without Ebbinghaus's study and specially his contribution in nonsense syllables, we could not move forward with memory.

After that it would be better if I could discuss some of the other memory experiments but then I moved onto something which is really interesting especially It has a contribution to both psychology and law and there we talked about the eyewitness testimony primarily

Loftus and Palmer's experiment and then we moved on to perceptual defence. So I you know I could have done without the McGinnies's experiment on perceptual defence but I felt that merely this would also cover the area of advertising and especially when you talking about subliminal perception and its use in advertising.

So that is one of the reasons why I kept this study and then I spoke about Festinger cognitive dissonance. We are talking about cognitive psychology and cognitive experiments you cannot leave out Festinger, that is why I did try to explain it very briefly and of course the most controversial experiment in psychology till date is Milgram's obedience experiments so we could not leave out and I also felt and I still feel today that Milgram's experiment is primarily a picture of the society and how the political geopolitical socio political conditions effected the development and the studies in psychology.

So Milgram was a Jew as we spoke about and he hailed from east Europe and he was really affected by the condition of the Jews and he was he also had his ideas about Germans. So the Germans are different hypothesis we spoke about that and so the studies were based on the Germans are different hypothesis. So it I felt that this is this is not only important because of its because of the ethical issues that this study raises but it was also important to discuss this primarily because of the socio political influence on psychology and on psychological studies. So then moving on to module three we spoke about I try to discuss clinical and health psychology and where I talked about Watson's experiment with little Albert.

Now there was this confusion that Watson's experiment with little Albert could be placed in the cognitive and social psychology section also, if I was really covering behaviourism in the cognitive section then I could actually put it there. But then its influence on the development of treatments for phobia, I thought that it would be better idea to put it in the clinical psychology section and of course we discussed OCD and specially Rappaport's influential article on OCD and how it change the mind-set towards OCD specially the diagnosis and the prevalence of OCD. It actually made a, Rappaport's study made a lot of difference and brought about a lot of alertness in the common population about OCD being a clinical diagnosis and that it could be treated.

So that was one of the reasons why I introduced this in our module three and you know when we are talking about clinical diagnosis we could not leave out Rosenhan, so I spoke about Rosenhan's 1973 study on sanity and insanity and specially the criticism against it, so whether, so this was also I thought it would be good chance to bring to the picture the anti-

psychiatry movement and especially were people were saying that its schizophrenia, where people are behaving differently does not mean that they need to be given a diagnosis and put into the hospital. So basically the clinical diagnosis did not mean anything.

So the anti-psychiatry movement...if you really wish to study more about it and read more about the psychology experiments I try to bring out you know small bits to give you the flavour psychology from different aspects and of course this this one of my favourites that is the story of Dibs and if you if you really go through Virginia Axline's book on Dibs will see the importance of the responsiveness towards child and you know I this book was written way back but even today, even today it is very important for the concept of play therapy. So the unconditional regard towards the child is very important and especially this is very well reflected in Dibs.

So thought Dibs is not an a study that has been published in one of the major journals in psychology or psychiatry I still thought that it would be interesting and could be important to discuss Virginia Axline's role in Dibs life and actually how this study or play therapy could bring about so much of a change. So anybody who is interested in the therapeutic patterns could start with reading Dibs. So there are many more people that we should have probably covered but I then spoke about one of the most interesting cases in clinical psychology that is about Cleckley and Thigpen's three faces of eve or the story of Eve or Chris Sizemore and the multiple personality disorder or as it is better known today as disassociated identity disorder.

So this was this has also changed the picture of DID or disassociated identity disorder in the world. So this study is one of the major studies in clinical psychology and as we all know that it was three faces of Eve was actually made into a film and it was the actress also won the Golden Globe Award as well as the Oscars. So this is also this is not only interesting reading but it is also important to understand how you know psychology explains or expresses itself in different domains in life.

So we spoke about experimental psychology, cognitive social psychology, clinical and health psychology and the final module where I was supposed to cover more of individual differences and culture you know they were just too many things that was still left and you know as again class divided by Jene Elliott is one of the major influential studies done by a by an individual who is not part of the psychology fraternity.

Now I think I personally feel that it would be wrong to say that Elliott is not a part of fraternity because she showed that you can actually talk about discrimination, teach about discrimination through a class activity and here as she always says that this is not an experiment this is a test that she tried to conduct on her children and she does not wish to see this been conducted several times, she would wish to see that discrimination was eradicated.

So it is not necessary that an experimentally proper following an experimentally proper methodology and experiment can only be done by psychologist, belonging to a university or an academic (10:33) so it is you know and that brings back the case of Ebbinghaus, because Ebbinghaus did not belong to a university, this was way back and he carried on his experiments at home and he his only subject on memory experiment was himself, but he followed the experimental condition to the core so he also as we have discussed earlier, he would conduct the experiment at a particular time of the day, so that you know he could control the other variables.

So the diagonal variations could be controlled and thereafter I thought that we must talk about the false consensus effect, so false consensus effect here again could be spoken about in cognitive and social psychology section but then I felt that you know this would also be a good section where we could talk about how we perceive people and how we perceive what they are going to do?

So there was another very important study that we could have taken up on prejudice, but I felt that it would be better actually talk about the false consensus effect, so that it helps us to understand when you are interacting with people, you can also judge for yourself whether you are also suffering from this perceptual bias and this you know I feel that this Lee Ross's experiment could actually be conducted by you, if you wish to do so and so with the measurement of androgyny by Bem.

So this was again this I took this of not only because it would be very appropriate for the section, but also because this tells us a lot about how to construct a scale and how to administer a scale, so what are the characteristics that need to be addressed when you are trying to construct a scale, when you even trying to do an opinion poll, how would you do it? So that is why I added this to the section and finally the marshmallow test by Michelle. So this again you know I did not have a section for developmental psychology so I felt that this would be a good section to perhaps discuss this and this especially because of the predictive value of this test.

So think about this is very socially appropriate and so I thought that maybe you know module 4 of for individual difference in culture could be focusing more on the socially important structures that can be applicable to this day and which you could you know probably conduct these experiments yourself. So you know I do not think to be true that I have done justice to the to the domain of psychology to the to the discipline of psychology when I am talking of experiment and studies specially because there is just too much of things left you know I did not talk about when talking about experiments and studies I did not talk about the most influential psychologist of our time so that is Sigmund Freud and his case of neutral hands.

Not that I talked about one of my favourites again Albert Bandura of the individual of this bobo doll experiment, Albert Bandura's bobo doll experiment when he shows that aggression can be learnt and he speaks about the social learning theory, so we spoke about learning to an extend but you know when you are talking about memory maybe I gave references about learning but we have not we have not really spoken about Albert Bandura and his social learning theory and again one of the very interesting studies is Deregowski's 1972 study on pictorial perception and culture, that is also very interesting studies specially which shows that you know most of our learning is because of the our geo-social conditions and how we are specially looking at things.

So our perceptions of things are dependent on our geographical condition so that is where we are staying, how we are seeing things, so and that is learnt. So it is a very interesting study if you wish to go through it, you can look up Deregowski's 1972 and of course another very important experiment, I spoke about obedience and Milligrams experiment but I did not I missed out on Zimbardo's prison experiment. So if you if you ever put on a Google search on the great experiments in psychology no matter where you click on to you will always see Zimbardo's Stanford prison experiment being one of them.

So I do not think that I did justice to this, I should have discussed by the unfortunate thing is, we did not have the time this is just a 10 hour course and I just wanted to give you a different perspective of the different areas different scope of psychology and again one I the major section in psychology that is being studied today and has been studied for quite some time is emotions and we have not studied and we have not talked about any experiment on emotions and primarily you know again one of the very important studies on emotion is on Schachter Singer's 2 factor theory of emotion.

So this experiment is a very interesting one, so if you wish to go through this experiment you can just check it out you will see Schachter Singer's experiment available online and again talking about social psychology, we should have talked about the bystander effect, where Darley and Latane in 1968 spoke about our individual responsibilities during an emergency situation, how we respond in an emergency situation with specially the bystander effect talks about the diffusion of responsibility, if somebody else is there, we feel that well I mean if the responsibility is shared so why not the other individual go and help.

So this this was a very interesting study again and I feel we should have talked about this and one of the old experiments in social psychology and one of the classic experiments in social psychology I use to say Solomon Asch's experiment on social conformity or the pressure to confirm to social standards.

So this is again one section that we not cover perhaps because it was a 10 hour course and again the effect the Hawthorne effect that is again a prospective in industrial psychology which we left out and there are yet many more experiments and studies that we should have talked about and the list just goes on and on and probably half an hour would not be long enough for me to complete this list but I hope to see you again and I hope that we can have further interactions on the great works in psychology and I hope that whatever I try to cover in this course was meaningful and has raised your interest in psychology from before. Thank you.