Curriculum Vitae

BURRHUS FREDERIC SKINNER

Professor of Psychology, Emeritus, Harvard University

Developed techniques for the study of "operant" behavior, in which probability or rate of response is emphasized in both pure and applied research. Has worked mainly with rats and pigeons, but has extended his techniques to the human organism in the study of psychotic behavior, the analysis of verbal behavior, the design of instructional devices, the care of infants, and the analysis of cultures.

Born in Susquehanna, PA, in 1904, he received the B.A. degree from Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, in 1926, and the M.A. (1930) and the Ph.D. (1931) degrees from Harvard University. He was a National Research Council Fellow from 1931-1933 and a Junior Fellow in the Society of Fellows at Harvard University from 1933-1936.

In 1936, he joined the Psychology Department at the University of Minnesota, remaining there until 1945. During the years 1942-1943, he conducted war research sponsored by General Mills, Inc., and was a Guggenheim Fellow in 1944-1945. In 1945, he became Chairman of the Department of Psychology at Indiana University. In the fall of 1947 he was appointed by Harvard University as William James Lecturer, and he joined the Department of Psychology as Professor in 1948. He became Professor Emeritus in 1964.

Hamilton College, 1951 Sc.D. North Carolina State University, 1960 University of Chicago, 1967 University of Missouri, 1968 Alfred University, 1969 University of Exeter (England), 1969 Indiana University, 1970 McGill University, 1970 C. W. Post Center, Long Island University, 1971 Dickinson College, 1972 Lowell Technological Institute, 1974 Nasson College, 1976 Colby College, 1984 Harvard University, 1985 State University of New York at Buffalo, 1986

Litt.
D. Ripon College, 1961
Tufts University, 1977

L.H.D. Rockford College, 1971
Framingham (Mass.) State College, 1972

University of Maryland Baltimore County, 1973 New College, Hofstra University, 1974 Experimental College Institute for Behavioral Research, 1974 The Johns Hopkins University, 1983

L.L.D. Ohio Wesleyan University, 1971
Hobart and William Smith Colleges, 1972
Western Michigan University, 1976
Keio University (Japan), 1979
Ball State (Indiana) University, 1983

D.Soc.Stud. University of Louisville, 1977

In addition to various technical articles, he is the author of "The Behavior of Organisms" (1938); "Walden Two" (1948); "Science and Human Behavior" (1953); "Verbal Behavior" (1957); "Schedules of Reinforcement" (with C.B. Ferster, 1957); a collection of papers, "Cumulative Record" (1959; enlarged edition, 1961; third edition, 1972); "The Analysis of Behavior" (with J.G. Holland, 1961); "The Technology of Teaching" (1968); "Contingencies of Reinforcement" (1969); "Beyond Freedom and Dignity" (1971); "About Behaviorism" (1974); "Particulars of My Life" (1976); "Reflections on Behaviorism and Society" (1978); "The Shaping of a Behaviorist" (1979); "Notebooks" (1980); "Skinner for the Classroom" (1982); "Enjoy Old Age" (with M.E. Vaughan, 1983); "A Matter of Consequences" (1983); and "Upon Further Reflection" (1986).

Member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, New York Academy of Science, and other professional societies, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He received the Warren Medal of the Society of Experimental Psychology in 1942, the Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award of the American Psychological Association in 1958, and the Edward L. Thorndike Award in Education in 1966, the United States Air Force Hoyt-Vendenburg Trophy in 1967, the National Medal of Science in 1968, the Gold Medal of the American Psychological Foundation in 1971, the International Award of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., Foundation for Mental Retardation in 1971, the Humanist of the Year Award, American Humanist Society in 1972, the Creative Leadership Award for Distinguished Contribution to Education in 1976, the First Annual Award of the National Association for Retarded Citizens in 1978, the Claude Pepper Award in 1983, Albert Einstein Award for Excellence in Psychiatry and Related Disciplines in 1986, and Presidents' Award, New York Academy of Sciences, 1986.

Professor Skinner lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.