

Fundamentals of interbehavioral psychology.

Smith, Noel W.

AB Reviews the mentalism and behaviorism paradigms of psychology and presents interbehaviorism as an alternative to these psychologies. It is suggested that, because interbehavioral psychology is event oriented, it confines itself to functional descriptions and does not impose the internal constructs of mentalism or the external constructs of behaviorism. The field system that emerges from this functional description is thought to eliminate the theoretical impasses of other approaches and to better handle the complexities of human interactions. The interbehavioral field, including stimulus and response function, interactional history, setting, and medium of contact, is described. Events involved in such interactions as imagining, thinking, language, attending, perceiving, voluntary and volitional conduct, and habit, all of which are joint functions of field factors, are analyzed. It is suggested that, because interbehaviorism is field centered rather than organism centered, it provides important guidelines for research and theory as well as such applied problems as psychotherapy and social responsibility.