

Psych Reading for January 11th

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- Ideomotor Effect- When facilitators' ideas are unknowingly influencing their movements.

The Beauty and Necessity of Good Research

- Prefrontal Lobotomy- Surgical procedure that severs fibers connecting the frontal lobes of the brain from the underlying thalamus.

Heuristics and Biases: How We Can be Fooled

- The same psychological processes that service us well in most situations also predispose us to errors in thinking.
- Heuristics – Mental shortcuts that help us to streamline our thinking and make sense of our world.
- Cognitive Misers- Mentally lazy and try to conserve mental energies by simplifying the world.
- Representative Heuristic- Heuristic that involves judging the probability of an event by its superficial similarity to a prototype.
- Base Rate- How common a characteristic or behavior is in the general population.
 - Base Rate Fallacy- When we neglect to consider base rates.
- Availability Heuristic- Heuristic that involves estimating the likelihood of an occurrence based on the ease with which it comes to our minds.
- Cognitive Biases- Systematic errors in thinking.

Cognitive Biases

- Hindsight Bias- Tendency to overestimate how well we could have successfully forecasted known outcomes.
- Overconfidence- Tendency to overestimate our ability to make correct predictions.

Naturalistic Observation: Studying Humans "In the Wild"

- Naturalistic Observation- Watching behavior in real-world settings without trying to manipulate the situation.
- External Validity- The extent to which we can generalize our findings to real-world settings.
- Internal Validity- The extent to which we can draw cause-and-effect inferences.

Case Study Designs: Getting to Know You

- Case Study- Research design that examines one person or a small number of people in depth, often over an extended period of time.
- Existence Proofs- Demonstrations that a given psychological phenomenon can occur.

Self-Report Measures and Surveys: Asking People about Themselves and Others

- Self-Report Measures= Questionnaires
- Random Selection- Procedure that ensures every person in a population has an equal chance of being chosen to participate.
- Reliability- Consistency of measurement
- Interrater Reliability- The extent to which different people who conduct an interview, or make behavioral observations, agree on the characteristics they're measuring.
- Validity- The extent to which a measure assesses what it purports to measure.
- Response Set- Tendency of research participants to distort their responses to questionnaire items.
 - o Positive Impression Management- The tendency to make ourselves look better than we are.
 - o Malingering- The tendency to make ourselves appear psychologically disturbed with the aim of achieving a clear-cut personal goal.
- Halo Effect- The tendency of ratings of one positive characteristic to spill over to influence the ratings of other positive characteristics.