

Chapter 5:

Psychophysics and the Emergence of Scientific Psychology

In-Class Discussion

- A timeless issue in the History of Psychology is whether psychology should adopt a humanistic or mechanistic viewpoint.
- Humanistic psychologists value the subjective inner world of consciousness, arguing that free will in people may limit psychology's ability to predict behavior.
- In contrast, mechanistic psychologists endow humans with machine-like qualities, emphasizing determinism, and argue for an objective scientific psychology that can predict lawful human behavior.

Automatic Sweetheart

- Imagine you're in love.
- Then, one day, you discover something about your sweetheart...
- Your sweetheart looks, feels and acts human, but your sweetheart is not a conscious human being, but rather a technologically advanced, artificially intelligent machine programmed to respond to your behavioral expressions of love.
- How would you feel? Would it change things between you?