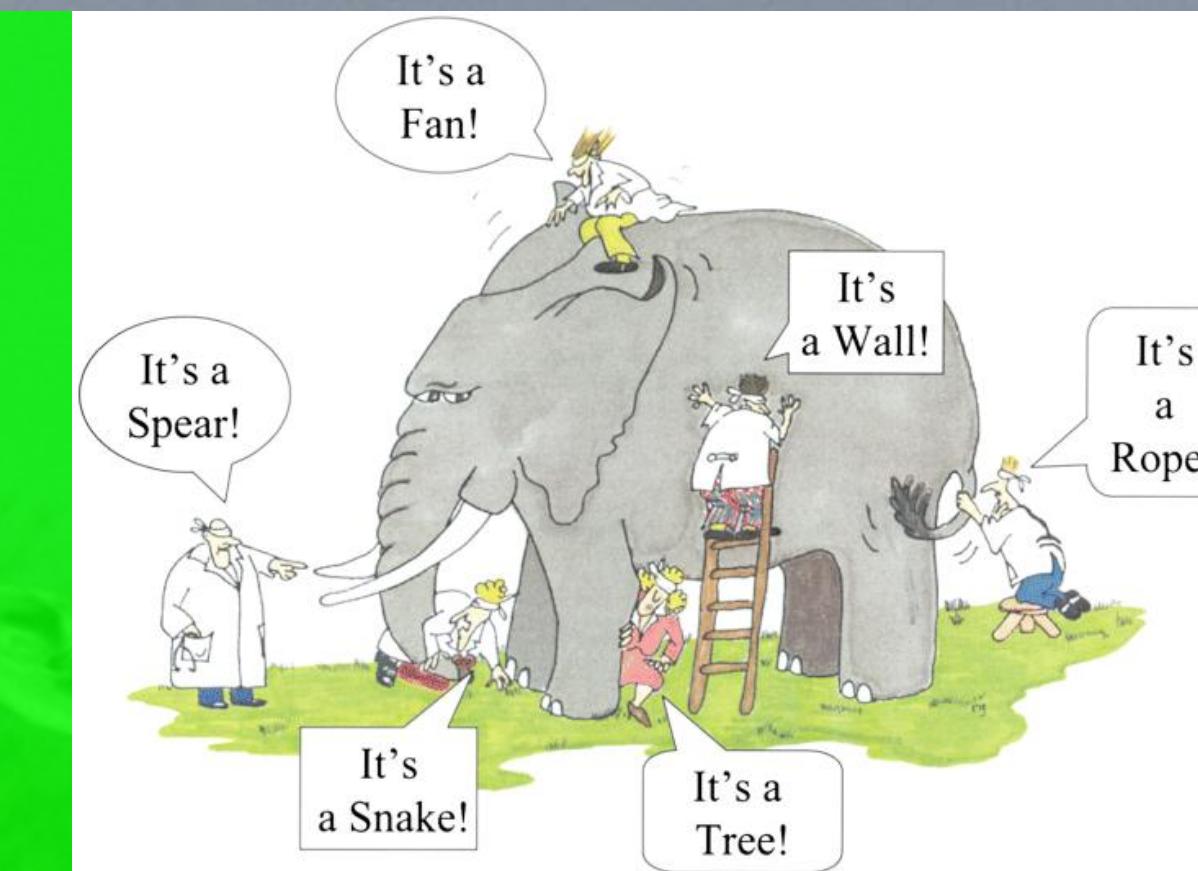


2011

Local Measure Reliability vs. Global Concept Validity.

Has Cognitive Science Moved Beyond Behaviourism?

(Insignificant Progress in Validating Cognitive Constructs p<.05)



Spring Conference



David Pierre Leibovitz
Institute of Cognitive Science



Thesis

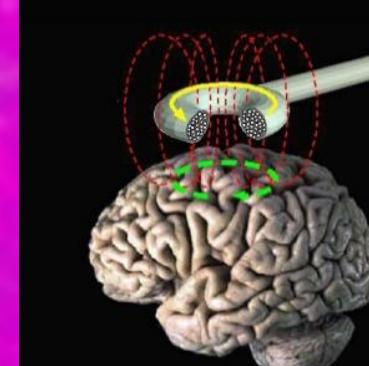
Every cognitive experiment contributes to the factual accumulation of raw, stimulus-response **behavioural data**. The raw data are **factual/indisputable** in that 95+% scientists understand and can reproduce the operationalized procedure and measures despite validity and interpretation concerns. Nevertheless, there has been zero factual accumulation of **cognitive constructs and interpretations** as there is no 95+% agreement nor comprehension in the sea of hypotheticals. Indeed, the signal to noise ratio worsens (entropy increases) with every experiment as new micro-theories are created, rather than a scientific reduction (convergence) to unity.

Divisions

Brain/Body

Stimuli

Behaviour + Physiological
Lesions, Genetics, Chemical, Electrical, TMS
Comparative Cognition



(Response) Microscopes

Behaviour + Histology: staining/microscopes
Patch Clamps, Multielectrode array
MEG, EEG
PET, fMRI



Cognitive Structures/Processes

Construct Simulation (or other analytic)

- Construct equivalent to Behavioural stimuli
- Internal construct manipulations

Behaviour (Not Just Behaviourism)

Time + Multi-Modal (Sensory)
Psychological (Semantic/Linguistic)



Clinical Progress (Applied)

Medicine, Neurosurgery, Microsurgery, Nerve Reconstruction, Smile, Hands; Neuroprosthetics: Pacemaker, Cochlear Implants, Sensory Substitution, Brain Pacemaker, Psychophysiological, Psychiatry

None. See Forsyth, J. P., & Kelly, M. M. (2001). A tale of three blind men on the proper subject matter of clinical science and practice. *Journal of clinical psychology*, 57(9), 1133-48. doi: 10.1002/jclp.1080; [pubmed:11494246](#).

Animal Training; Rote Learning
Normative assessment, Psychometrics (IQ, Personality)
Pluralism: Cognitive Behavioural Therapies
DSM

Theoretical Progress

Plenty throughout brain
V1 at 15% [1]

Not a single theory, structure or process generally understood and agreed upon (by 95%).

- Exploration: Explosion of methodologies; hypothetic constructs, theories, architectures & models

Exploring the animal kingdom
Psychophysics (Perception)
Classical Conditioning (1927); Cybernetics

Issues

Behaviour + NCC and everything cognitive
Network Function (link to Cognition)
Bottom-up feedforward analysis; attention modulates
Reusable/distributed regions
Resting state brain activity
Electroconvulsive therapy
Historical: Lobotomy, (still forms for epilepsy)

Behaviour + Mind/Body Problem, Consciousness, Qualia, Intentionality
Emergence, Levels of Analysis; Construct Validity;
Pluralism; Signal to Noise Ratio of Fact to Fiction
What is information and representation?
What is attention, memory, control? (structural or functional)

Global Linearity & Separability; Interaction
Micro Theories: Pluralism, Incommensurability, Incoherence, Intervening Variables
Construct (Measure) Validity; Operationalism
Complex Behaviour, Language
Individual Variability (& Statistical); Averaging over Individuals
DSM Criticism (validity/reliability, medicalization)
Confirmation bias (need breadth)

Solutions

Network success requires cognitive solutions

Unified Theories; Bottom-up Re-engineering

Complex behaviour requires cognitive solutions

Sources

Reference:
[1] Olshausen, B. A., & Field, D. J. (2005). How Close Are We to Understanding V1? *Neural computation*, 17(8), 1665-99. doi: 10.1162/0899766054026639.

Suggest a Cognitive Fact (not behaviour) that is generally understood and agreed upon (95+% scientists):

Image Attribution:

Wikipedia, Institute for Research in Child Development, blog.searchenginewatch.com/110220-080701