

TOPIC: EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY

Evolutionary Psychology (1980's)

Focuses on how human behavior and mental processes have been _____ by natural selection.

Historical Context

Functionalism *had* taken evolution into account, but behaviorism had completely shifted the focus.

Evolution was re-introduced partly due to collaboration with other _____ (anthropology, sociology, biology).

Main Research Question

How and why did common psychological _____ and behaviors evolve through natural selection?

Important Founders

John Garcia
(1917 – 2012)

Did research in the 1960's on how rats respond to radiation sickness.

Rats learned very _____ to associate taste and nausea, but had a _____ time associating nausea with visual and auditory stimuli.

This phenomenon is now called **biological _____ ness.**



Leda Cosmides
and **John Tooby**

Did systematic research throughout the 1980's and 90's applying evolutionary theory to psychology.

Researched topics like _____ selection, detecting cheaters, parental investment, decision making, and memory.

Credited with making **evolutionary psychology** a formal field.

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EXAMPLE

Dr. Silver is a psychologist who studies emotion, specifically how emotions like guilt and shame can motivate prosocial behaviors. An excerpt from her most recent paper reads, "Prosocial behaviors increase communal acceptance and rank within the social hierarchy, both of which contribute to mate selection and reproductive capacity." Based on this, what type of psychologist do you think Dr. Silver is?

- a) A cognitive psychologist.
- b) A developmental psychologist.
- c) An evolutionary psychologist.
- d) A neuroscientist.