

# Behaviorism, logical behaviorism, and qualia

Day 3 – Nature of Mind

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- Science deals with events that can be observed.
- Psychologists attempt to turn their discipline into a science by focusing on what is observable: **human behavior**.
- The behaviorist method would come to dominate psychology until the **cognitive** revolution later in century.

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- For the logical behaviorist, “mind” is only meaningful insofar as it can be observed.
- The claim that “Billy is in pain” is not about mysterious, unobservable goings on in Billy’s head. Rather, the claim is about how Billy will behave.

For example,

- Billy will be disposed to cry out
- Billy will have a tendency to hold the part of his body that hurts



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- Is this a **reductionist** or a **dualist** theory of mind?
- Pain is one type of mental state, but so are beliefs.
- How could a logical behaviorist account for beliefs in terms of behavior?
  - The belief that Lady Gaga is better performer than Justin Bieber
  - The belief that the Nats will go all the way to the World Series

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- Qualia are a certain like-thisness; there is *something that it is like* to be in pain, above and beyond what we may say or do.
- To be in pain, some critics of logical behaviorism say, is more than a disposition to behave—there is a kind of being in pain experience.
- Moreover, this experience can be described as sharp, dull, throbbing, etc.

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- These critics suggest that there is more to mental life than just dispositions to behave.
- The logical behaviorist owes us an account of qualia.