COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

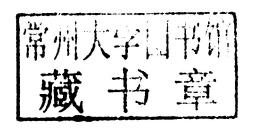
In and Out of the Laboratory



edition five

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

In and Out of the Laboratory



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PREFACE

hen I wrote the first edition of this book, more than 20 years ago, I had yet to become a mother and had just been tenured at Carleton College. I was still excited to get paid for doing a job that I loved enough to do for free. I still feel that way about what I do for a living—there is nothing better than teaching, and there are no better students than the Carleton kids I've grown so fond of. Many of them have influenced this and previous editions—in the examples I use to illustrate a concept, in their own independent projects that extend our understanding of those concepts, and in their feedback to me on previous editions. (They particularly enjoy finding my mistakes.)

Still, much has changed since 1992. I've birthed one son (now in college) and adopted an infant daughter from Vietnam (she's now 11). The students and campus have changed as well—we've all become much more adept with and dependent on technology, for example. And the field of cognitive psychology has changed a lot, placing much more emphasis both on neuroscience and situated cognition as well as making advances in the basic research that informs our understanding of how people acquire and use information. These changes certainly merit periodic revisions of the book, and voilà!—we have the fifth edition!

Undergraduate students studying psychology have different reactions to the field of cognitive psychology. Some find it exciting and elegant, covering topics essential to understanding the human mind. Cognitive psychology, after all, raises questions about how the mind works—how we perceive people, events, and things; how and what we remember; how we mentally organize information; how we call on our mental resources to make important decisions. Other students find the field of cognitive psychology technical and "geeky"—filled with complicated models of phenomena far removed from everyday life.

My goal throughout the writing of all editions of this book has been to bridge that gap—to try to reach out to students who are in the latter camp to show them what this field offers to be excited about. I think much of the problem is due to the disconnection of laboratory phenomena from everyday life. Too often, cognition texts focus exclusively on the laboratory research, without showing students how that work bears on important, real-world issues of consequence. I hope when students finish reading this book, they see why cognitive psychologists are so passionate about their topic and their research.

A textbook author can choose either to be comprehensive and strive for encyclopedic coverage or to be selective and omit many worthwhile topics and studies. I hope I've struck a balance between these extremes but must confess I prefer the latter. This reflects my own teaching goals; I like to supplement textbook chapters with primary literature from journals. I have tried to keep chapters relatively short in the hope instructors will supplement the text with other readings. My firm belief is that the best courses are those in which instructors are enthusiastic about the material; the relative brevity of the text is intended to encourage instructors to supplement and customize it with added coverage on topics they find especially interesting.

My further hope is to encourage instructors and students alike to consider cognitive phenomena as having contexts that both foster and constrain their occurrence. Universals assumed or generalized from the laboratory do not always translate to every person in every situation. Too often, topics in cognitive psychology are presented as absolute, unchanging aspects of everyone's experience. Recent work in developmental psychology, cross-cultural psychology, and individual differences strongly suggests that this presentation is, at best, oversimplification and, at worst, fiction. I hope newer work in cognitive psychology can retain its rigor and elegance but can frame questions and issues more inclusively, reflecting a recognition of the ways in which people and situations differ as well as share similarities.

ORGANIZATION OF THIS BOOK ······

Cognitive Psychology In and Out of the Laboratory is intended for a one-semester or one-term course for students who have already completed an introductory psychology course. We begin with a chapter that surveys the field and describes its research methods and paradigms. A chapter reviewing the structure and function of the brain comes next. These two introductory chapters are followed by chapters covering topics that would generally be regarded as

core aspects of cognition: perception, attention, and memory. The emphasis in these chapters is to review both the "classic" studies that define the field and the newer approaches that challenge long-standing assumptions. Next come chapters on knowledge representation and organization. These chapters center on questions of how we mentally represent and store the vast amounts of information we acquire throughout our lives. The next few chapters, covering topics in "higher-order" cognition, include discussions of language, problem solving, reasoning, and decision making.

It is in the last three chapters where this book departs most from a "prototypical" cognitive psychology textbook. Chapter 12 gives an overview of the development of cognition from infancy through adolescence. The last two chapters, on individual differences and cross-cultural approaches, include material not often covered in cognitive psychology courses. I feel strongly that these topics belong in a thorough examination of cognitive phenomena. Although traditional cognitive psychologists don't always consider these issues in their work, I believe they ought to and, in the future, will.

All important material is integrated into the text rather than pulled out into boxes, asides, or extras that students might skip. This choice reflects my own experience as a student, as well as feedback from my students who say they find boxed material distracting and often treat it as optional. I hope that omitting these extras reinforces the message to students that their learning and mastery will be best enhanced through their own careful reading and note-taking rather than more superficial approaches such as highlighting or skimming.

NEW TO THIS EDITION

This is the most significant revision of the book to date. Not only has the book gone to a four-color presentation, but almost all of the photos, the entire interior design, and many of the figures are new. This gives the book a very new look and feel that help make it even more inviting to a diverse group of undergraduates.

Editorially, there has been much streamlining in this edition. Sections and chapters have been combined to improve the organization and to shorten the text. The 16 chapters of the fourth edition have been condensed into 14. The separate chapters on semantic memory and concepts and categorization have been integrated into one on knowledge representation. Similarly, the topics of reasoning and decision making, considered to be related examples of higher-order cognition, are now merged into a single chapter.

Throughout the book, discussion of recent work has been incorporated. To take just a few examples, there is now exposition of the configural superiority effect in Chapter 3 and the testing effect in Chapter 6 and coverage of the evaluation of work on learning styles in Chapter 13.

SUPPLEMENTS FOR STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS.....

STUDENT STUDY SITE: www.sagepub.com/galotticp5e

This open-access Student Study Site provides a variety of additional resources to build on students' understanding of the book content and extend their learning beyond the classroom. Students will have access to the following resources:

- Each chapter in the text is accompanied by **self-quizzes**, which include 10–15 true/false and multiple-choice questions for students to independently assess their progress in learning course material.
- eflashcards reinforce student understanding and learning of key terms and concepts that are outlined in the book.
- Carefully selected web resources feature relevant content for use in independent and classroom-based exploration of key topics.
- Video links feature relevant interviews, lectures, personal stories, inquiries, and other content for use in independent or classroom-based explorations of key topics.
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A password-protected Instructor Teaching Site offers the following resources for each chapter:

 A test bank available in Microsoft Word offers a diverse set of test questions and answers to aid instructors in assessing students' progress and understanding.

- PowerPoint presentations designed to assist with reviews and lectures highlight essential content, features, and artwork from the book.
- Classroom activities and discussion questions are provided to reinforce active learning.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The actual writing of the first edition of this book was a 5-year project. However, the groundwork for the book evolved over 15 years, stretching back to my own undergraduate and graduate education. I was fortunate to have benefited from the rigorous and dynamic teaching of Blythe Clinchy at Wellesley College and of Jonathan Baron, John Sabini, and Henry and Lila Gleitman at the University of Pennsylvania. My education and thinking about cognitive and developmental issues continued to profit from interactions with colleagues at Carleton College. Colleagues in Carleton's Cognitive Studies program—especially Roy Elveton and Susan Singer—as well as colleagues from other disciplines, including Deanna Haunsperger, Steven Kennedy, Marion Cass, Martha Paas, Steven Kozberg, and others, have sharpened my pedagogical philosophy and helped me maintain a sense of humor and balance about the craziness that periodically invades Carleton.

One of the real joys of working at Carleton has been the privilege of teaching some incredibly talented, motivated, and energetic students. Students in my Cognitive Processes courses over the past 25 years have been kind enough to give me feedback on which chapters worked well and which ones didn't, and I thank them for their candor. Other current and former Carleton students have helped me with the mundane but necessary tasks of checking references and writing for permissions throughout all of the editions; they include April Anderson, Stephanie Aubry, Julie Greene, Andy Hebrank, Simin Ho, Allison Logeman, Diane Mistele, Matt Maas, Kitty Nolan, Emily Snyder, Scott Staupe, Jennifer Tourjé, Elizabeth White, and James Whitney. My current and former administrative assistants, Marianne Elofson, Pamela Gaggioli, Ruby Hagberg, and Lorie Tuma, all have helped with one or more of these editions and just generally make the workplace much more inviting than it would otherwise be.

Several current and former students posed for some of the photographs in this edition, including Zoe Cohen, Zack Delpier, Jonathan Rowe, Jane Tandler, and Jessa Youso. Because my students have contributed so much to my thinking and professional development, it is special to me to be able to make them a tangible part of the book!

Carleton College has supported this book through various sabbaticals and faculty development grants. Then Dean of the College Roy Elveton enthusiastically endorsed and funded this endeavor from the start. A dean can really make a difference in a faculty member's professional development, and Roy often went above and beyond the call of duty for me and several of my talented colleagues at Carleton during his brief administrative tenure. His belief in my ability to write this book is something I will always be grateful for. As a colleague in our Cognitive Science Program and the Philosophy Department, Roy remains a most trusted mentor.

I owe a special debt to Vicki Knight, editor of the first and third editions. Her wise counsel, sharp sense of humor, love of animals, and excellent taste in restaurants made our collaboration a very engaging one. I never would have been able to finish the first book without her, and without the first book, there would not have been any subsequent ones! For the fourth edition, Michele Sordi took the reins, and I am again extremely fortunate to have her as editor for this edition (even though the book—and she—have migrated to a new publisher). As I've gotten to know Michele, I've been impressed by her good communication, her willingness to listen and negotiate, and her savvy knowledge of current trends in textbook publishing.

For this edition, I also enjoyed excellent collaboration with Eve Oettinger, Sarita Sarak, and Reid Hester. I can't say enough about how great they are to work with! They are on top of a myriad of details, they are patient as I try to learn a new system; they are fun to talk with on the phone, and they are so highly competent at their jobs it is almost frightening. Eve has been my go-to contact at Sage Publishing from the first set of reviews through production of this edition, and she's a real gem.

The cover designer, Scott Van Atta, worked with my plea to use the Robert Neffson painting, integrating text and elements beautifully. Paula Fleming is, no kidding, the best copy editor I've ever had, with eagle eyes and an attention to detail that never fails to astound. I like to believe her undergraduate experiences at Carleton have a lot to do with her excellence. I was told ahead of time that I would really enjoy working with Eric Garner, my production editor—and the prediction was spot on. I admire his ability to juggle multiple facets of a project, see the

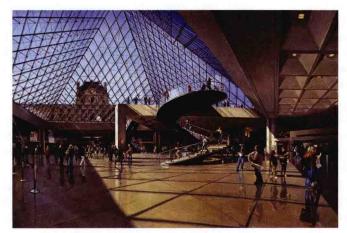
trees and the forest, and stay in a good mood throughout the process. Anthony Paular, the art director, has shown extraordinary patience with my complete lack of artistic ability and my lack of good vocabulary to describe the new figures I envision in my head.

Reviewers of past editions of the book, who have also made important contributions, include for the first edition Sharon Armstrong, Central College (Pella, Iowa); Terry Au, University of California, Los Angeles; Ira Fischler, University of Florida; John H. Flowers, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Margery Lucas, Wellesley College; Robert Seibel; Steven M. Smith, Texas A&M University; and Margaret Thomas, University of Central Florida; and for the second edition Brenda J. Byers, Arkansas State University; Robert Campbell, Clemson University; L. Mark Carrier, Florida State University; David G. Elmes, Washington and Lee University; Ira Fischler, University of Florida; John H. Flowers, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Nancy Franklin, SUNY-Stony Brook; Peter Graf, University of British Columbia; Morton A. Heller, Winston-Salem State University; Lorna Jarvis, Hope College-Peale Science Center; Douglas Johnson, Colgate University; James Juola, University of Kansas; Richard Metzger, University of Tennessee; John Pani, University of Louisville; Aimee M. Surprenant, Purdue University; Joseph Thompson, Washington and Lee University; and Lori R. Van Wallendael, University of North Carolina. For the third edition, I received many very constructive and helpful suggestions and insights for strengthening the book from Lisa Abrams, University of Florida; Nancy Alvarado, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; Jeffrey Anastasi, Arizona State University; Krystine Batcho, Le Moyne College; Stephanie Buchert, Kent State University; Walt Chromiak, Dickinson College; John Flowers, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Allen Keniston, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; Kristy Nielson, Marquette University; Evelyn Schaefer, University of Winnipeg; Elizabeth Spievak, Hanover College; Mark Stewart, Willamette University; Brian Sundermeier, University of Minnesota-Minneapolis; and Lori Van Wallendael, University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Fourth edition reviewers are Sue Astley, Cornell College; Robert Boughner, Rogers State University; Laura Bowman, Central Connecticut State University; Myra Fernandes, University of Waterloo; Allen Keniston, University of Wisconsin; James MacDougall, Eckard College; Chuck Robertson, North Georgia College & State University; Linda Rueckert, Northeastern Illinois University; Dennis Shaffer, Ohio State University; Alycia Silman, Wake Forest University; Ami Spears, Mercer University; and Frank Yeatman, Stonehill College.

I have always benefitted from the wise comments of good reviewers, but I have to say that the set of prerevision reviews Sarita Sarak obtained for me this time were truly the best I've ever seen. The following reviewers all provided useful commentary and feedback on portions of this fifth edition at various stages: Michael Dodd, University of Nebraska–Lincoln; Rhiannon E. Hart, Rochester Institute of Technology; Kendall J. Eskine, Loyola University New Orleans; Conor T. McLennan, Cleveland State University; Stephen Dopkins, The George Washington University; Ruth Tincoff, Bucknell University; and Rolf Nelson, Wheaton College.

The remaining gaps and shortcomings in the book reflect my own stubbornness.

SAGE would like to thank Robert Neffson for the permission to use his beautiful painting for the book's cover and several interior pages:



LOUVRE, PYRAMID, oil/linen, 44" x 64", private collection, by Robert Neffson

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kathleen M. Galotti holds a BA in psychology and economics from Wellesley College, as well as an MA and a PhD in psychology and an MSE in computer and information sciences from the University of Pennsylvania. At Carleton College she holds the title Professor of Cognitive Science and serves as the director of that interdisciplinary program, which she helped establish in 1989. She also is a former chair of the Psychology Department. She teaches courses in cognitive and developmental psychology and cognitive science and has also taught courses in statistics and introductory psychology.

Dr. Galotti's research centers on the development of reasoning and decision-making skills from the preschool period through adulthood and on the styles with which adolescents and adults plan for the future, make important life commitments, and learn new information. Her research has been funded through the National Science Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health. She is the author of Making Decisions That Matter: How People Face Important Life Choices (Erlbaum, 2002), as well as the textbook Cognitive Development: Infancy Through Adolescence (Sage, 2011). She has also authored or co-authored dozens of articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Galotti is the parent of two children, Timothy and Kimberlynn, and spends much of her time enjoying their youthful exuberance and energy. In her spare time, she raises and trains Bernese mountain dogs and shows them in competition in licensed obedience trials, and she is an approved obedience and rally judge for the American Kennel Club.

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

History, Methods, and Paradigms

CHAPTER OUTLINE

Influences on the Study of Cognition

Structuralism

Functionalism

Behaviorism

Gestalt Psychology

The Study of Individual Differences

The "Cognitive Revolution" and the Birth of Cognitive Science

General Points

Research Methods in Cognitive Psychology

Experiments and Quasi-Experiments

Naturalistic Observation

Controlled Observation and Clinical Interviews

Introspection

Investigations of Neural Underpinnings

General Points

Paradigms of Cognitive Psychology

The Information-Processing Approach

The Connectionist Approach

The Evolutionary Approach

The Ecological Approach

General Points

his book is about cognitive psychology—that branch of psychology concerned with how people acquire, store, transform, use, and communicate information (Neisser, 1967). Put differently, cognitive psychology deals with our mental life: what goes on inside our heads when we perceive, attend, remember, think, categorize, reason, decide, and so forth.



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