
N.B.: Identification convention – boldface surname with bracketed presidential year or years
WPA Presidents from Antiquity to the Present Day:

Biographical, Historical, and Historiometric Moments

So let’s start with the main title and then go to the subtitle!
## Past Presidents of the Western Psychological Association

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<tr>
<td>Lewis M. Terman</td>
<td>Stevenson Smith</td>
<td>Lewis M. Terman</td>
<td>Edward C. Tolman</td>
<td>Edmund S. Conklin</td>
<td>Arthur H. Sutherland</td>
<td>Walter A. Miles</td>
<td>Kate Gordon</td>
<td>Shepard L. Franz</td>
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<td>Norma D. Feshbach</td>
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<td>Howard S. Friedman</td>
<td>Joan S. Tucker</td>
<td>Terry A. Cronan</td>
<td>Laura Freberg</td>
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*also current 2020 President
WPA Presidents who have also served as APA Presidents

- Lewis M. Terman 1921-22 1923
- Edward C. Tolman 1923 1937
- Walter R. Miles 1926 1932
- Shepard I. Franz 1928 1920
- Edwin R. Guthrie 1934 1945
- Knight Dunlap 1939 1922
- Ernest R. Hilgard 1942 1949
- Joy P. Guilford 1947 1950
- Leona E. Tyler 1958 1973
- Quinn McNemar 1959 1964
- Robert R. Sears 1965 1951
- Albert Bandura 1981 1974
- Philip G. Zimbardo 1983/2001 2002
- M. Brewster Smith 1986 1978
- Joseph Matarazzo 1987 1989
- Diane F. Halpern 2000 2004

Most often, WPA is the stepping stone to APA, but sometimes not, like Robert R. Sears [1965], who started his career in the East and Midwest before returning West.
WPA Presidents who have also served as APS Presidents

• Marilynn B. Brewer 1985 1993-1995
• Robert A. Bjork 1999 2000-2001
• Nancy Eisenberg 1996 2014-2015

Since the advent of APS in 1988, WPA Presidents are more likely to become Presidents of APS than APA
What am I supposed to do with these folks?

• The subtitle says
  • Biographical, historical, and historiometric moments
  • We all know what the first two adjectives signify
  • So what does “historiometric” mean?

• Historiometric research applies quantitative methods to biographical and historical data in order to test scientific hypotheses using multiple-case samples of eminent persons, creative products, or significant events

• Although the term was not formally defined until the early 20th century, it’s the oldest scientific method in the behavioral sciences!

• Hence, a brief historiometry's history that somehow takes us through the very first President of WPA, Lewis M. Terman [1921, 1922] – twice!
Great moments in historiometry's history

• Quetelet (1835): first historiometric study; introduces the normal distribution of individual differences (alas, including the BMI)
• Galton (1869): first historiometric monograph; “natural ability” (aka intelligence) normally distributed; genius at upper tail
• Cattell (1904): historiometric measure of individual differences in achieved eminence for 1000 historic figures using reference works
• Terman (1916) puts out first edition of Stanford-Binet, and hence ...
• Terman (1917) publishes “The intelligence quotient of Francis Galton in childhood” based on Pearson’s (1914) biography and using the same IQ = 100xMA/CA definition of the Stanford-Binet (IQ ≈ 200!)
Great moments in historiometry's history

• In 1921, the same year that Terman became WPA President, he began collecting participants for his five-volume *Genetic Studies of Genius* (1925-1959), where “genius” defined as IQ 140 (top 1%); two tidbits
  • Robert R. Sears [1965], a “Termite,” became an investigator in this classic longitudinal study after Terman’s death in 1956 (e.g., Holahan & Sears, 1995)
  • Howard S. Friedman [2016] (not a “Termite”) continued the longitudinal study long after Sears died (e.g., Duggan & Friedman, 2014; Friedman, 2011)
• Catharine Cox, Terman’s 30-year old 2nd-year graduate student, switches from collecting Termites to extending Terman’s (1917) methodology to Cattell’s (1903) eminent sample to determine the relation between estimated IQ and achieved eminence, resulting in ...
Great moments in historiometry's history

• The Early Mental Traits of Three Hundred Geniuses (sic; N = 301)
  • The greatest single historiometric study ever published, before or since!
  • Substantial improvements over Terman (1917), especially use of multiple raters with experience administering the Stanford-Binet, among them Cox herself, her mentor Terman, and Maud Merrill [1951], who collaborated with Terman in the Stanford-Binet 2nd edition and after his death released 3rd edition (N.B.: Merrill kept her name after 1933 marriage to “Judge” James)
  • Advanced historiometric methods for estimating personality traits (67 traits for subset $n = 100$ using 2 independent raters)
  • Dissertation signed off in 1925, and at once included as Volume II in Genetic Studies of Genius, the only volume not involving the Termites or naming Terman as either author or coauthor (viz. Cox, 1926)
  • Also the thickest volume in the entire set – 842 pages!
Terman’s *Genetic Studies of Genius*

Her Magnum Opus!

N.B.: Terman’s posthumous volume got less prestigious treatment at SUP
What my well-used personal copy looks like!

Numerous frayed bookmarks

Binding totally falling apart

Yet I bought it new from Stanford University Press! (viz. the 1969 4th printing)
Great moments in historiometry's history

• Cox somewhat distracted from doing more historiometric research
  • In 1927 married one of Terman’s colleagues, Walter A. Miles [1925], at once becoming the mother to his three teenaged children, plus adding two of their own (but one dying at birth); henceforth known as Catharine Cox Miles
  • Pursued a rather contentious “collaboration” with Terman regarding gender differences (e.g., the Terman-Miles Masculinity-Femininity Test)
  • Joined her husband for two Yale appointments, she as clinical professor (where she met Sears, who wrote her excellent 1986 AJP obituary just a few years before his own death, she dying in 1984 and he in 1989)

• Even so, she continued studying her 301 geniuses on the side, publishing one preliminary report:
  • Miles and Wolfe (1936): “Childhood physical and mental health records of historical geniuses” (Psychological Monographs)
Great moments in historiometry's history

• Yet the “Walter R. and Catharine Cox Miles papers” were deposited at the Center for the History of Psychology at the University of Akron

• There Anna V. Song, then my graduate student (now UC Merced Associate Professor), made visits to discover if Cox-Miles had any unanalyzed data hidden in the dusty files, eventually leading to:
  • Simonton and Song (2009): “Eminence, IQ, physical and mental health, and achievement domain: Cox’s 282 geniuses revisited” (Psychological Science)
  • This historiometric study was based 100% on the Cox-Miles data, both published and unpublished!
  • Sadly, though, Anna and I never found what we were really searching for, namely, the subset of 100 geniuses assessed on 67 personality traits!
So why not make more history by conducting a historiometric study of past WPA Presidents?

• The hypothesis? Whether estimated IQ correlates with eminence!
• After all, yours truly already has plenty of experience estimating the intelligence of (US) presidents (just google “Simonton president IQs”)
• and the potential sample size is even larger!
• Unfortunately, my invitation to give this talk came on too short notice for me to complete such an ambitious investigation
• Besides, I’m semi-retired, which means I have the luxury to set my own professional and personal priorities
• Better still, past WPA Presidents have already been historiometric subjects – used or abused by me and other researchers ...
Historiometric studies using WPA presidents as research subjects (not “participants”)

- Simonton (1985): “Quality, quantity, and age: The careers of 10 distinguished psychologists” (*International Journal of Aging and Human Development*)
  - \( n/N = 3/10 \) (30%): Edward C. **Tolman** [1923], Joy P. **Guilford** [1947], and Albert **Bandura** [1981]

  - \( n/N = 6/69 \) (9%): Lewis M. **Terman** [1921, 1922], Edward C. **Tolman** [1923], Calvin P. **Stone** [1932], Edward K. **Strong** [1933], Edwin **Guthrie** [1934], and Knight **Dunlap** [1939]
Historiometric studies using WPA presidents as research subjects (not “participants”)

• Simonton (2000): “Methodological and theoretical orientation and the long-term disciplinary impact of 54 eminent psychologists” (Review of General Psychology)
  • $n/N = 2/54$ (4%): Lewis M. Terman [1921, 1922] and Edward C. Tolman [1923]
  • But sample included Helmholtz, Galton, Pavlov, Freud, Piaget, Horney, Hebb, etc.

• Simonton (2008): “Gender differences in birth order and family size among 186 eminent psychologists” (Journal of Psychology of Science and Technology)
Historiometric studies using WPA presidents as research subjects (not “participants”)


• Nor am I the only historiometrician using WPA Presidents ...
Historiometric studies using WPA presidents as research subjects *(not “participants”)*

- Boring and Boring (Mollie & E. G.; 1948): “Masters and pupils among the American psychologists” *(American Journal of Psychology)*
  - $n/N = 9/118$ (8%): Lewis M. Terman [1921-22], Edward C. Tolman [1923], Walter R. Miles [1926], Calvin P. Stone [1932], Edward K. Strong [1933], Harold E. Jones [1935], Knight Dunlap [1939], Ernest R. Hilgard [1942], Joy P. Guilford [1947], and Robert C. Tryon [1948]

Historiometric studies using WPA presidents as research subjects (not “participants”)

• Terry (1989): “Birth order and prominence in the history of psychology” (*Psychological Record*)
  • $n/N = 9/74$ (12%): Lewis M. *Terman* [1921, 1922], Edward C. *Tolman* [1923], Walter A. *Miles* [1926], Edwin *Guthrie* [1934], Ernst R. *Hilgard* [1942], Joy P. *Guilford* [1947], Quinn *McNemar* [1959], David *Krech* [1961], and Robert R. *Sears* [1965]

• Even better, some former WPA Presidents have themselves conducted historiometric research, as in the following two examples
Historiometric studies by WPA Presidents

- Paul R. Farnsworth [1938] (also first President of APA’s Division 10 in 1945):
  - His 1969 *The Social Psychology of Music* (2nd ed.) compared the amount of space that 92 classical composers received in three types of reference works (music histories, music encyclopedias, and general encyclopedias) across six decades (viz. the 1900s, 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s)
  - The three correlation matrices reveal that eminence exhibits considerable transhistorical stability across 70 years
  - But is that stability due to *autoregression* (each decade’s evaluation revises the previous evaluation in a quasi-simplex model) or a single stable *latent factor* called “Galton’s G” that impinges equally on all decades (modelled after “Spearman’s g”)?
    - Parameter estimates via the 1989 EQS program just created by Peter Bentler [2008]!
Historiometric studies by WPA Presidents

• White (1931): “The versatility of genius” (*Journal of Social Psychology*)
  • Using the raw data in typescript now still available at the Terman Archives at Stanford, estimated versatility for 300 [sic] geniuses in Cox (1926)
    • Gratitude expressed to Dr. Catherine [sic] Cox Miles and Dr. Calvin P. Stone [1932]
  • Yet strikingly, a footnote at the bottom of the first page says “The study was initiated by Dr. Lewis M. Terman, and carried out under his direction” who also had recommended its publication to Carl Murchison of the *JSP* editorial board
    • White was then a mere 24 year-old 2nd-year Stanford graduate student who revealed little enthusiasm for historiometric methods, and eventually did his thesis on a totally unrelated subject: “A factor analysis of tests designed to measure fluency, atypicality, and intellectual curiosity” signed off in 1937 by Terman, Quinn McNemar [1959], and Ernest R. Hilgard [1942]
    • White then went to Iowa to work with Kurt Levin on the classic Lewin, Lippitt, and White (1939) experiment, becoming a pioneer in peace research and commemorated in APA Division 48’s Ralph K. White Lifetime Achievement Award (M. Brewster Smith [1986] was the 1999 recipient)
  • Hence, according to current APA authorship guidelines, I would add Terman as a coauthor!
Concluding biographical moments

• Putting historiometric research aside, I would like to express my gratitude to various past WPA Presidents for their impact on my professional development as a psychologist.

• I’m sure many members of my audience could express indebtedness echoing my own.
Thanks to Ernst R. Hilgard [1942] and Richard C. Atkinson [1976] for writing the great intro text assigned in the psch 1 I took as an undergraduate: It inspired me to change majors from chemistry to psychology.
Thanks to Philip G. Zimbardo [1983, 2001] and Floyd L. Ruch [1950] for writing the intro text that I used when I started teaching my own psch 1 course.
Thanks to UCD’s Stanley Sue [2010] for inviting me to speak at the WPA held in Cancun!

Even if my personal enjoyment may have surpassed my professional development.
Lastly, thanks to Robert C. Tryon [1948] and Harold E. Jones [1935]
The great grandchildren of James and Wundt who were my doctoral great grandparents!

IV. Robert C. Tryon — and — Harold E. Jones

V. Donald T. Campbell

VI. David A. Kenny — and — David C. McClelland

VII. Dean Keith Simonton
And thank you all for listening to these moments!