

Social Development

Intro Psychology
Georgia Tech
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Today

- Social development
- Attachments

Social Development

The changing nature of relationships with others over the life span

Social Development

- **Attachment**
 - formation of a bond with care-giver
 - Why do we love mom?
- **Cupboard Theory**
 - Behaviorist theory says she is associated with satisfying primary needs
- **Harry Harlow**
 - Is it really just basic biological needs?

Harlow's Attachment Studies



Harry Harlow
1905-1981

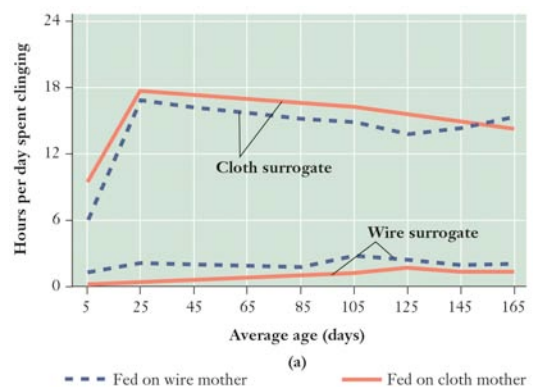


Infant rhesus monkeys were placed with two surrogate mothers, one made of wire and one covered with soft cloth

- Milk-producing nipple was attached to either the wire or the cloth mother

Movie clip

Harlow's Attachment Studies



Social Development

- What happens to us if we don't form an attachment?
- **Harlow's motherless monkeys**
 - babies raised in isolation from 3-12 months
 - Abnormal social behavior
 - Very timid and autistic rocking
 - Abnormal mating behavior
 - Abnormal mothering behavior

Forms of Attachment

- **Secure attachment**
 - child explores the room when mother is present
 - child becomes upset and explores less when mother is not present
 - child shows pleasure when mother returns
- **Insecure attachment**
 - **Avoidant attachment**
 - child is not upset by mother's departure and ignores her when she comes back
 - **Anxious resistant attachment**
 - child is clingy when mother is there, becomes inconsolably upset when she leaves and remains distressed when she returns

Skeels (1966)

- study started in the 1930's when an orphanage that was overcrowded
- sent one group of children that was mildly retarded to a home for the retarded
- Each child was placed in custody of a mildly retarded older girl who was responsible for cuddling, caring for and playing with the child. When they were older, the children were sent to a nursery school

Skeels (1966)

- Skeels compared the retarded group with the "normal" children that remained at the overcrowded orphanage.
 - At 4 years retarded children had shown an increase in IQ of 32 points while the control group had lost 21 points
 - In a follow-up 21 years later, Skeels found that the "retarded" group were nearly all productive members of society, most had graduated high school and 1/3 had gone to college.
 - The average school attendance for the control group was 3rd grade
 - many were either institutionalized, in jail or were on welfare
 - many were alcoholics or had other disabling psychological problems

Attachment

- Early experiences are very important
- But... early experience does not determine adult behavior and well-being directly
- Highly interactive, cascade of development
 - Early attachment makes children more secure
 - Increased security leads to less fear of social interaction
 - More social interaction leads to deeper and broader social networks
 - etc...

Child Rearing Styles

- **Autocratic**– "my way or the highway"
 - kids of Autocrats tend to be withdrawn, lacked independence and were more angry and defiant particularly the boys
- **Permissive**
 - children encounter very few don'ts and almost no do's – kids of Permissive tend to show similar characteristics to those reared by Autocrats but also these kids tend to be immature and lack social responsibility

Child Rearing Styles

- **Authoritative-reciprocal**

- parents exercise their authority but they also respond to the child's point of view – these parents assign duties and set expectations for the kids, but spend time teaching them how to achieve those expectations and participate in "give-and-take" with the child – these kids tend to be more independent, competent, and socially responsible

These patterns tend to hold even when the kids are tested later in life

Components of development

- Formation of social bonds with others
- Understanding of social rules and niceties
 - "understanding" comes at many different levels

Moral Development



Lawrence Kohlberg
1927 - 1987

- How do children learn right from wrong?
- Ask moral questions
- Answer doesn't matter so much as the underlying reasoning
- Stage model

A Moral Dilemma

"Heinz's wife was dying from cancer. A rare drug might save her, but the druggist who made the drug for \$200 would not sell it for less than \$2,000. Heinz tried hard, but he could only raise \$1,000. The druggist refused to give Heinz the drug for that price even though Heinz promised to pay the rest later. Should Heinz steal the drug?"

Kohlberg's Stages of Moral Development

Preconventional Moral Reasoning

- moral reasoning is based on external rewards and punishments

Stage 1

- obey rules and avoid punishment
- "Heinz should steal the drug because, if he lets his wife die, he'll get into trouble".

Stage 2

- anticipate rewards
- "Heinz should steal the drug because that way, he'll still have his wife with him."

Kohlberg's Stages of Moral Development

Conventional Moral Reasoning

- laws and rules are upheld simply because they are laws and rules

Stage 3

- conform to win others' approval
- "People will think Heinz is bad if he doesn't steal the drug to save his wife".

Stage 4

- do one's duty and respect the law
- "Heinz should steal the drug because it's his duty to take care of his wife."

Kohlberg's Stages of Moral Development

Postconventional Moral Reasoning

- reasoning based on personal moral standards

Stage 5

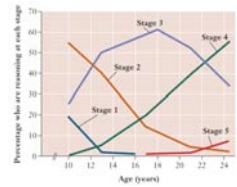
- recognize that laws are intended for society's benefit
- "Stealing breaks the law, but stealing the drug to save a life would be acceptable".

Stage 6

- morality is based on abstract universal principles of justice and equality
- "Saving life comes before financial gain, even if the person is a stranger. The law in this case is unjust, and stealing the drug is the morally right thing to do."

Moral Reasoning with Age

- preconventional common before adolescence
- conventional common in adolescents and adults
- postconventional not that common even among adults



So far...

- Social bonds and attachment
- Moral reasoning as a component of socialization

Next...

- Partners: key social element
- How do we choose partners?
- Sexual orientation

Upcoming

- Sexual orientation
- Social cognition
- Emotion
- Personality
- Psychopathology