

## ***TOPIC 1: The history and philosophical foundations of Psychology***

### ***What is history?***

- Many kinds of psychology - more than clinical
- Scientific study of mental processes, brain and behaviour and the relationships between them - the brain is a complex network
- Reasons to study Psychology
- Approaches - biological, individual, social
- Why study history?

**Psychology** - the scientific study of the brain, mental processes and behaviour and the relationships between them

- Brain - neuro-biological processes that generate mental processes
- Mind - individual sensations, perceptions, thoughts, emotions (subjective)
- Behaviour - actions that can be observed
- Many kinds of psychology
  - Biological
  - Developmental
  - Social
  - Economic
  - Clinical
- About general rules not individual cases
  - Discover the principles of the mind, brain and behaviour → understand problematic cases
  - Individual cases → understand general principles
- Gain insights into...
  - Mental states ← experiments, observations
  - Role of genes and environment ← twin studies, nature vs. nurture
  - Brain in action ← neuro-imaging, electrophysiological measurements
- Reasons to study it
  - Describe behavior
  - Understand and explain behaviour
  - Predict future behavior
  - Control/influence behaviour

### History

- The history of psychology is a consensus between scientists we believe are smart and trustworthy
- **Presentist bias** - analysing historic events using modern perspectives/ideas
  - To study history effectively we must forget the past
  - History is based on people's interpretation, given their frame of reference
- **Western bias** - analysing historical events through our own cultural lens
- **Confirmation bias** - only paying attention to facts which support our ideas
- **Zeitgeist** - general trend of thought or feeling characteristic of a particular period of time

### ***Brain functions and cerebral specialisation***

- History has different perspectives - some may be ignored
- 'Zeitgeist' is important
- Wilhelm Wundt's lab in Leipzig
- Trepanation and what it might tell us about the brain
- Edwin Smith Papyrus
- Brain vs. soul
- 3 cell doctrine
- Localisation in the brain
- Phrenology
- Lesion studies on animals
- Phineas Gage
- Lobotomy
- Broca and Tan
- Werniki
- Do we need a brain? - plasticity
- Modern day phrenology?
- A network

## Alhazen

- Born 965, Iraq

## The history of psychology

### Incas in Peru - 6500 BC

- Trepanation - hole drilled in skull → release pressure/demons from brain

### Ancient Egypt - 3000 BC

- Heart was the seat of the soul
  - Feelings and thinking from heart not brain
  - During mummification
    - Heart stayed in body
    - Brain discarded
    - Treatment of organs → importance
  - The Edwin Smith Papyrus
    - Ancient Egyptian medical text
    - Believed to be written by Imhotep
    - About the head wounds of soldiers
    - Brain lesions → distal symptoms
    - Left side of brain controls right side of body and vice versa
    - Brain responsible for speech
    - Touching brain → epileptic seizure
- ⇒ Specific functions are localised in the brain

## Cerebral localisation - thinking in terms of localised functions

