Psychology as a Science: Values

What are values?

- Values influence your behavior and affect decisions
- Decisions about education
- Decisions about families and relationships
- Decisions about when to “take action” or do something

Psychology as a Science: Values

Values guide and motivate science as well

Even the view that Psychology is a Science is a value

Wilhelm Wundt, for example

Our view that Psychology is a Science motivates why we require this class.

Part of a series: Stats, Experimental, Capstone (all in the laboratory)

Psychology as a Science: Values

Shared values (versus individual) determine what is taught in the classes

Psychology has shared values

Empiricism

Determinism

Curiosity

Organization

Psychology as a Science: Values

Empiricism—Observable events

Hypotheses and theories have to be testable

An empirical question—has to be demonstrated

Psychology as a Science: Values

Determinism

Every event has a cause or a set of causes

Our job is to find out how those causes acted together to lead to a particular outcome

Psychology as a Science: Values

Curiosity

Why did this happen?

How can we change it to make it happen a different way?

Is there more than one way to change it?

Psychology as a Science: Values

Organization

Agreed upon organization for collecting data (information)

Agreed upon organization for analyzing data

Agreed upon organization for sharing data and using data shared by others

Psychology as a Science: Values

Organization cont:

Publication

Peer reviewed

American Psychological Association style

Psychology as a Science: Values

American Psychological Association style

Title Page and authors

Abstract

Introduction

Methods

Results

Discussion

References

Figures, tables, charts

Psychology as a Science: Values

Shared values in Psychological Science

Empiricism

Determinism

Curiosity

Organization

Publication Organization and Style

Psychology as a Science: Goals

- Values determine the **goals** of psychology
- Goals of Psychology (there are four)

  - **Description**: to provide a systematic and objective (unbiased) account of behavior and mental activity
  - **Prediction**: to be able to specify in advance when particular thoughts and behavior will occur

Psychology as a Science: Goals

Goals of Psychology (continued)

-**Explanation**: To account for the causes of behaviors in terms of the "bigger picture" through the formulation (and reformulation) of theories about basic principles and constructs.

-Control: To apply these principles to solve problems by influencing thoughts and behaviors (e.g. relieve suffering, increase skills, make life better)

Psychology As a Science: Goals

Examples of research to illustrate each goal

- Description
- Prediction
- Explanation
- Control

Psychology as a Science: Ethics

Ethics (via Latin *ethica* from the Ancient Greek ἠθική [φιλοσοφία] "moral philosophy", from the adjective of ἦθος *ēthos* "custom, habit"), a major branch of philosophy, encompasses right conduct and good life. It is significantly broader than the common conception of analyzing right and wrong. A central aspect of ethics is "the good life", the life worth living or life that is satisfying, which is held by many philosophers to be more important than moral conduct. The major problem is the discovery of the *summum bonum*, the greatest good. The right act can be identified as the one causing the greatest good and the immoral act as the one impeding it. From Wikipedia 01/16/08

Psychology as a Science: Ethics

- American Psychological Association Ethical standards for the conduct of research (2002)
- Institutional Review Board IRB
- http://www.uncw.edu/ors/documents/HowToRegisterforCITItraining.pdf
- Ethics training
- Risk: Probability of harm and likely severity of the harm
- Balance out with the Risk of NOT doing the research Risk/benefit ratio

Psychology As a Science: Ethics

- Minimal risk (e.g. anonymous questionnaire)
- More than minimal risk (e.g. ingestion of psychoactive substance)
- Examples of other risks
  - Confidentiality violation
  - Pain or possible physical/mental harm

Psychology As a Science: Ethics

- Informed Consent
- Two exceptions: Naturalistic Observation and Anonymous surveys
- Participants need to know
  - ALL risks
  - That they can withdraw without penalty
  - Confidentiality procedures
  - Competence to consent

Psychology As a Science: Ethics

- Unobtrusive studies and demand characteristics
- Coercion
- Deception
  - Using Confederates
  - Justifiable?
  - Alternative?
  - Would reasonable person participate?
- Debriefing

Psychology As a Science: Ethics

- When to break confidentiality
  - Clear and immediate danger
  - e.g. suicide, homicide, harming others or self, child abuse

Psychology As a Science: Ethics

Nonhuman research subjects

-Animal must be cared for properly

-Animal must be acquired lawfully

-Risk/Benefit ratio must be evaluated

-Pain or deprivation absolutely necessary?

-Termination

Boards: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee IACUC

Psychology As a Science: Ethics

Data Presentation and Analysis (Statistics)

- Data Falsification: Career ender
- Misrepresentation
  - Types of graphs (pg 28 of text)
  - Bar graph, line graph, pie graph
  - Graphs in 3-D: necessary or confusing?
  - Manipulation of scale size (pg 29 of text)

Psychology As a Science: Ethics

Publication

- Plagiarism Another Career-ender
- Authorship
- Citations in the text (when and how)
- References (format)

APA Style: How will your lab report be graded? (See file called “Template”)

http://people.uncw.edu/noeln/Class%20Material%20355/Evaluation%20of%20Lab%20Report%20Template2009.pdf