What Do Psychologists Know About Human Behavior?

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Abstract

Originally published in Contemporary Psychology: APA Review of Books, 1984, Vol 29(4), 314. Reviews the book, Mindwatching: Why People Behave the Way They Do by Hans J. Eysenck and Michael Eysenck (1983). Written at a level appropriate for introductory psychology courses and the general public, this book presents psychological theory and fact in an interesting, informative, and provocative manner. The emphasis is on psychology as a useful and significant science. A central theme is the superiority of experimental methods over common sense, intuition, and political ideology. The book is very well written. The book is also not without its faults. There is at least one factual error, in their discussion of Sperry's work, the authors state that information presented visually to the left half of each eye is projected to the right hemisphere of the brain and vice versa. There are also a few bald overgeneralizations. Despite these flaws, this is an interesting and potentially important book. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2006 APA, all rights reserved)
Human behaviour: the raw data of psychology. Psychology and other disciplines. Branches of psychology. Psychology: the science of the mind. Psychology is the science of the mind. The human mind is the most complex machine on Earth. It is the source of all thought and behaviour. How do psychologists study the mind? In fact, psychologists adopt a similar approach to scientists in other fields. Nuclear physicists interested in the structure of atoms cannot observe protons, electrons and neutrons directly. Instead, they predict how these elements should behave and devise experiments to confirm or refute their expectations. Human behaviour: the raw data of psychology. In a similar way, psychologists use human behaviour as a clue to the workings of the mind. Psychology. Understanding human behavior. Aaron Quinn Sartain Alvin John North. Jack Roy Strange. Thus, it is easy to understand why interest in psychology has been increasing. We have to know about people, and we hope psychologists can help us to understand them better. What psychology is. Let us look more closely at psychology and what it can contribute to understanding human behavior. What is psychology, and how does it go about accomplishing its objectives? Human Behavior as the Chief Concern of Psychology. As we have already indicated, psychology is chiefly concerned with what makes people behave as they clo.