

Introduction To The Psychology of Women

The Beginning

The Psychology of Women

Emerged from the Women's Studies movement of the 1970s and 1980s

Women's Studies was born out of the 1960s women's movement

The Psychology of Women

- Women Movement of the 60s led to an examination of theories about women.
- New branch of Psychology emerged

The Psychology of Women

- ❑ Feminist Psychology: emphasizes connection between theory and women's studies
- ❑ Psych of Women: focus on women's lives and experiences
- ❑ Psych of Gender: Social and biological processes that create gender difference

The Psychology of Women

- Findings showed that:
 - Women left out of research
 - Research based on male experiences
 - Theories constructed from male as norm
 - Theories based on gender stereotypes
 - Stereotypes of women not questioned

The Psychology of Women

- ❑ Psychologist began to realize that knowledge about women and gender was androcentric
- ❑ Women psychologist starting speaking out that psychology misrepresented women

The Psychology of Women

- Naomi Weisstein psych did not know women

- Phyllis Chesler
 - Women and Madness claimed Psych and psychiatry were used to control women

Psychology & Women's Rights

First Wave

Beginning of modern women's movement can be traced to 18th century with Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* that women have the same abilities as men, but have been conditioned by society to be subservient, and non-intellectual.

- Dismissed as a bluestocking and prostitute.

Struggle for Women's Rights

First Wave

- ❑ 19th century- Elizabeth Cady Stanton continued to raise consciousness about how women were being conditioned by society in ways that left them vulnerable to economic, physical, and emotional abuse by their husbands.
- ❑ Proposed social change, including divorce rights and suffrage for women.
- ❑ Viewed as too radical.

Struggle for Women's Rights

First Wave

- ❑ Woman Movement became split and became more conservative, focusing almost exclusively on the drive for the vote.
- ❑ Movement lost direction in 1920 when women won right to vote.

Increase Discrimination & Dissatisfaction

- ❑ 1930's Depression, women were discriminated against in the workplace, and were often fired to make way for men.
- ❑ 1940's during World War II, women were encouraged by the government to take jobs in heavy industry, but were fired as soon as the war was over.

Increase Discrimination & Dissatisfaction

- 1950's Return to traditional roles
- Women told that their only true fulfillment could come through housework and mothering, and that to do anything else was to demonstrate character flaws and or mental instability.

Increase Discrimination & Dissatisfaction

1950's

- ❑ Educated white middle class were dissatisfied with their roles and housework.
- ❑ Joining work force in large numbers, especially after their children reached school age.
- ❑ Earning often made the difference between middle class and lower-middle class economic status.
- ❑ Still powerless in and outside of the home.

Struggle for Women's Rights Second Wave

- ❑ Result of Civil rights movement.
- ❑ Black and white women who were working side by side black civil rights leaders in the south, found themselves in subordinate positions.
- ❑ They chose to organize for themselves, and started looking at the social constructs that created "women's place" and how to combat those constructs.

Struggle for Women's Rights

Second Wave

Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*

- ❑ Wrote of the disconnect between the realities of work and education, and ideals of womanhood.
- ❑ Wrote that housewives were bored and unhappy for a good reason, not because they were neurotic.

Struggle for Women's Rights

Second Wave

Simultaneously in the 1960s the Kennedy administration found evidence of pervasive discrimination against women

- Married women could not get credit cards in their own names.
- Women were being kept out of graduate programs and high-level jobs for which they were qualified.

Struggle for Women's Rights

Second Wave

Women's Studies

- ❑ Few courses appeared in 1960s.
- ❑ 1970s feminism and the women's movement gained recognition on college campuses. First time Women's Studies term used.
- ❑ Against strong resistance two or three courses developed into thousands of courses, and programs.

Women's Studies

- According to the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA), the number of undergraduate programs listed between 1988 and 1990 increased 23% (creating more than 500 programs)
- By 1990 there were 102 programs offering work at the graduate level.

Women's Studies Today

In U.S. today

- Over two-thirds of university
- Half of four-year colleges
- More than 40% of institutions of higher education

Struggle for Women's Rights

Third Wave

Movement focused on:

- Reproductive freedom
- Ending violence against women
- Equal pay
- Increasing women representation in politics

First Generation of Women in Psychology

Laurel Furumoto and Elizabeth Scarborough researched first generation of American women psychologist and found:

- similar to their male peers in age and training, but they were unlikely to achieve the same professional status
- excluded from important educational and employment opportunities
- family responsibilities interfered with advancement

First Generation of Women in Psychology

- Faced discrimination
- Work was invisible
- Contributions to field was ignored

First Generation of Women in Psychology

- Experienced discrimination in obtaining degrees. All started as “special students”
 - Christine Ladd-Franklin John Hopkins
 - Mary Calkins Harvard completed degree in 1895 she was refused the degree because she was a woman. In 1902 she was offered a degree from Radcliff but refused it.
- Harvard granted women the PhD degree in 1963

First Generation of Women in Psychology

Margaret Washburn Columbia

- ❑ First woman to receive a PhD in Psychology in 1904 from Cornell University.
- ❑ Denied position at research university and at the Experimentalist

First Generation of Women In Psychology

- ❑ Masculine bias about women's place in workforce
- ❑ Women weren't hire to teach in research universities
- ❑ Women were regulated to women's colleges which weren't valued
- ❑ Women preferred service and people oriented fields which weren't valued

Early Research on Women

1. Focused on women as a group not individuals in a group.
 - Viewed women based on their biology.
2. Did not research women's experiences.
 - Theories based on men's experiences.

Early Research on Women

3. Viewed women negatively.

- Male traits viewed as superior.

4. Early research focused on gender differences and it was influenced by sexist beliefs.

- Discriminatory practices

Florence Levin Denmark

Pioneer of Psychology of Women

- ❑ Born on January 28, 1931.
- ❑ With her leadership, psychology of women became a respected and well-recognized field of study.
- ❑ Her research became the guideline of new programs.
- ❑ Researched discrimination and the disadvantaged status of women in psychology.
- ❑ Florence wrote many papers on the role of women in the history of psychology, so their many contributions would not be forgotten.

American Psychological Association

- **Association for Women in Psychology:** Established as a branch of the American Psychological Association in 1968 to promote research about women.

American Psychological Association

Division of the Psychology of Women of the American Psychological Association:

Founded in 1973 by women psychologist in order to advance research and knowledge of women in the field of psychology and in society.

American Psychological Association

- ❑ **Society for the Psychology of Women
Division 35 of the
American Psychological Association.**

Purpose:

- ❑ Promote feminist scholarship and practice,
- ❑ advocate action to advance equality and social justice for women.

Important websites

□ American Psychological Organization
<http://www.apa.org/>

□ Division 35 Society for the Psychology
of Women
[http://www.apa.org/about/division/
div35.html](http://www.apa.org/about/division/div35.html)

Important websites

- **American Psychological Association www.apa.org/**

- **America Association of University Women**
<http://aauw.org>