



Radical Behaviorism and the Successful Expression of Gender Identity

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BEHAVIORISM

**Environmental
Factors**
(observed)



**Internal
Processes**
(inferred)



**Behavioral
Response**
(observed)



Personality

Radical Behaviorism

- Burrhus Frederic Skinner cemented the groundwork of Thorndike and Watson, that human behavior can be studied scientifically, by being the forerunner to Scientific Behaviorism.

CONDITIONING



Operant/Skinnerian Conditioning



+ POSITIVE **-** NEGATIVE

A Psychological View on Sexuality

SEX



**Gender
Identity**



**Sexual
Orientation**



Gender Identity

one's self-identification as male or female. Although the dominant approach in psychology for many years had been to regard gender identity as residing in individuals, the important influence of societal structures, cultural expectations, and personal interactions in its development is now recognized as well.



Parameters

The period of an individual's life where he or she has successfully acknowledged their self, past the exploratory age and unto the period where they are to fully express their realized ideal self.

Gender Expression

- Gender Expression is an individual's presentation of him/herself including physical appearance, clothing preferences, and accessories, and behaviors that express aspects of gender identity or role.
- For example, in terms of clothing, communication patterns and interests.

A person's gender expression may or may not be consistent with socially prescribed gender roles, and may or may not reflect his or her gender identity" (American Psychological Association, 2008, p. 28).

Premise I

- Successful Gender Expression is an outcome if members of the social and support group of an individual who have affirmed their gender identity are guided with behavior which serve as reinforcements.

Consequences of Reinforcements

- In a nurturing environment where positive and negative reinforcements are implored by members of the support group, those who have developed their sense of individuality are more likely to experience less internalized homophobia, less fear of future parental victimization, and more current family support (Biblarz and Savci, 2010)

Consequences of Reinforcements

Researchers (Bos, Sandfort, de Bruyn, and Hakvoort, 2008) cited by Biblarz and Savci (2010), reported **good social relationships with peers and especially with fathers** buffered against the children's having higher risks of poor school performance and poor mental health.

Premise II

- Suppression of gender expression due to the conditioned negative environment will lead to potential maladjustment and psychopathology.



On Punishments

If an individual is being punished for expressing their gender identity, they are normally not redirected to what they should normally do so the tendency of the individual is to suppress the behavior of such action.



Consequence of Punishment: **Inappropriate Behavior**

- These self-defeating techniques of control, suppression and restraint of counteracting with social control;
- Excessive behavior restraint, avoidance with what they perceive as the source of punishment, blocking out of reality, self-punishment and creating a destructive self-knowledge

Significance

- Promoting gender sensitivity and diversity in modern communities;
- Supports the premise of Skinnerian Psychology that conditioning affects personality and vice versa;
- Gender expression (not gender identity) is a product of the environment

DIOS MABALOS PO!

