

Operants

A Newsletter from the B. F. Skinner Foundation

Fourth Quarter 2013



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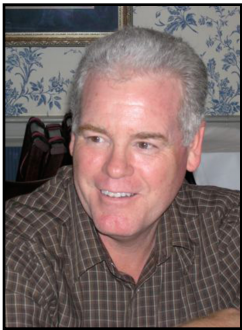
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Skinner's Corner: A summary of "The operational analysis of psychological terms" (Skinner, 1945)

Mark L. Sundberg, Ph.D.,
BCBA-D, Author, VB-MAPP



Mark Sundberg

Skinner's paper, "The operational analysis of psychological terms" (1945) was part of a written symposium on operationism

organized by E. G. Boring and published in the September, 1945 issue of the *Psychological Review*.

All the contributors to the symposium were asked to respond to the same eleven questions about operationism. The participants in the symposium included E. G. Boring, P. W. Bridgman, H. Feigl, H. Israel, and B. F. Skinner.

Skinner's contribution is especially important for students of behavior analysis to read because it contains his first comprehensive analysis of the role of private events in a science of behavior. For example, Skinner writes, "...the simple fact is that each speaker possesses a small but important private world of stimuli. So far as we know, his reaction to these are quite like his reactions

to external events" (p. 420 in the *Cumulative Record* version).

Revised and expanded versions of this content can be found in *Science and Human Behavior* (pp. 257-282) and *Verbal Behavior* (pp. 130-146).

This paper is significant for a number of other reasons as well. I will briefly mention three.

First, Skinner presents, for the first time, the defining features of radical behaviorism and its distinctions from methodological behaviorism:

The distinction between public and private is by no means the same as that between physical and mental. That is why methodological behaviorism (which adopts the first) is very different from radical behaviorism (which lops off the latter term in the second). The result is that while the radical behaviorist may in some cases consider private events (inferentially, perhaps, but none the less meaningful), the methodologist has maneuvered himself into a position where he cannot. "Science does not consider private data," says Boring... But I contend that my toothache is just as physical as my typewriter, though not public, and I see no reason why an objective and op-

erational science cannot consider the processes through which a vocabulary descriptive of a toothache is acquired and maintained. (p. 429)

A second unique aspect of this paper is that it represents one of the first times that Skinner provides a detailed "exercise in interpretation rather than a quantitative extrapolation of rigorous experimental results" (Skinner, *Verbal Behavior*, 1957, p. 11). Keeping in mind the fact that this paper was published only seven years after *The Behavior of Organisms*, much of Skinner's later writing (e.g., *Verbal Behavior*, *Contingencies of Reinforcement*, *About Behaviorism*) would follow a similar "exercise in interpretation."

A third aspect of this paper is that Skinner presents several basic elements of his analysis of verbal behavior for the first time. While parts of the analysis can be found in some earlier writings, this paper presents several cornerstones of his more detailed analysis to follow twelve years later in *Verbal Behavior*. For example:

The question "What is length?" would appear to be satisfactorily answered by listing the circumstances under which the response "length" is emitted... If two

quite separate sets of circumstances are revealed, then there are two responses having the form “length” since a single verbal response-class is not defined by its phonetic form alone but by its functional relations. (p. 419)

Others would undoubtedly identify several other significant aspects of this paper, as there are many. One final point is the tone of the paper and its context in a written symposium. One might imagine Skinner orally presenting this paper much in the same way that he presented his last invited address at APA in 1990. Once again, “striking a blow for the cause.”

Historical Corner: A fastidious focus on activity

Brian D. Kangas, Ph.D., Instructor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School



Brian D. Kangas

One of the first introductory psychology texts, *Psychology*, published in 1921, instructed the

first several generations, including Skinner’s (as Skinner reveals in *The Shaping of a Behaviorist*, 1979). In the opening pages of

Psychology, R. S. Woodworth offers this helpful reminder:

Instead of "memory" we should say "remembering"; instead of "thought" we should say "thinking"; instead of "sensation" we should say "seeing, hearing," etc. But, like other learned branches, psychology is prone to transform its verbs into nouns. Then what happens? We forget that our nouns are merely substitutes for verbs, and go hunting for the *things* denoted by the nouns; but there are no such things, there are only the activities that we started with, seeing, remembering, and so on. Intelligence, consciousness, the unconscious, are by rights not nouns, nor even adjectives or verbs; they are adverbs. The real facts are that the individual acts intelligently—more or less so—acts consciously or unconsciously, as he may also act skillfully, persistently, excitedly. It is a safe rule, then, on encountering any menacing psychological noun, to strip off its linguistic mask, and see what manner of activity lies behind. (Woodworth, 1921, pp. 5-6)

Here, reification is presented as both tempting and dangerous, thus we encounter yet another thorny issue of studying behavior.

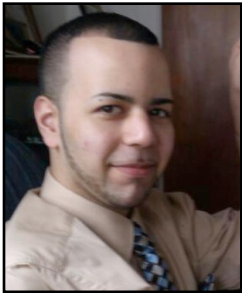
Our constrained linguistic structure presents limitations in talking about process and activity. The structure of Western languages, including English, necessitates segmenting the world around us into categories of verbs that are *required* to be organized around nouns.

Importantly, the science of behavior is not alone. These arbitrary segmentations that emphasize discrete, unidirectional actions across time, instead of ongoing, multiply determined *processes*, likely obfuscate (or perhaps create) the counterintuitive nature of the dynamics of the universe at the subatomic level in physics (probably the “other learned branches” Woodworth was referring to).

As noted in *Language, Thought, and Reality* by the linguist Benjamin Whorf (1956), “Modern thinkers have long since pointed out that the so-called mechanistic way of thinking has come to an impasse before the great frontier problems of science” (p. 238). To be sure, as the science of behavior continues to progress, we will need words. And some of those words will necessarily have to be nouns. As this early comment by Woodworth emphasizes, however, a fastidious focus on *activity* will help avoid confusing our subject matter with the words we must use to describe it.

International: An Interview with Dr. Luis Valero

*Steven Rodriguez, BS, Associate
Editor*



Steven Rodriguez

Dr. Luis Valero studied at the University of Granada (Spain), where he earned his Ph.D. in 1990

conducting studies on equivalence relationships. He works now as professor at the University of Malaga (UMA) in Spain. He teaches courses regarding clinical topics and clinical assessment, using a behavioral analytic point of view. He also works with clinical cases in the “Psychological Attend Service” of the UMA and holds the title of “Clinical Specialist.”

What event or person helped you to develop an interest in the field of behavior analysis?

I learned with professors Carmen Luciano and Jesus Gil-Roales, some of the first behaviorists in Spain. They influenced my research in animal lab and later with treatment of mentally challenged children. Also all the first Spanish translations of books from Skinner, Sidman, Bijou, and others were fundamental in the 70s and 80s. Later some visits by behavior

analysts Bijou, Julia, Iwata, Kohlenberg, and Hayes, as well the English literature and handbooks on behavior analysis, confirmed my interest and dedication to the field.

Please describe your current research areas and behavioral interests.

My first research was about learning with equivalence relationships in children, and relational learning with adults.

Now I have research topics on assessment instruments and program evaluation: construction and translation of questionnaires, evaluation of mental health programs, evaluation of treatment and educative programs, and more recently about anti-drugs and alimentary problem programs.

Other topics include applications of third wave psychotherapies; especially Functional Analytic Psychotherapy (FAP) and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) in clinical cases, on which we have published some international articles.

Finally, another of my favorite topics is the relationship between psychology and technology (computer use for assessment, software for research, therapy online, learning online, virtual reality). Especially now, I collaborate with a multi-professional group working with Brain Computer

Interfaces (BCI), trying to deal with best forms for control and learning BCI for people with disabilities.

What do you see as the biggest challenge faced by the science of behavior in the future?

I think the biggest challenge is convincing other psychologists of the need of a scientific method for studying human behavior. The field has to learn techniques to communicate with the general audience on the utility of behavior analysis. There is a necessity of describing the fundamental application of behavior analytic principles to clinical problems, without mentalism or spiritualism.

Through your experience in the field, what recommendations do you provide for new behavior analysts entering the field?

I think the best process to learn behavior analysis is through animal experimentation in the lab. Second, applying the principles learned in the lab with children. Third, applying the behavior analytic principles in clinical cases with adults in institutions or private centers. It is always necessary to continue staying up-to-date with recent books, articles and research. The most important thing is to maintain a critical point of view, to be skeptical always, to look at methodology in articles closely, and not to accept the authority of persons but the authority of data.

Historically, the field has had difficulty marketing itself. What suggestions do you offer for the field to better market itself and to overcome misconceptions?

The dualistic and mentalist thinking is in the social mainstream and it is difficult to eradicate. The best thing is to show the results. In Spain, people have rejected behaviorism in education because of misconception. Many people in Spain describe behaviorism, for example, as animal analysis, mechanistic, manipulative, or searching for external reward. There are many misconceptions. The Token Economies are used broadly in commerce, banks, gas-patrols, and reducing traffic accidents, but people do not realize that a behavioral technique is used. The important thing is not to fight against misconceptions, but to show results and efficiency in people's real lives.

What is your point of view regarding private events, emotions, and feelings in the science of behavior (behavior analysis)?

I think is very important to deal with private events as any other behavior, especially in clinical context with adults where the focus is verbal behavior and interactions between client and therapist. Some of the theory was present in Skinner's writing, but only recently has their use begun to become frequent in therapy with Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Functional Analytic Psy-

chotherapy, Dialectical Therapy, and Functional Couple Therapy.



Dr. Luis Valero

Private events are part of our repertoires and they have introduced the problem behavior itself as a controlling variable in schemes of functional analysis. A behavior therapist uses those events as with any clients' overt behaviors.

Covert events may be, for example, negative thinking in depression, obsessive thoughts, stressful memories, self-management, self-esteem, emotional reactions to aversive situation, or verbal self-statement. The behavioral therapist tries to modify them directly in therapy through interactions and experiential exercises.

What challenges did you face when trying to expand behavior analysis to the Spanish-speaking population? What suggestions can you provide for helping to expand behavior analysis to

other groups (e.g., Spanish-speaking)?

In the Spanish context, there is a great deficit of books and articles translated to the Spanish language. After the classics in the '70s and '80s, there are only a few texts that psychologists can read directly. There are thousands of psychologists that could use more behavior analysis if they could access the texts in Spanish.

Nowadays the Spanish psychological journals try to publish everything in English, to expand Spanish research to the world. However, they forget they are losing the Spanish readers that only get information through professional bulletins or newspapers.

Can you expand explaining your website (conducta.org) and the goals of the website?

The website *Conducta.org* was created in 2000 by a group of Spanish and South American behavior analysts. We have continued until now offering information and texts about Behavior Analysis in Spanish. Our interest is to diffuse behavior analysis through all the Spanish-speaking world, from Spain to South America. The visits to the site are in order of use: Mexico, Spain, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Argentina, China, and 110 other countries.

We show in the website the news about courses, congresses, seminars, meetings, associations, and

all about behavior analysis. We provide many articles (in HTML and PDF formats) about different topics such as research, applications, treatment and therapies, theory, criticism, behaviorism philosophy, and methodology.

Also we have a section about new books and review of those books, and texts in PDF that some people have donated for the site. Other sections cover biographies of great characters of behaviorism, a bibliography recommended to read for more information, and finally a section with visual humor and jokes about behavior analysts and psychologists. We are now preparing a new design of the site.

Is behavior analysis widely used in Spain? Do people accept the principle of Skinnerian science in Spain? Overall, how is behavior analysis seen in Spain?

Behavior analysis was more popular in academic context in the '70s and '80s. Now it is in the minority; in the national survey about psychologists, only about 5-10% said they are "behavioral" or use "behavior modification." The majority (about 70%) are with cognitive-behavioral orientation, and the rest are eclectically, systemic, psychoanalytic and others. In Spain, the general population has similar misunderstandings about behaviorism as in other countries.

Nevertheless, the principles of BA are profound in some academic practices (e.g., learning skills, basic reading and writing, token economy), and ABA is increasing for use with retarded and autistic children, and also with some popular TV programs for parenting.

For many years, behavior modification techniques have been common in clinical psychology, but nowadays psychologists do a "cognitive interpretation" of the work they made. Progressively, the BA techniques had been introduced in publicity, work safety, design of city environment, traffic accidents, drug treatment, etc. It is common that other educational or health professionals may be using BA techniques though they aren't aware of it.

Any final thoughts that you will like to share with Operants readers?

A possible suggestion: Perhaps translating the newsletter could be a good way of spreading behavior analysis over the world, and with more information about congresses, courses, seminars, journals, etc., from others countries could to enrich the news and extend the amount of readers. Language is a border between countries but perhaps behavior analysis and a common scientific point of view about behavior could break those borders.

International: An Interview with Dr. Carlo Ricci

Dr. Anna Luzi, Associate Editor



Anna Luzi

Professor Carlo Ricci is President of Walden Institute in Rome and was a founding member of the Italian Society of

Psychology of Health. In this interview, he discusses the legacy of B. F. Skinner's *Walden Two* and the current state of behavioral sciences in Italy and throughout the world.

The choice of the Institute's name, I assume, is a tribute to the work of B.F. Skinner's Walden Two. What is the legacy today of that work and is what remains still valid?

Exactly! These are the words that in the founding document explain the choice of the name of our Institute:

It goes back to an essay by Skinner, who called Walden Two a community conceived by him that was different from that imagined by Thoreau for a much more conscious and systematic use of principles and laws of learning developed with experi-

mental research. It is, therefore, the more widespread application of the scientific method to the prevention and solution of social and psychological problems which may affect the individual, the group, and the community. Science, then, as a tool for problem solving; as perhaps is said with a pinch of rhetoric. Therefore, it is a progressive conception and application of scientific psychology that distinguishes our Institute.

I believe that today *Walden Two* fully retains its explanatory power of how one can imagine a fairer society, of genuine solidarity and fully respectful of the dignity of every member. Every politician or other persons with positions of responsibility should read the essay and turn it into a laboratory of ideas.

Only twenty years ago the name of Skinner, in the Italian academy, represented an extremist approach, and one according to some people even simplistic and contrary to the concept of complexity of human psychological reality. What has changed over time, and what is, according to your studies and your experience, the degree of diffusion of academic teachings inspired by the radical behaviorism of Skinner?

The psychological culture of my country has always been very reluctant to accept fully behaviorism in its various expressions. Certainly, in recent years in our universities, the number of teachers who more or less explicitly propose Skinner's thinking has grown. But we are (I include myself among them) really still very few, although today some preconceptions once dominant have given way to the empirical evidence supporting his position, at least in some fields of psychological research and application.



Dr. Carlo Ricci

In October 2011, the National Institute of Health published the Guidelines for "The treatment of autism spectrum disorders in children and adolescents." It recommended ABA: "The model most studied among intensive behavioral programs is the applied behavior analysis (Applied behavior

intervention, ABA): Studies support its effectiveness in improving the intellectual ability (IQ), language and adaptive behavior in children with autism spectrum disorders. The available evidence, though not definitive, allows us to recommend the use of the model ABA in the treatment of children with autism spectrum disorders" (p.55).

The climate is thus changed. Even in the past there are, as always, exceptions that prove the rule.

In 2014, a center of excellence for rehabilitation of people with multiple disabilities, the "Lega del Filo d'Oro" will celebrate fifty years since its founding. For more than thirty years I have been its consultant, practically since its inception. This organization has successfully applied methodologies derived from behaviorism. Also, the Research Center directed by Professor Julius Lancioni has an excellent scientific productivity in the international arena, with particular reference to applications in Assistive Technology, all due to the behaviorist orientation.

Cognitivism has claimed to itself the "rediscovery" of the mind. Do you believe that the contemporary cognitivists are still convinced of the validity of their approach?

I think so! Their explanation of how the mind works and the reasons for our behavior are so close

to the psychology of common sense that it immediately appears plausible and therefore welcomed. The non-intuitive nature of Skinner's science of behavior makes it more difficult for immediate understanding and is therefore less attractive to the common person.

However, there are encouraging signs from the two most promising directions of scientific research--neuroscience and the sciences of artificial intelligence--that are re-evaluating behaviorism, especially in the sense of the methodology of behaviorism. I am currently collaborating on a development action-research project coordinated by the Natural and Artificial Cognition Lab of the Department of Humanities Studies, University of Naples, "Federico II," and by the Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies, National Research Council, Rome.

The project on the development of "Smart Objects Technology" is led by Professor Orazio Miglino. My contribution is to steer its implementation to integrate with techniques of Applied Behavior Analysis in the field of training and early childhood education.

We are seeing a growing increase in research in neuroscience, and according to some people, it is even encouraged by the interests of pharmaceutical companies. From your point of view, what

benefits will this approach take? Will this be the future of psychology?

No doubt about it! At least for me. I am convinced that the final explanations of our behavior and how it works reside in the complex web of our extraordinary neurological system. I am following with interest a major European project called "Human Brain Project" funded by the European Community. The ambition of this research project is the creation of an artificial brain having the same structural characteristics of a human brain. The extraordinary nature of the project is to proceed with the construction of a physical system and then study its effects. It is the triumph of a truly inductive approach. I think Skinner would be fascinated.

Of course, we are only at the beginning of the research program, but expectations are many, with working groups of high scientific profile engaged in Europe. Everything suggests interesting future developments. The fact that we will explain our final act with the underlying mechanisms of our central nervous system will not tarnish at all the need to develop and refine the analysis of the behavior that will be essential to plan and implement the processes of behavior modification.

Throughout the history of Italian psychology, it has not been able to demonstrate original representa-

tives who have been successful in establishing themselves in the international arena. Montessori, for example, can be considered as a rare exception.

Yet we are the bearers of a classical tradition that speculated much on the complexity of human behavior; just think of authors like Machiavelli, Pirandello, and Italo Svevo. Why has this happened, in your opinion?

Ours is a country that invests very little in research and development. We are just above 1% of GDP. Compared with other European countries, Italy is among the last: Only Greece, Hungary and Poland are behind us. Investment does not grow and public funding decreases. But despite the scarcity of resources, Italian research continues to be talked about: For example, the speed of neutrinos to the Higgs boson, just as a reminder of the latest achievements in the international arena.

As president and psychotherapist at Walden Institute, you had the opportunity to test personally the effectiveness of Skinner's teachings applied to the field of disability. These lessons could be applied with advantage also to address issues of global interest (such as hunger, drug addiction, and the management of social reinforcement) that regulate political behavior and economic justice, and education.

Is the Institute doing something in this direction? If not enough, why we are not able to take proper benefit from the research and indications of Skinner?

We are living across the planet in a crisis without precedent in our recent history. It is a crisis of the system. In the past, we came out of these moments with conflicts which in the tragedy of their actions have fostered significant change processes.

The hope is that today we could do without resorting to these dramatic solutions, show a sense of maturity in humanity as a whole, but we will have to review many of our current beliefs about the constructs of well-being, sustainable development, and quality of life. In *Walden Two*, in answer to a question on work organization, Frazier says that those doing the unpleasant work in their community such as cleaning the sewers are highly paid and have a low number of working hours (two hours per day) while more attractive work is paid much less and has a higher number (five hours a day). There is much reasonableness in this motion for the organization of work and yet there is no trace of this logic in our most advanced societies.

In addition to disability, what other areas of social life are instead now benefiting from the behaviorist approach and the techniques related to it?

What others might benefit in the future?

The Clinical Analysis of Applied Behavior offers a great contribution to the alleviation of human suffering, and there are programs of prevention, and treatment of gambling. I could name many more.

For the future, behavior analysis could better express its potential in the field of education. It can help society imagine enriched environments supported by technology-based "Smart Objects" in which children take the lead on what they want to learn, determining their own learning processes and experiencing the pleasure of learning. By so doing, students are helped to develop a truly authentic autonomy of judgment and as well as an understanding of the rules.

B. F. Skinner's Aircrib

Sheila Habarad, M.A., Associate Editor



Sheila Habarad

B. F. Skinner's Aircrib, which looks like an elevated box with a transparent front panel, was recently investigated by

Maggie Koerth-Baker in her article, "[B. F. Skinner totally geeks](#)

[out over the box he built for his baby.](#)" The article reviews the inventive crib, highlighting special features that made it superior to the standard crib, while identifying the aspects that made the idea of using an Aircrib odd to the general public. The article contrasts the truth of Skinner's invention versus shameless rumors that surround the Aircrib's impact on the Skinner family.

The Aircrib was a practical idea designed by B. F. Skinner for his wife with the physical and psychological health of their baby in mind. Decreasing the amount of labor involved in raising a newborn as well as improving the layout of the nursery also played major roles in the planning.

The article notes advantages the Aircrib holds over standard cribs, which resulted in many benefits that were intended by Skinner or later became evident with use.

Instead of having a mattress with sheets and blankets, Skinner's younger daughter Deborah, wearing only a diaper, slept in the Aircrib on a tightly stretched canvas covered with a sheet. The maintenance of the crib was easy; since the sheets were on a revolving canvas they could be "changed" daily by pulling a specified length of the sheet. This revolving system provided clean bedding for an entire week paired with minimal clothing, therefore, the

amount of time-spent doing the laundry decreased significantly.

The air in the crib was maintained at a comfortable temperature, humidified, and free of airborne diseases. The walls were insulated to shield the infant from loud sounds. Even though the walls were insulated, Deborah was still able to hear family and friends outside of the crib. The ample space along with the lack of bedding and minimal clothing allowed Deborah to play more freely than she would have been able to in a standard crib. The Skinners enjoyed many benefits of the Aircrib provided to the mother as well as to their baby's development.

The bonus, according to Koerth-Baker, was a significant reduction in crying, since the baby's body temperature was kept comfortable. Koerth-Baker also proposes that families in the 21st century would be much more attracted to the cleaner environment of the Aircrib due to a decrease in risk of suffocation and SIDS than families of the mid 20th century.

For the most part, the article presents Skinner's Aircrib in a positive light, in keeping with his original statement from his article in the *Ladies' Home Journal*: "It is quite in the spirit of the 'world of the future' to make favorable conditions available everywhere through simple

mechanical means." (*Ladies' Home Journal*, 1945)



Skinner's daughter, Julie, tends to her own daughter in the Aircrib.

While the article adequately laid out some of the facts about the Aircrib, it overlooked the fact that the Skinner family was living in Minnesota when they designed and used the Aircrib. The temperature-controlled environment provided an increase in the amount of time for baby Deborah to play due to needing fewer blankets and less bedding. This self-regulation potentially guided the development of a stronger and healthier baby. Further, the article left the readers to form potential misconceived inferences about the Skinner family. Koerth-Baker does emphasize the benefits of the insulated walls to provide a quality napping environment, allowing the baby to easily develop a sleeping schedule as well as making it easier for parents to allow

their infants to "cry it out." The article does not specifically state the Skinner's utilized this method of parenting; the interpretation was left to the reader. The article mentioned that the Skinners only kept their daughter in the Aircrib for about the same amount of time that a family would keep a baby in a standard crib. Yet, Koerth-Baker states:

One of the key features of the Aircrib was also the thing that makes it look a little sketchy... the crib had to also be a sealed environment, where the baby interacted with the outside world through windows on the side... Skinner is probably right in pointing out there is, technically, nothing particularly different about leaving your baby for long periods in a crib compared to leaving them for long periods in an Aircrib. But it does come across as a bit more problematic (2013).

The author does not explain her use of the term "problematic." It simply hangs there, an implied criticism without support.

B. F. Skinner's persistent efforts to share his findings to those outside his science might explain the amount of criticism that he faced throughout his career. B. F. Skinner's article in *The Ladies' Home Journal* in 1945 is just one of

many examples of how he reached out to the greater community in attempt to share his findings. While Skinner and his family did encounter more rumors regarding the Aircrib than imagined, they also connected with impressed families who sought out to design their own versions of the Aircrib.

In the 2004 *European Journal of Behavior Analysis*, A. Rutherford pays tribute to B. F. Skinner's writings outside his immediate behavioral science as one of the many reasons Skinner became such a renowned scientist. Based on Skinner's continued efforts to share his findings with those on the outside, Rutherford describes

Skinner as a legend. B. F. Skinner's brave attempts at putting his findings out there to the general public should inspire all emerging professionals in behavioral fields to continue to research, experiment, and share the results with not only one another but also with other fields.



B. F. Skinner and F. S. Keller at the 12th annual meeting of ABA in Milwaukee, Wisconsin holding 7-month-old Jonathan Kupfer during the annual banquet dinner honoring Skinner and Keller (Photos by Jeff Kupfer)

Flagship Journal: The Behavior Analyst

Matthew Normand, PhD, BCBA-D, University of the Pacific



Matthew Normand

I write this short piece with the hope of inspiring you to make friends with *The Behavior*

Analyst (tBA), if you haven't done so already. (The journal even has a Facebook page to help the cause: <https://www.facebook.com/TheBehaviorAnalyst>.) tBA is the flagship journal of the Association for Behavior Analysis, International (ABAI) which, in turn, is the flagship organization for the field of behavior analysis. This, in my (admittedly biased) opinion, makes tBA a journal of some considerable importance. I've long

been an avid reader of the journal and am very honored to serve as the current Editor-in-Chief. As an academic journal, tBA is somewhat akin to the American Psychological Association's (APA) flagship publication, *American Psychologist*, which serves as an outlet for conceptual, review, and discussion papers applicable to all areas of psychology (basic, applied, and practice), as well as articles pertaining to the business of

the APA. Similarly, tBA is an outlet for conceptual, review, and discussion papers applicable to all areas of behavior analysis (basic, applied, and practice), as well as articles pertaining to the business of ABAi. More specifically, the mission of tBA is as follows:

The Behavior Analyst contains general interest articles on theoretical, experimental, and applied topics in behavior analysis. Articles on the past, present, and future of behavior analysis, as well as its relation to other fields, are particularly appropriate for the journal. *The Behavior Analyst* also publishes literature reviews, discussions of previously published work, reinterpretations of published data, and articles on behaviorism as a philosophy that are suitable to the general readership of the journal.

The journal, then, stands as the primary outlet for any and all non-empirical work relevant to the field of behavior analysis.

Its current flagship status notwithstanding, tBA got a modest start. It began in 1978 as a kind of newsletter for the Midwestern Association for Behavior Analysis. Soon after, it was established as a full-fledged journal of the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis and the B. F. Skinner

Foundation's own Dr. Julie Vargas served as the first Editor-in-Chief. It has been published by ABAi since 1995. An exciting new development is that as of the Spring 2014 issue, tBA (and all ABAi journals) will be published by Springer. This means a number of things, including much wider dissemination of the journal, as it will now be packaged with other Springer journals and available in most every college and university library in the United States, if not the world. Scholars and students will have unprecedented access to the journal's contents. Moreover, the journal will have a greatly enhanced web presence through Springer (see <http://www.springer.com/psychology/journal/40614>) and all accepted articles will be published online immediately through the "Early View" feature. Even better, all articles will be indexed in the Springer system so that relevant tBA articles will appear as suggested reading when someone searches for a paper anywhere on the Springer site, no matter the specific journal being searched. The submission and peer-review process also has been modernized, with the entire process now being handled electronically via Springer's "Editorial Manager" website. These are major improvements that promise to greatly enhance the visibility of the journal.

Despite the storied history and bright future of the journal, one

reason for writing this piece is that I am a bit concerned about the health of the journal and, in turn, the health of the field. I worry that too few people are contributing to the journal and that too few people are interested in what the journal ultimately publishes. As the demographics of the field continue to skew towards practitioners, I think tBA continues to serve a very important purpose.



The Behavior Analyst

All members of ABAi receive the journal as part of their membership, hence, the journal serves as the official scholarly voice of the organization. The contents of the journal include diverse topics such as position statements on the right to effective behavioral treatment, the role of private events in a natural science of behavior, the variables influencing post-reinforcement pausing under fixed-ratio schedules of reinforcement, and comments on the

future of our field. It is hard to imagine that someone enamored enough with behavior analysis to be a member of ABAi won't find at least a few articles of interest in each issue. Having a common core for all of us to read and contribute to is one way to ensure that we remain connected and united as our field grows and diversifies. Behavior analysts—researchers, educators, and practitioners—have much in common, and tBA should be one of those things! The journal is your scholarly sourcebook for behavior analysis and your voice. I want to encourage everyone to read the journal, to talk about the journal, and, better yet, to contribute to the journal. Have a look—you won't be disappointed.

International Dual Master's Program in Behavior Analysis

*Bill Potter, Ph.D., BCBA-D,
Professor and Chair, CSU
Stanislaus*

Skinner set in motion a natural science approach to human behavior that has rippled across time and geography. One of the latest manifestations of the pebble (boulder?) he dropped is an international dual program in behavior analysis. This federally funded program (a Fund For the Improvement of Postsecondary Education – FIPSE grant), provides students with the oppor-

tunity to study Behavior Analysis abroad. Students from California State University, Stanislaus, study for five months in Warsaw (University of Social Sciences and Humanities – SWPS), and another five months in Bangor, Wales, UK (Bangor University – BU). Students from each of those European universities also study for a year at CSU Stanislaus. While abroad, the students from both sides of the Atlantic receive a healthy \$12,000 or €12,000 stipend to offset costs. In addition, no international tuition charges occur; the students simply enroll in their home institution and pay tuition there.

The program is in the midst of its second exchange. Students from CSU Stanislaus are currently studying under Dr. Monika Suchowierska and Dr. Lukasz Tanas at SWPS in Warsaw, then shortly after the New Year will head over to study under Dr. Carl Hughes, Dr. Maggie Hoerger, Dr. Corinna Grindle, Dr. Steve Noone, Dr. Sandy Toogood, Dr. Elin Walker-Jones and Dr. Michael Beverley at Bangor University.

SWPS and BU students are currently in Turlock, CA – home of CSU Stanislaus – studying with Dr. Bill Potter, Dr. Jane Howard, Dr. Bruce Hesse and Dr. Carrie Dempsey.

Once the students finish the coursework and thesis requirements, they will be awarded at

minimum two master-level degrees: An MSc in Applied Behavior Analysis from BU and an MA or MS in Behavior Analysis from CSU Stanislaus. The European students earn a general MA in psychology with an emphasis in Behavior Analysis from CSU Stanislaus. The Polish students will be awarded a third Master's degree from SWPS.



European and US students spell "Atlantis" while on an outing in the US.

One of the attractions for the European faculty and students is that CSU Stanislaus has an Operant Lab that the students utilize in a graduate level research course directed by Dr. Hesse. In that course, the students experience hand-shaping a pigeon to perform a conditional discrimination and then run experimental sessions in three-key operant chambers.

It's an unusual and invaluable experience for the students to work with an organism that has an extremely limited verbal repertoire. They engineer and witness firsthand the elementary principles of behavior combining together to produce more complex behaviors.

The international students also have the opportunity to explore applications of behavioral principles at applied sites. Some of the students have interned with Dr. Howard at the Modesto-based Kendall School, others with the Stanislaus County Office of Education under the guidance of Dr. Dempsey and Stacey Parks (BCBA) and Paul Stephany (BCBA and MFT) and at a few other sites.

The U.S. students will also have the opportunity to explore how applied behavior analysis has been implemented in Poland, where Dr. Suchowierska has an autism treatment program in Warsaw called Step by Step, and in Bangor under the guidance of Dr. Hoerger, who oversees a practicum working with special needs populations in Wales.

As noted, the students take courses at each university, which will count toward their degrees at each university. They take such courses as:

- Fundamentals of Behavior Analysis Laboratory in the Experimental Analysis of Behavior
- Conceptual Issues in Behavior Analysis
- Advanced Applied Behavior Analysis
- Behavioral Assessment
- Research Methods in Behavior Analysis

These classes provide a comprehensive overview of Behavior Analysis as a field of scientific inquiry, and as one with application in many fields.

The grant also provides funding for faculty exchanges. These involve, at minimum, week-long visits to each of the three institutions by international faculty. To date, CSU Stanislaus has been visited by three different SWPS scholars and one BU scholar, with another three visits slated for early 2014. CSU Stanislaus has sent five scholars to visit SWPS and BU. The university also has two slated for March 2014 to SWPS. The faculty make presentations, visit with students and faculty, and engage in initial collaborations for future research and applied projects.

The grant was applied for during the spring of 2010 by Dr. Suchowierska, Dr. Gary Novak, Dr. Bill Potter and Dr. Carl Hughes. D. Suchowierska was on a Fulbright visit to CSU Stanislaus at the time, and pitched the idea to Drs. Novak and Potter. The grant spans five years and is for \$416,000 for the U.S. side and 408,000 euros split between SWPS and BU.

For additional information about the universities you can visit each of the respective websites:

CSU Stanislaus: www.csustan.edu
SWPS:

<http://www.swps.pl/english-version>
BU:

<http://www.bangor.ac.uk/psychology>

Or contact:

Dr. Potter: wpotter@csustan.edu

Dr. Suchowierska:
monika.suchowierska@gmail.com
Dr. Hughes:
c.hughes@bangor.ac.uk

Update on Behavior Organizations and Events

Amanda Kelly, PhD, BCBA-D, Associate Editor



Amanda Kelly

The Hawaii Association for Behavior Analysis (HABA) recently concluded its 9th Annual Conference, Children and Families: Effective Treatments Across the Lifespan (October 2013).

HABA's single-track 9th annual conference was held in Honolulu, HI on the campus of the University of Hawaii.

The conference featured three keynote speakers, Drs. Patricia Wright, Karen Tyson, and Pat Ghezzi. Dr. Wright began the conference with her talk, "Cultural Humility and Practice." She discussed culture as it pertains to the field of applied behavior analysis. Dr. Karen Tyson presented "Understanding Neuropsychological Evaluations," and Dr. Ghezzi presented on "Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI) for

Young Children with Autism: The Gold Standard of Treatment." This workshop presented by Dr. Ghezzi and his senior staff from the University of Nevada, Reno, Early Childhood Autism Program provided insight on components of a successful EIBI program.

New traditions began with the 2013 HABA conference. This was the first time poster submissions were accepted and the conference offered exhibitor space to local organizations. Additionally, HABA plans to include several webinars throughout the year. Their "free for members" webinar series will also launch soon.

Also coming soon is the 32nd Annual Western Regional CalABA Conference, to be held February 28-March 2, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport in Burlingame, California. Last year, the conference attracted more than 1,400 attendees who represented a wide spectrum of professionals and consumers from all over the world. The number of certified behavior analysts has been increasing exponentially in California, outgrowing the conference hotel.

2014 CalABA keynote presenters are Wayne Fuqua and David Palmer. Other invited speakers include James Carr (Professional, Ethical, and Legal practice), Linda Hayes (Theoretical, Conceptual, and Philosophical), Martha Pelaez (Human Development and Gerontology), Timothy Slocum (Educa-

tion), David Wilder (Organizational Behavior Management), Christopher Newland (Experimental), Scott Gaynor (Clinical and Medical), Alice Shilingsburg (Verbal Behavior), and Andy Bondy (Autism). Other special event invited speakers include William Baum, the recipient of the 2014 CalABA Award for Outstanding Contributions to Behavior Analysis, and Thomas Higbee who will present the Glenda Vittimberga Memorial Lecture.

In addition to the exceptional sessions, CalABA will provide other social networking and professional development opportunities by hosting a dance party, displaying exhibitors, and providing workshops. At a luncheon, they will honor recipients of CalABA's Gerald L. Shook Leadership in Advocacy Award, the B. F. Skinner CalABA Student Award, and the Julie Vargas Student Award. During the luncheon, enthusiasts will have a chance to bid on B. F. Skinner's personal memorabilia at the Annual Skinner Foundation Auction. Auction proceeds benefit CalABA and the student awards that Dr. Julie Vargas and the B. F. Skinner Foundation sponsor every year.

For questions about the conference, you may e-mail conference@calaba.org.

We would like to hear from your organization. Please contact

Amanda Kelly:
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President's Column

*Dr. Julie S. Vargas, Ph.D.,
President, B. F. Skinner
Foundation*



Julie S. Vargas

The Foundation has seen interest in Skinner's work broaden overseas: In October of 2013, Dale Hallatt, one of the two

founders of newfuturemedia.net, came from England to film interviews for an online video their organization is producing. The video discusses how critical behavioral science is for the social good of both local and world societies, especially for sustainable practices. Dale interviewed me in the Foundation office, a suitable backdrop for an interview about behavioral science.

B. F. Skinner's study, where he worked from 1950 to his death, has been kept pretty much as he left it. It is located in the basement of the house where my husband Ernie and I live. Through the Foundation, we continue to receive requests to visit "Skinner's study." In October, Joe Wyatt, Ron Van Houten, Henry Slucki, Josh Prichard, and Paul Sullivan visited. Many people have suggested preserving the study and

relocating it to a museum. The Curator of the Akron museum in Ohio visited to discuss a possible site, but a location closer to Harvard would be better. Harvard already houses 82 boxes of correspondence, research records, and notes, and will eventually be receiving the rest of the archival material.

The eBook project progresses well. Copies for scanning and converting *Verbal Behavior* are now in India, where most eBook scanning, proofing, and converting occurs. The Foundation should have the e-*Verbal Behavior* available by the end of this year. *Contingencies of Reinforcement* with Dave Palmer's foreword, and *The Behavior of Organisms* should follow in 2014.

The new Foundation website is online: Please send comments, corrections, or suggestions to me at julie.vargas@bf Skinner.org. Have a great new year.

会長のコラム 2013年 第4号

*Dr. Julie S. Vargas, Ph.D.
(President, B. F. Skinner
Foundation)*

*Japanese translation by Kae
Yabuki, MS, BCBA*

財団の目的の一つは、スキナーの研究を世界的に広めることです。

2013年の10月には、ニューフューチャーメディアの創設者の一人であるデール・ハラット氏が、彼らの作っているオンラインビデオのインタビューの為にイギリスから撮影に訪れました。インタビューの中では、行動科学が地域社会と世界社会、特に継続的な実践にとってどれだけ重要かが議論されています。行動科学のインタビューの場所としては最適な財団のオフィスでそのインタビューは行われました。

B.F.スキナーが1950年から死ぬ間際まで取り組んだ研究は、その当時のまま手を付けられずにいました。それは、私とアーニーが住んでいる家の地下室に保存されています。財団を通じて「スキナーの研究室」を訪れる要請が引き続き数多く寄せられています。10月には、ジョー・ワイアット氏、ロン・バン・ホーティン氏、ヘンリー・スラッキー氏、ジョッシュ・プリチャード氏やポールサリバン氏が訪問しました。多くの人が、スキナーの研究を展示館に保存するべきだと提案しています。オハイオ州のアクロン美術館の学芸員が候補地の一つとして訪問しましたが、ハーバード大学に近いほうがふさわしいと思われます。ハーバード大学は、書状や研究業績や記録などが入った82箱をすでに収容しており、残りの資料も譲渡される予定になっています。

電子書籍プロジェクトは順調に進行しています。"Verbal Behavior"は

現在、スキャンや試し刷りや変換のほとんどが行われているインドにあります。年末には、電子書籍版の"Verbal Behavior"が財団の方から入手できるはずです。2014年の始めには、デーブ・パルマー氏による序文を含む"Contingency of Reinforcement"、そして"The Behavior of Organism"に着手する予定です。

財団の新しいウェブページが完成しました。コメントや訂正、ご意見がありましたら

julie.vargas@bf Skinner.orgのほうにお寄せください。皆様方のホリデーが素敵なおものであるように。

As always, the editors welcome your feedback. Suggestions and news items are very welcome. Feel free to contact any of us by emailing info@bf Skinner.org.

Call for Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer, we would be interested in your contribution. You would be working with Dr. Ernest A. Vargas. The effort would initially concern itself with *Operants* and its subscription base, but any other organizational problem that occurs would be addressed.

You should have a personal computer. It would be preferable if you are in the Cambridge area and could come to the Foundation of-

for at least two or three hours a week. Clearly, however, with a computer, the required endeavor could be done at home whether around the corner or a few thousand miles away. Age is irrelevant. Any package of skills would be useful. Best: a tolerance for ambiguity and a predilection to enjoy problem solving.

You may email Dr. E. A. Vargas directly: eavargas@bfskinner.org.

B. F. Skinner Foundation Support

Your charitable donation supports the Foundation's activities, such as the Research Awards for Students. We appreciate your help in establishing new programs and expanding our current work.

See our website for more information: bfskinner.org/bfskinner/Friend_of.html

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(Spanish)

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(Norwegian)

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Takk for din støtte til Stiftelsen.

(Italian)

Diventa nostro amico sostenitore

Ti saremo grati del tuo aiuto economico per supportare le attività della Fondazione. La tua donazione sarà utilizzata per intraprendere nuovi programmi di studio e implementare quelli già in corso.

Per maggiori informazioni visita il nostro website:

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Grazie per il sostegno che darai alla Fondazione.

(Chinese)

成为朋友

你的慈善捐款将用于支持该基金会的活动。我们非常感谢您帮助, 建立新的计划和扩大我们目前的工作。

请参阅我们的网站了解更多信息:

bfskinner.org/bfskinner/Friend_of.html

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C3免税的组织

(Japanese)

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詳細については下記のウェブサイトをご覧ください。

bfskinner.org/bfskinner/Friend_of.html

皆様のご理解、ご協力をお願い致します。

B. F. Skinner Foundation (B. F. スキナー財団)

B. F. スキナー財団は、501-C3の非課税法人です。

(Russian)

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Посетите наш сайт для получения дополнительной информации:

bfskinner.org/bfskinner/Friend_of.html

Благодарим вас за поддержку Фонда.

Фонд Б. Ф. Скиннера является освобожденной от налогов организацией.



You are welcome to visit our office in Harvard Square at 18 Brattle Street, Suite 451, Cambridge, MA 02138.