KLUVER, HEINRICH (1897-1979), German American biological psychologist. Klüver was born 15 May 1897 in a village in Schleswigo-Holstein, Germany. His service in the German infantry in World War I resulted in a wound that, he said, saved his life (it spared him from the final Allied assault). Klüver studied at the Universities of Hamburg and Berlin, but convinced that a second war was inevitable and desiring to leave Europe permanently, he immigrated in 1923 and completed his doctorate at Stanford University in 1924. He spent the next two years at the University of Minnesota, where he began working with Karl Lashley. Lashley and Klüver soon joined the faculty at the University of Chicago where Klüver remained for 46 years, 22 years as Sewell L. Avery Distinguished Service Professor of Biological Psychology.

Influenced by Ernest Cassirer at Hamburg, Klüver developed an interest in perception that continued throughout his career. His early research addressed eidetic imagery (An Experimental Study of the Eidetic Type, Worcester, MA, 1926) and hallucinations. He experimented with mescal and wrote an enduring phenomenological treatise about some of its effects, Mescal and Mechanisms of Hallucination (Chicago, 1928/1942/1966). Klüver also began to gain recognition for his basic laboratory research on mechanisms of visual perception. Initially, he emphasized behavioral investigation where the principal question was what determines stimulus equivalence. His book, Behavior mechanisms in monkeys (Chicago, 1933) was his deepest, most representative work, and it has much relevance for the study of animal cognition today.

Next, Klüver investigated the role of primary visual cortex in the occipital lobe and followed that with many years of studying the visual functions of the temporal lobe. It was said of Klüver that he showed that the striate cortex provides the visual world with objects and that the temporal lobe gives objects their meaning.

Klüver may be best remembered for the Klüver-Bucy syndrome. Initially, while trying to understand certain effects of mescaline (chewing and lip-smacking) that are also seen in patients with certain neurological disorders, Klüver planned lesions of temporal lobe olfactory structures in monkeys. Paul Bucy, Klüver's neurosurgeon collaborator, proposed a more extensive temporal lobe removal which led to unexpected, striking behavioral changes. These changes included a visual recognition deficit ("psychic blindness"); a compulsive tendency to examine orally all visually detected objects, dietary abnormalities (e.g., eating feces), deviant hypersexuality, and loss of fear. They reported on these behavioral changes in a series of papers (1937-1939). The syndrome was the impetus for extensive research that continues today on the role of the temporal lobe, especially the amygdala, in fear and anxiety. Klüver is also known for his contributions to neuroanatomical histological methods, including the Klüver-Barrera method and the copper phthalocyanin stain.

Klüver's many honors included memberships in the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an honorary Ph.D. degree from the University of Hamburg, and an honorary M.D. degree from Basel. His numerous awards included the Gold Medal of the American Psychological Foundation. Klüver died 8 February 1979.

Bibliography

Koch, Sigmund (1917-1996), American psychologist. Koch was one of the significant psychologists of the twentieth century. As analyst and critic, he punctured the grandiose pretensions of psychology’s “great age of theory” (1930-1950) and helped initiate a more diverse, humane, and tempered set of practices in what he called “the psychological studies.”

Through his critique of Clark Hull’s psychology (e.g., in Modern Learning Theories, New York, 1954) and his magisterial six-volume Psychology: A Study of a Science (New York, 1959-1963), Koch portrayed the contours of psychology at mid-century and derived the theoretical and empirical arguments for which he became known: Psychology, he claimed, can never become a single, coherent discipline; attempts at creating such a discipline are based on “ameaningful” assumptions and “epistemopathic” formulations. Still, through respectful probing of experience, authentic psychological insights are attainable. His own forays into a theory of psychological studies,”

Born 18 April 1917, Koch studied logical positivism at New York University and at the University of Iowa in the mid-to-late 1930s. Under the influence of Kurt Lewin and Kenneth Spence, he switched fields to psychology and transferred to Duke University, where he completed his Ph.D. in 1942 and remained (ultimately as full professor) until 1964.

While pursuing his own experimental and analytical work, Koch was asked by the American Psychological Association, in 1952, to direct the NSF-supported project that led to the already-mentioned multivolume work that has been described as “probably the most important publishing event in psychology.” Including chapters by many significant psychologists from virtually every theoretical orientation and field, Psychology: A Study of a Science disclosed the often conflicting assumptions and practices of what was clearly a less than unified discipline. Koch’s epilogue to Volume 3, together with a variety of subsequent publications (e.g., his

“Psychological science versus the science-humanism antinomy: Intimations of a significant science of man,” American Psychologist, 1961, 16, 629-639, and his chapter in T. W. Wynn’s Behaviorism and Phenomenology: Contrasting Bases for Modern Psychology, Chicago, 1964) signaled the end of behavioristic and scientistic psychology’s dominance of the field. Since his criticism of behaviorism was taken as implicit support for emerging humanistic theories and therapies, Koch set the record straight with several devastating assessments (e.g., Journal of Humanistic Psychology, 1971, II, 109-128).

In 1964, Koch became director of the Ford Foundation’s Program in the Humanities and the Arts. In 1967, he returned to academia at the University of Texas at Austin and then, in 1971, moved to Boston University, where he remained until his death on 10 August 1996. Highlights of his later years includes his coediting of A Century of Psychology as Science (New York, 1985) and the extraordinary work done in his Aesthetics Research Archive. Through carefully structured, videotaped conversations with major artists, one of psychology’s greatest critics demonstrated the kind of experience-based, value-oriented, meaning-generative investigation that could expand the breadth and depth of the field.

Bibliography


David E. Leary