

Autobiographies in Experimental Psychology

Frank A. Beach
Fred S. Keller
Howard H. Kendler
Karl H. Pribram
Curt P. Richter

Edited by
Ronald Gandelman



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Originally published in 1985, the proceedings in this volume followed a different format from the usual symposium. Participants were asked to share their lives and thoughts about the future of the discipline; to share insights which come only from looking upon long, productive, and innovative careers. The initial symposium focused upon animal and human research in the area of physiological-experimental psychology. The participants were asked to address two general issues. One autobiographical in nature, concerned the factors which led to their interest in the study of behavior, and in particular to the research directions they followed. The second issue concerned the future of psychology, that is, their thoughts concerning fruitful avenues of present and future research; in other words, what they thought research psychologists would be doing – or ought to be doing – in a decade's time.



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First published in 1985
by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.

This edition first published in 2021 by Routledge
2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN

and by Routledge
605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

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A Library of Congress record exists under ISBN: 0898595444

ISBN: 978-0-367-75238-5 (hbk)

ISBN: 978-1-003-16163-9 (ebk)

ISBN: 978-0-367-75725-0 (pbk)

DOI: 10.4324/9781003161639

AUTOBIOGRAPHIES IN EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

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Howard H. Kendler
Karl H. Pribram
Curt P. Richter



LAWRENCE ERLBAUM ASSOCIATES, PUBLISHERS
1985 Hillsdale, New Jersey London

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Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc., Publishers
365 Broadway
Hillsdale, New Jersey 07642

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Main entry under title:

Autobiographies in experimental psychology.

Proceedings of a symposium held by the Rutgers University Dept. of Psychology in the spring of 1983.

1. Psychology, Experimental--Congresses. 2. Psychology, Physiological--Congresses. 3. Experimental psychologists--United States--Biography--Congresses.

I. Gandelman, Ronald. II. Beach, Frank Ambrose, 1911- . III. Rutgers University. Dept. of Psychology. [DNLM: 1. Psychology, Experimental--congresses. 2. Psychology, Experimental--personal narratives. BF 181 A939 1983]

BF181.A87 1985 152'.092'2 85-20585
ISBN 0-89859-544-4

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Preface

Individuals generally are invited to participate in symposia in order to remind the audience (and readers should the proceedings be published) of their past accomplishments and to apprise them of their current research endeavors. The addresses, then, involve the presentation of data, old and new, and their placement within a theoretical framework. We have sponsored a number of such events concerned with various specialty areas within psychology.

When time drew near to organize our latest symposium it was decided to alter its goal and, thus, its format. Instead of bringing together individuals for the purpose of sharing data-related information, we decided to ask our participants to share their lives and thoughts about the future of the discipline; to share insights which come only from looking upon long, productive, and innovative careers. What we had in mind is best expressed by the following excerpt from the letter of invitation:

The Rutgers University Department of Psychology is initiating a symposium series commencing in the Spring of 1983. Each focusing upon a particular research area, the symposia will consist of addresses by investigations who have made significant and enduring contributions to the study of behavior. The initial symposium will focus upon animal and human research in the area of physiological-experimental psychology. You are asked to address two general issues. One, autobiographical in nature, concerns the factors which led to your interest in the study of behavior, and in particular, to the research directions you followed. The second issue concerns the future of psychology, that is, your thoughts concerning fruitful avenues of present and future research; in other words, what you think research psychologists will be doing—or ought to be doing—a decade from now.

We were delighted when Professors Frank Beach, Fred Keller, Howard Kendler, Karl Pribram, and Curt Richter accepted our invitation.

Their remarks are presented in this volume for which I found myself serving as editor. While pleased to have my name associated, even if only on a book cover, with those of the participants, I must confess that I edited nothing. The reason for that inactivity should be obvious. My function was simply that of forwarding agent, compiling the manuscripts and sending them to the publisher. It should be mentioned that due to illness Professor Richter unfortunately was unable to attend the symposium. His remarks, therefore, are presented here for the first time.

A successful symposium requires the expenditure of a great deal of energy and money. The former was provided by a number of individuals including graduate students, staff and faculty. Special thanks are given to Mrs. Jean Natarelli and Herbert Hauser. Funds were generously provided by Dr. Kenneth Wolfson, Dean of the Graduate School. We also wish to thank Dr. Edward J. Bloustein, President of the University, and Dr. Ruth Ellen Bloustein, for their gracious hospitality.

*Ronald Gandelman
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Introduction to Frank A. Beach

A number of people asked me if they could introduce Frank Beach. As organizer of the symposium I exercised my prerogative and answered “no” to each of them in order to save the honor for myself. It is a rare opportunity to be able to introduce someone who not only is a productive and innovative scientist but who also was instrumental in establishing a field of research. I refer, of course, to behavioral endocrinology.

Frank Ambrose Beach was born in Emporia, Kansas on the 13th of April, 1911. He received the B.S. and M.S. degrees from Kansas State Teachers' College after which he spent a year teaching high school English. Following two years as a research assistant in neuropsychology to Karl Lashley, he entered the University of Chicago from where he obtained the Ph.D.

Dr. Beach's employment history includes Curator and Chairman of the Department of Animal Behavior, American Museum of Natural History, Professor of Psychology, Yale University and the University of California at Berkeley. He is now Professor Emeritus at the latter institution. He has received numerous awards such as an honorary D.Sc. from McGill University, Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award from the American Psychological Association, and the Fifth Carl G. Hartman Award for Research in Reproductive Physiology, to name a few. Dr. Beach also is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

If I had to characterize Frank Beach's research in a few words, I would call it "consistently significant." By this I mean that his research was (and is) designed to illuminate important issues, leaving subsequent parametric analyses to others. The publication in 1948 of his book *Hormones and Behavior* was the first major synthesis of data and theory concerning the involvement of the endocrine system in behavior. He has since published many theoretical papers which have markedly influenced the course of research. Also, he founded and edited the journal *Hormones and Behavior*.

I could continue to describe Frank Beach's contributions to behavioral endocrinology and to psychology in general. But at this point I think we would rather hear from him.

Ronald Gandelman