

Science Works on Human Behavior



Over a dozen papers track some useful details of disciplinary development, history, & implications/applications.♣

Stephen F. Ledoux

Science Works on Human Behavior

Stephen F. Ledoux

This book contains a selection of career–spanning papers covering various considerations in the natural science of behavior that some call behaviorology, papers that have not appeared in previous books. The topics in these papers help provide context as part of the various contingencies producing this discipline and earlier books. The papers range from a transcript of an interview, by a local Public Radio reporter, of the organizers of the first behaviorology convention in Potsdam, New York, in 1988, to the author’s recent presentations about educating for sustainability or that introduce behaviorology to some specialized audiences. Thus this book of readings complements the author’s previous book of readings, *Origins and Components of Behaviorology—Third Edition* (2015). Sharing various bits of wisdom with different audiences, this accessible book serves both new readers and readers experienced in the discipline.✿

The author received his M.A. from California State University, Sacramento, in 1973, and his Ph.D. from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, in 1982. As a professor of Behaviorology for over 40 years, he designed behaviorology courses and curricula for all levels of higher education, and has written several books to increase understanding and applications of the relatively young—at a little over 100 years—natural science of behaviorology. He also consults with universities and colleges to build quality behaviorology departments and programs.☺

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Science Works on Human Behavior

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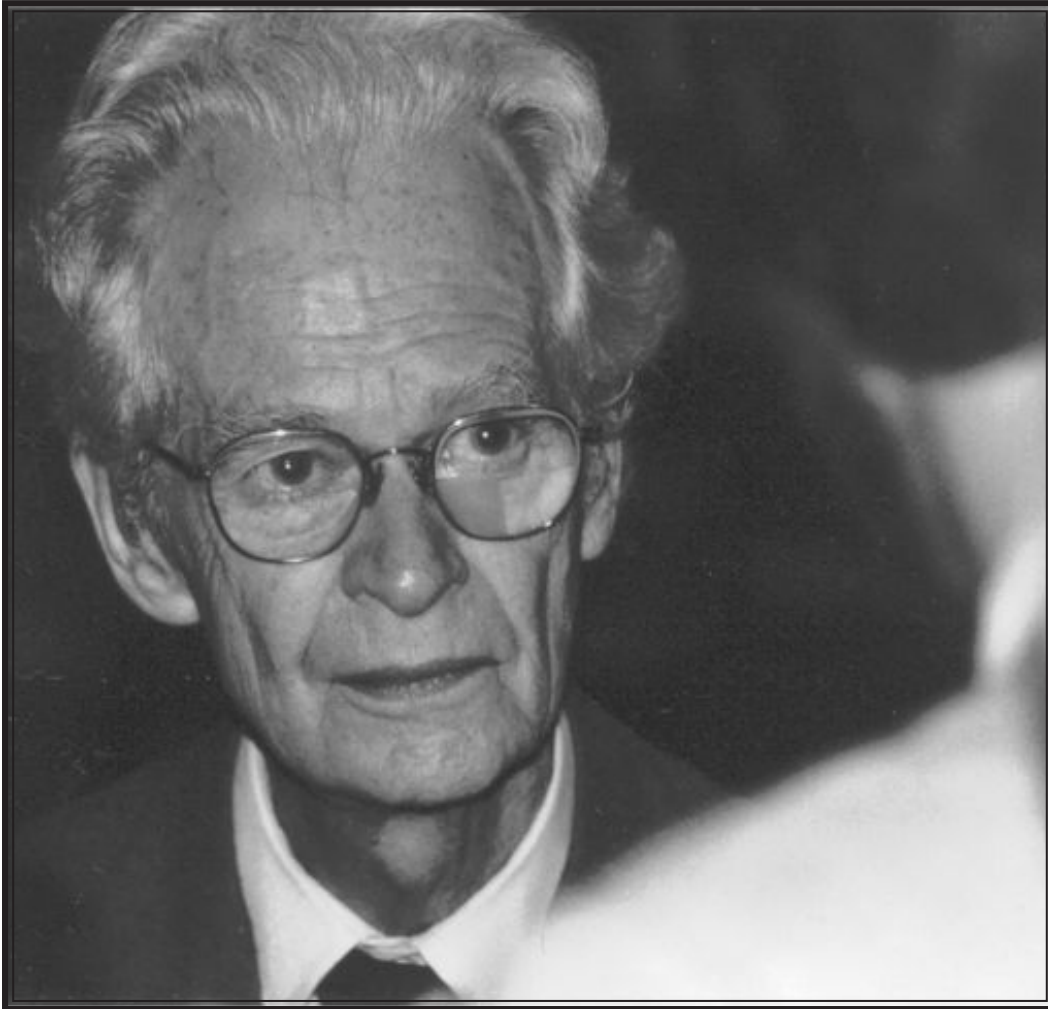


Photo by Stephen F. Ledoux

Burrhus Frederic Skinner

(1904–1990)

Conversing at a convention in 1982

The products of the contingencies of his life established behaviorology.

*Science Works on
Human Behavior*

Stephen F. Ledoux

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Science Works on Human Behavior

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This book provides information regarding the subject matter covered with the understanding that the author and publisher are not providing *any* professional services; if problem behaviors occur, and expert assistance is desired or required, contact a competent applied behaviorologist or applied behavior analyst. The publisher and author hereby exclude all liability to the extent permitted by law for any errors or omissions in this book and for any loss, damage, or expense (whether direct or indirect) suffered by a third party relying on any information contained in this book. ☺

Other Books by Stephen F. Ledoux

Study Questions for Paul De Kruif's Microbe Hunters (1972).

Grandpa Fred's Baby Tender, or Why and How We Built Our Aircrabs
with co-author Carl Cheney (1987).

The Panda and Monkey King Christmas—A Family's Year in China
with first author Nelly Case (1997).

Eight other books of *Study Questions* for various texts,
one with two co-authors (1999–2015; see BOOKS at www.behaviorology.org).

Behaviorology Majors Make a Difference
with 11 student authors (2013; a reassembly of a 1977 book).

Running Out of Time—Introducing Behaviorology to Help Solve Global Problems (2014).

An Introduction to Verbal Behavior—Second Edition
with first author Norman Peterson (2014).

Origins and Components of Behaviorology—Third Edition (2015).

Beautiful Sights and Sensations—Small Collections of Native American and Other Arts
(2016; this book includes not only a scientifically grounded definition of art, but
also a description of the signature seals that appear at the end of the *Introduction* to
the present book of readings; see p. x).

What Causes Human Behavior—Stars, Selves, or Contingencies? (2017). 

On Typography & Related Resources

This book is set in the Adobe Garamond, Adobe Garamond Expert, and Tekton collections of typefaces. In addition, a valuable basis for the typographic standards of this work deserves acknowledgment. As much as possible, this book follows the practices described in two highly recommended volumes by Ms. Robin Williams (both of which Peachpit Press, in Berkeley, CA, USA, publishes). One is the 1990 edition of *The Mac is Not a Typewriter*. The other is the 1996 edition of *Beyond the Mac is Not a Typewriter*. For example, on page 16 of the 1990 book, Williams specifies practices regarding the placement of punctuation used with quotation marks, an area in which some ambiguity has existed with respect to what is “proper.” In addition the present book follows the advice in these books about avoiding “widows” (which is the name for leaving less than two words on the last line of a paragraph) and “orphans” (which is the name either for leaving the first line of a paragraph alone at the bottom of a page, or for leaving the last line of a paragraph alone at the top of the next page). Also, since some confusing alternatives remain regarding the use of hyphens and dashes, this book would simply limit hyphens to separating the parts of words that break at a line end, although this book never breaks words at line ends, because good software (e.g., Adobe InDesign) makes that old, hard to read practice unnecessary. Then, “en dashes” most commonly separate the whole words of compound adjectives, and “em dashes” set off multiple-word—a compound adjective with an en dash—phrases or clauses. (Note that ebook formatting typically destroys most of these easy-reading characteristics that developed across humanity’s centuries of successful printing-press practices.)

You can address correspondence regarding this book to the author (at ledoux@canton.edu). For more information, visit www.behaviorology.org where you can find all the back issues of the journal of TIBI (The International Behaviorology Institute). Previously named *Behaviorology Today* (ISSN 1536-6669), TIBI renamed it *Journal of Behaviorology* (ISSN 2331-0774) in 2013.

Some related books may interest readers: (a) my 2014 textbook, *Running Out of Time—Introducing Behaviorology to Help Solve Global Problems*; (b) the shorter, 2017 book, *What Causes Human Behavior—Stars, Selves, or Contingencies?* (a general-audience version of my 2014 textbook); (c) the 2015 book of thematically related readings, *Origins and Components of Behaviorology—Third Edition*, first published in 1997, after a preliminary edition in 1992, that also contains contributions by other TIBI founders (e.g., Glenn Latham and Lawrence Fraley); and (d) the 2014 book with first author Norman Peterson, *An Introduction to Verbal Behavior—Second Edition*. Also, consider Fraley’s 2012 book, *Dignified Dying—A Behaviorological Thanatology*, and his 2013 book, *Behaviorological Rehabilitation and the Criminal Justice System*. One not so related book, although it does contain a scientific definition of art, is my 2016 book, *Beautiful Sights and Sensations—Small Collections of Native American and Other Arts*.

Order any of those books from the usual sources or, better, directly from the distributor, **Direct Book Service, Inc.**, in Wenatchee, WA, at 800-776-2665. They will likely answer the phone with “Dogwise,” because one of their long standing and most popular specialties involves books about our canine friends; several of these books already specifically apply the laws of behavior that the 2014 textbook, and the 2017 general-audience book, systematically introduce in detail.☺

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*While acknowledging this book as the source, readers need no additional permission to use this paper, and reproduce its handout(s), as a whole or partial presentation or series of presentations to help introduce behaviorology to wider audiences. ☺

“Introduction” (Traditionally called the *Preface*)

*M*y writings try to provide as much support for new readers as for more seasoned readers in the behaviorology discipline. Thus this book contains readings on a range of topics in the natural science of behavior. This means, of course, that these papers are not psychology papers, since behaviorology is neither a part of, nor any kind of, psychology. While the papers in my earliest book of readings (now in its third edition: Ledoux, 2015) connected with each other along the theme of “origins and components of behaviorology,” the papers in this book connect with each other along the more general theme of “science working on human behavior”; hence this book’s title. No paper in this book has previously appeared in any of my books of readings, although many have appeared in the peer-reviewed disciplinary literature of behaviorology.

A young behaviorology—only 75 years old when made independent under the behaviorology label in 1987—needed the opportunity to develop as well as to help solve individual, local, and global problems. That contingency-driven separation of the natural science of behavior from its somewhat coincidental shared history with psychology work units (see Fraley & Ledoux, 2015) induced several authors, including me, to commit most, if not all, of their post-1987 writing productivity to expanding the explicit disciplinary literature of behaviorology. As a result, a rich and growing disciplinary literature now exists, and the papers in this book constitute a part of it. For references to many of these works, and many of the pieces in this book, see the bibliography in this book and the bibliography in Ledoux, 2014, or the five-year-indexes of the behaviorology journal that appear online at www.behaviorology.org which is the website of The International Behaviorology Institute (TIBI).

The editing for the papers in this book included, where appropriate, updating their references. The papers appear here in roughly chronological order in these three *Parts*:

Part I: Some Early Papers, with Science and History;

Part II: Some Later Papers, with Science and Society;

Part III: Some Special-Occasion or Special-Audience Papers.

After these three *Parts*, several Appendices appear. The first of these, “The first baby tender,” by B. F. Skinner, also includes color photographs of a later aircrib.

While *not* in this book of readings, because they have appeared in other books of readings, here are other articles (and their locations) that may interest readers:

- ✂ **Behaviorism at 100 unabridged** (a slightly expanded version appears as Chapter 1 in Ledoux, 2014; fully peer reviewed).
- ✂ **An introduction to the origins, status, and mission of behaviorology: An established science with developed applications and a new name** (Paper 1 in Ledoux, 2015; fully peer reviewed).
- ✂ **An introduction to the philosophy called radical behaviorism** (Paper 2 in Ledoux, 2015; fully peer reviewed).
- ✂ **Origins, status, and mission of behaviorology** (seven chapters with first author Lawrence Fraley: Paper 3 in Ledoux, 2015; peer reviewed).
- ✂ **Behaviorology curricula in higher education** (Paper 4 in Ledoux, 2015; fully peer reviewed).

- ✂ **Behaviorology in China: A status report** (Paper 5 in Ledoux, 2015; fully peer reviewed, and also available in Chinese at www.behaviorology.org).
- ✂ **Increasing tact control and student comprehension through such new postcedent terms as added and subtracted reinforcers and punishers** (Paper 6 in Ledoux, 2015; fully peer reviewed).
- ✂ **Multiple selectors in the control of simultaneously evocable responses** (an experimental research project: Paper 7 in Ledoux, 2015; fully peer reviewed).
- ✂ **Successful smoking control as an example of a comprehensive behaviorological therapy** (Paper 8 in Ledoux, 2015; peer reviewed).
- ✂ **Elements of the ongoing history of the behaviorology discipline** (with co-author James O’Heare: Paper 9 in Ledoux, 2015; fully peer reviewed).
- ✂ **Curricular courses and resources after 25 years (1990–2015)** (Paper 12: Appendix 3 Addendum in Ledoux, 2015; fully peer reviewed).
- ✂ **Parental management of time out and attention in the control of brat-syndrome behavior** (with first author David Anderson: Paper 1 in Ledoux, 2013).
- ✂ **The Brat Syndrome and other equally fascinating factors** (with first author Sheila Knight: Paper 2 in Ledoux, 2013).

Other papers are available. One that may interest some readers, written with first author Michael Shuler, is “Behaviorology terminology adjustments for *The Analysis of Behavior* by Holland and Skinner” (see [2017] *Journal of Behaviorology*, 20, 1, pp. 3–15, under JOURNALS at www.behaviorology.org). Another is “In response to Fraley, 2015” (see [2015] *Journal of Behaviorology*, 18, 1, pp. 27–28). Readers can also locate 13 of my TIBI course syllabi through the “Syllabus Directory” in volume 18, number 1, of *Journal of Behaviorology* (also under JOURNALS at www.behaviorology.org); James O’Heare later updated these syllabi (as explained under COURSES at www.behaviorology.org).

You can also find a very early paper of mine, “Designing a new *Walden Two*–inspired community,” which is a very different kind of paper, in *Communities—Journal of Cooperation*, No. 66, Spring, 1985, pp. 28–32, 84. Now, on to the papers!✂

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