

Chapter 1: Introduction

72

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Basic Concepts

- What is a psychological test
 - measurement device or technique
 - quantifies behavior
 - used to make predictions
 - (often) composed of individual items
 - (often) scored w.r.t. normative data

73

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Why use tests?

- Why use tests? vs. the alternative -- just measure the thing directly
 - faster - saves time
 - more convenient, portable, virtual
 - standardize across space & time
 - less dangerous (e.g. brain surgeon)
 - more accurate(?)
 - \$\$\$\$ profit

74

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Arguments against testing

- UnReliable -- inconsistent results
- InValid -- doesn't measure what it claims
- Biased -- treats sub groups differently
- Enforced conformity -- punishes creativity
- People & Institutions adapt -- "study for the test", specialized tutoring
- Expensive -- few large private companies hold most of the business
- Privacy & Security & Cheating

75

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Test types: administration

- Types of tests:
 - Individually-administered Tests
 - Group-administered Tests
 - Computerized (?)

76

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Test types: domains

- Ability, Capacity or Potential
 - **Achievement**
 - learned skills or knowledge in specific area
 - **Aptitude**
 - ability to learn new skills / knowledge in specific area
 - **Intelligence**
 - general ability

77

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Test types: domains 2

- Personality
 - Structured (“Objective”)
 - Projective
- Military & Civil Service
- Vocational Counseling
- Industry / Business
- Clinical Psychology / Psychiatry
- Health Psychology
- Neuropsychology
- Research

78

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History - Antiquity

82

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History : China

- Han Dynasty (206 BCE thru 220 CE) had test batteries for law, military, agriculture, geography, etc.
- The “Imperial Examination”

83

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Gold, silver, brass & iron

“Citizens, we shall say to them in our tale, you are brothers, yet God has framed you differently. Some of you have the power of command, and in the composition of these he has mingled gold, wherefore also they have the greatest honor; others he has made of silver, to be auxiliaries; others again who are to be husbandmen and craftsmen he has composed of brass and iron; and the species will generally be preserved in the children. But as all are of the same original stock, a golden parent will sometimes have a silver son, or a silver parent a golden son.”

-- Plato, *The Republic*, circa 380 BC

85

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Review

- Definition of Psychological Test
- Test Domains
 - Achievement
 - Aptitude
 - Intelligence
- Antiquity
 - Gold, Silver, Brass & Iron (Socrates, as written by his student, Plato)
 - “Socrates knew he was telling a lie”
- Non-western society
 - Chinese *Imperial Examination*

95

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History : 18th - 19th Century

- The zeitgeist : colonialism, independence, contact between new races & ethnicities. Slavery.
- The needs: justify slavery, inequality.
- The techniques: very crude statistics, physical measurements
- Evolution vs. Creationism

96

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Racial Attitudes of the 1800s

"[...]There is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will for ever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality. And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race."

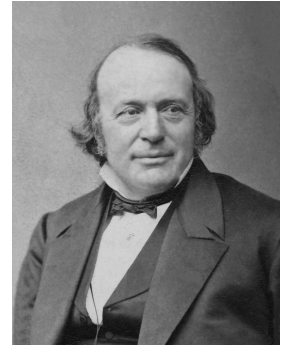
-- 1858, in a debate with Stephen Douglas
Abraham Lincoln

97

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Louis Agassiz

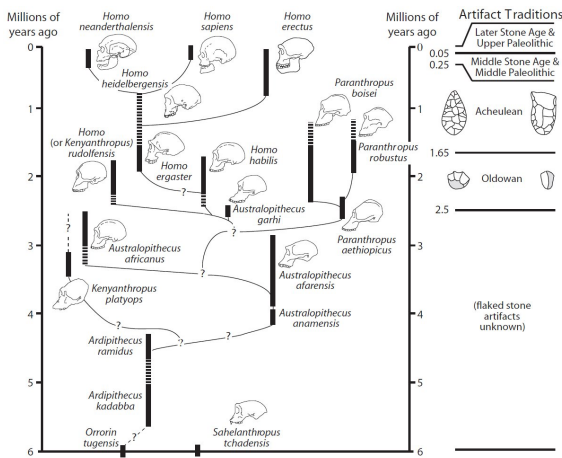
- Swiss-born, European-trained biologist / geologist
- Came to Harvard in 1847
- Creationist -> Polygenist
- Taxonomist
- Resisted Darwin's theory of Evolution
- d. 1873



99

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Taxonomy



101

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Species

- Old definition:
 - group of organisms that can breed
- Modern definition:
 - "Species are actual or potential interbreeding populations sharing common gene pool, reproductively isolated from other groups."
- Example:
 - male donkey + female horse = mule (sterile)
 - female donkey + male horse = hinny

102

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Species

- Hybrids
 - Mule = male donkey + female horse
 - Hinny = female donkey + male horse

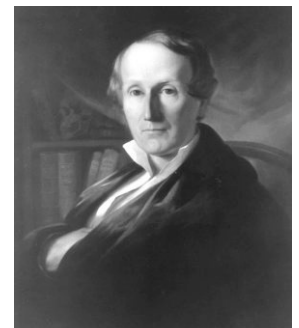


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103

Samuel George Morton

- Theory of Polygenism
 - Humans are composed of different species, created by god
- Craniometry
- Biological Determinism
- "Scientific Racism"
- The "American School"
- d. 1851

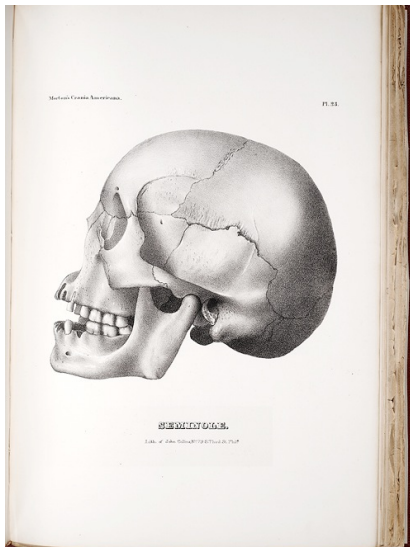


104

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Crania Americana

Samuel George Morton
1839



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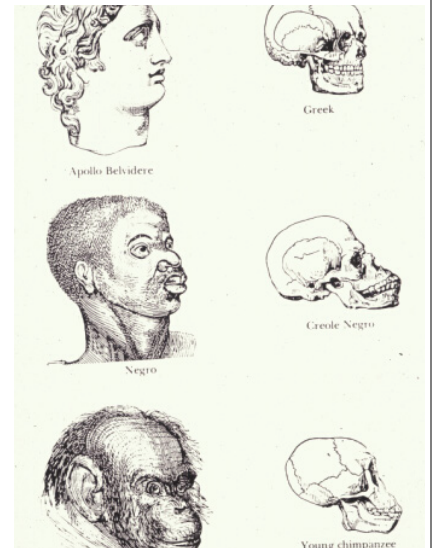
105

Indigenous Races of the Earth

note the false exaggeration of the chimp and negro skulls to suggest that "blacks might even rank lower than the apes"

(Gould, p. 65, citing Nott & Gliddon, 1868)

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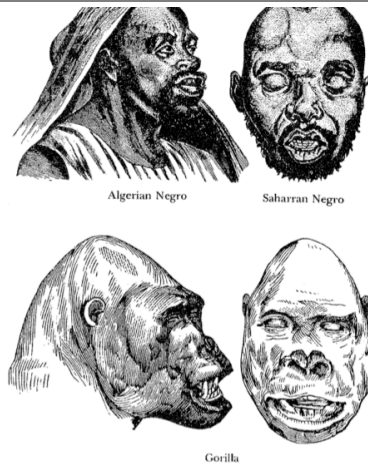
106

Types of Mankind

"An unsubtle attempt to suggest strong affinity between blacks and gorillas"

(Gould, p. 67, citing Nott & Gliddon, 1854)

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2*2 An unsubtle attempt to suggest strong affinity between blacks and gorillas. From Nott and Gliddon, *Types of Mankind*, 1854. Nott and Gliddon comment on this figure: "The palpable analogies and dissimilarities between an inferior type of mankind and a superior type of monkey require no comment."

107

Visible differences?

Indigenous
Australian
Melanesia
African
European

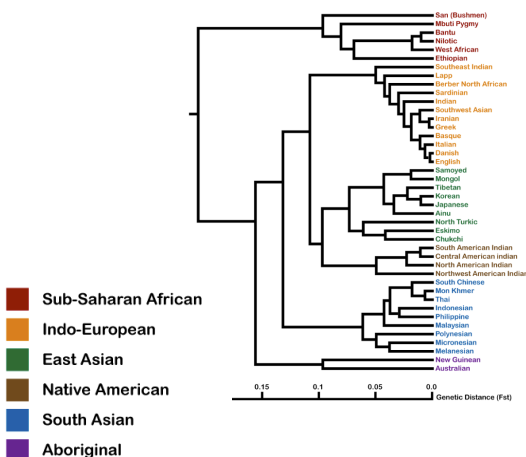
Australian and Africans are most genetically different



108

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Genetic Differences



109

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History : 19th - 20th Century

- The zeitgeist : Industrialism, world conflict, communism, capitalism
- The needs: healthcare, war, government -- desire to identify unusually high & low functioning people
- The techniques: Advanced statistics, measurement theory
- Theories of psychological development, intelligence, genetics.

112

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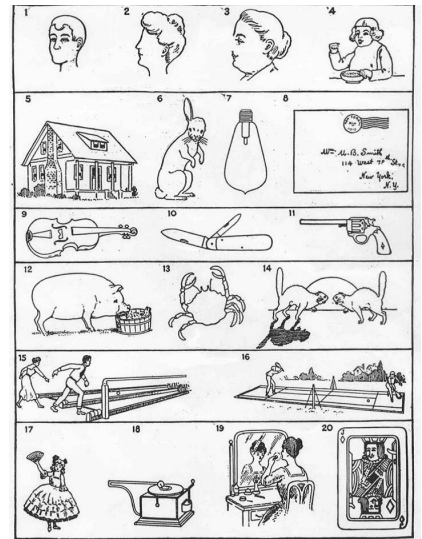
Early 20th century

- Notable events in history:
 - Binet-Simon Scale
 - introduced idea of IQ as ratio of mental age to actual age
 - use of standardization sample
 - Army tests -- WWI
 - Alpha -- literate
 - Beta -- illiterate

113

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Army Beta



115

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History: IQ tests

- Charles Spearman : “g” -- theory of general intelligence factor underlying all other special abilities.
- David Wechsler: WAIS and WISC tests
 - Subtests - Verbal vs. Performance Scales
 - Large normative group -- IQ = performance as related to peers
- Thurstone, Cattell, Guilford, Gardner, others: further theories of intelligence (covered later)

116

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WAIS: Block Design



117

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Summary

- History of testing... “A long past but a short history”
- America as newly independent colony
 - —> independent science
- Slavery
- Theories of human development
 - Creationism (mono / poly-genism)
 - Evolution
 - Species
- Scientific Racism

119

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Freudian Defense Mechanisms

- Level 1 - Pathological
 - Denial, Distortion, Splitting
- Level 2 - Immature
 - Acting out, Fantasy, Idealization, Passive aggression, Projection, Somatization
- Level 3 - Neurotic
 - Displacement, Dissociation, Hypochondriasis, Intellectualization, Rationalization, Reaction Formation, Regression, Repression, Undoing
- Level 4 - Mature
 - Altruism, Anticipation, Humor, Identification, Introjection, Sublimation, intentional thought suppression

124

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History: Personality Tests

- Traits vs. States
- Structured (“objective”):
 - WPDS (early)
 - MMPI, CPI (modern)
 - 16PF (modern, based on factor analysis)
 - NEO (NEO-FFI: NEOAC)
- Unstructured / “projective”:
 - Rorschach (inkblot test, Exner’s scoring)
 - TAT (Thematic Apperception Test)

125

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MMPI

1. I like mechanics magazines
2. I have a good appetite
3. I wake up fresh & rested most mornings
4. I think I would like the work of a librarian
5. I am easily awakened by noise
6. I like to read newspaper articles on crime
7. My hands and feet are usually warm enough
8. My daily life is full of things that keep me interested
9. I am about as able to work as I ever was
10. There seems to be a lump in my throat much of the time

126

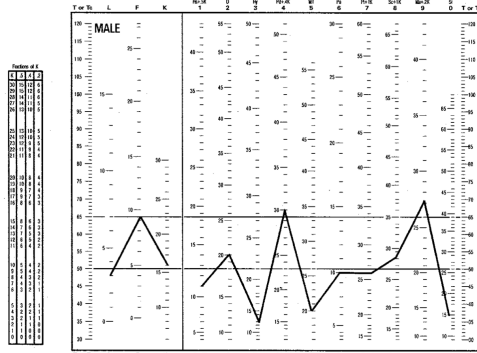
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MMPI-2

Profile for Basic Scales

Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2
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T.M.L. 1944 (revised 1978, 1982). This profile form 1985.
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127

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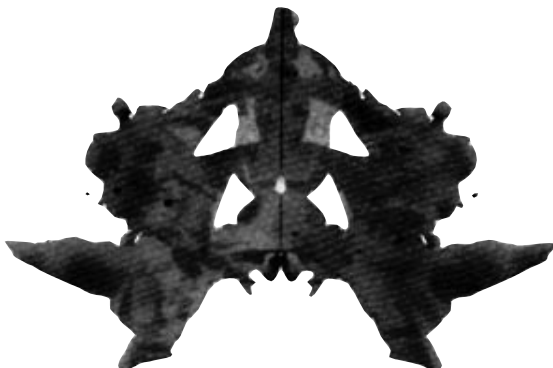
TAT



128

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Rorschach 1



129

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MMOM - Themes

- Biological Determinism - a theory of limits
- Measuring intelligence as a single quantity
- Plato: dialectic. Church: dogma. Now : science.
- “Book is about the scientific version of Plato’s tale”
- “Socrates knew that he was telling a lie”
- Science (and scientists) are not objective
 - social endeavor
 - fraud, but also (and worse) unconscious bias

131

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MMOM - Fallacies

- Reification
 - naming a thing gives it disproportionate power
- Ranking
 - over-simplifying complexity by ordering on a single scale

132

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Review

- Issues
 - Gold, Silver, Brass & Iron - The Republic
 - Species
 - Race
 - Intelligence
 - Fudge! (racial attitudes of the 1800s)
- Test Domains
 - Achievement
 - Aptitude
 - Intelligence

133

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