

WEBINAR

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Psychology in Society:

How Western psychology has developed

NICKY HAYES



Abstract

Psychology, like other sciences, takes place in society. Psychology, like other sciences, takes place in society, and reflects the concerns and ideas of its time. For the past century and a half, psychology the social movements and ideas of the time have shaped psychology: both in terms of defining areas of interest and responding to social and political events. As society has changed, so has psychology. This talk traces Western psychology's development from its early years, and how social movements influenced both behaviourism and Gestalt psychology between the two world wars. World War II changed the emphasis of psychological research bringing a new focus to humanistic and social psychology. It explores how the advent of computers stimulated the cognitive revolution of the 1980s, while the growing power of consumer expectations influenced significant advances in psychotherapy. In the post-modern era, a methodological expansion accompanied an increasing emphasis on diversity and inclusivity while technological developments such as scanning transformed neuropsychology, and commercial interests fostered advances in understanding thinking and judgements.

Nicky Hayes is a well-known psychologist who is currently the President of the British Psychological Society (2022-2024). She has written over 25 books, mainly on psychology, management and neuroscience, which have been translated into many languages. She has also written and edited many psychology articles and her work has close to 10.000 citations according to Google Scholar. She is a Fellow of the British Psychological Society and of the British Academy of Social Sciences, and is also the BPS representative for the International Union of Psychological Sciences.