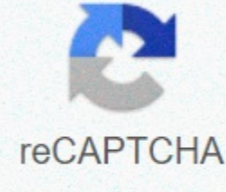




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The study of psychology encompasses many different topics at many different levels of explanation, namely perspectives used to understand behavior. Lower levels of explanation are more closely associated with biological influences, such as genes, neurons, neurotransmitters and hormones, while intermediate levels of explanation relate to the abilities and characteristics of individual people, and the highest levels of explanation relate to social groups, organizations and cultures (Cacioppo, Berntson, Sheridan and McClintock, 2000). 1 The same topic can be studied within psychology at different levels of explanation, as shown in the number 1.1. For example, a psychological disorder known as depression affects millions of people worldwide and is known to be caused by biological, social and cultural factors. Studying and helping to alleviate depression can be achieved at low levels of explanation by exploring how chemicals in the brain affect the experience of depression. This approach allowed psychologists to develop and prescribe drugs, such as Prozac, which can reduce depression in many individuals (Williams, Simpson, Simpson, & Nahas, 2009). 2 At mid-level explanations, psychological therapy is focused on helping individuals cope with negative life experiences that can cause depression. And at the highest level, psychologists study differences in the prevalence of depression between men and women and between cultures. The occurrence of psychological disorders, including depression, is significantly higher for women than for men, and is higher in Western cultures, such as the United States, Canada and Europe, than in Eastern cultures, such as India, China and Japan (Chen, Wang, Poland, & Lin, 2009; Seedat et al., 2009). 3 These sex and cultural differences provide insight into the factors that cause depression. Studying depression in psychology helps remind us that no level of explanation can explain everything. All levels of explanation, from biological to personal to cultural, are key to better understanding human behavior. Figure 1.1 The level of explanation of complex systems should be seen as usually having multiple levels of organization. For example, in behavioral and cognitive sciences, there is a long-lasting trend, promoted by David Marr's seminal work, putting the focus on three different levels of analysis: computer level, accounting ... Complex systems typically have multiple levels of organization. For example, in behavioral and cognitive sciences, there is a long-lasting trend, promoted by David Marr's seminal work, putting the focus on three different levels of analysis: computer level, accounting for what and why questions, algorithmic and implementation levels that determine the problem How. huge advances in neuroscience knowledge about processes at different levels of organization coupled with the complexity of today's cognitive theories suggest that there will hardly be only three levels of explanation. Instead, there will be many different degrees of obligation that correspond to different granularities – from high-level (behavioral) models to low-level (neural and molecular) models of cognitive research programs. For example, Bayesian's approaches, commonly advocated for formalizing Marr's computer level and rational behavior, were even adopted to model synaptic plasticity and axon leadership of molecular gradients. As a result, we can consider a behavioral scientist to deal with models on multiple levels. The purpose of this research topic within the limits of theoretical and philosophical psychology is to promote access to the role of levels and explanations and a model that is of interest to cognitive scientists, neuroscientists, psychologists, behavioral scientists and philosophers of science. We are looking for original empirical works, review and opinion papers and methodological and epistemological works that can provide both the most modern view and advancement proposals for our understanding of the proposed topic. The following are potential questions: How can the autonomy of the level of explanation be properly understood in explaining the behavior? Is reductionism a satisfactory strategy? If so, how can it be justified? How can high- and low-level models be limited to actually be an explanation of both behavioral and neurological or molecular evidence? 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