

that blindness is not reflected here. Githens and Prestage note the role of black women as pioneers in combining work outside the home with the traditional roles of wife and mother, and argue that this role demands special attention. I could not agree more, and thus was disappointed that very few of the pieces explored why it is that black women with their dual burdens actually have achieved more politically than their white counterparts. This remains one of the more intriguing questions when considering the situation of women in politics.

## Intro Psych for Psychologists?

N. S. Sutherland (Ed.)

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Reviewed by MARCIA K. JOHNSON

*N. S. Sutherland is Professor of Experimental Psychology and Director of the Center for Research on Perception and Cognition at the University of Sussex, England. A DPhil of Oxford University and a Fellow of Merton College, he has been Visiting Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Lecturer at Oxford. He is Editor of the Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology. Sutherland's books include Shape Discrimination in Animals, Mechanisms of Animal Discrimination Learning (with N. J. Mackintosh), and Breakdown.*

*Marcia K. Johnson is Associate Professor of Psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She has been a Predoctoral Fellow at the Institute of Human Learning at the University of California (Berkeley), where she earned her PhD. Johnson is coauthor of Statistics: Tool of the Behavioral Sciences (with R. M. Liebert).*

**I**N the introduction to *Tutorial Essays in Psychology*, N. S. Sutherland

notes (and I agree) that articles in the *Psychological Review*, *Psychological Bulletin*, and the *Annual Review of Psychology* are often too technical for someone outside the field. Thus, this is the first volume in a series intended to publish essays that describe a particular specialty area in a fashion accessible to researchers and students (including advanced undergraduates) in other areas of psychology. The volume consists of four independent essays.

"The Magical Number Two and the Natural Categories of Speech and Music," by James E. Cutting, is a commendably clear discussion of "categorical perception" and the procedures used to demonstrate it. Categorical perception is the apparent division of a continuous physical dimension into psychologically distinct categories. Changes in physical values within each category are discriminated not at all or with difficulty whereas an equal physical change across the category boundary results in an easily discriminated difference. While interest originally was stimulated in this area because this was thought to be a characteristic unique to human perception of certain speech sounds, Cutting points out that categorical perception occurs for other auditory stimuli as well. A potential underlying neural mechanism is also described.

Leslie Henderson's chapter on "Word Recognition" includes a number of historical "gems." Many of the questions about word recognition that have received so much recent attention (e.g., recognition from partial cues, superior recognition of letters embedded in words, semantic priming, the role of sound) had been explored to some extent by the end of the 19th or beginning of the 20th century. The second half of the chapter, on recent work on word recognition, is more in the style of traditional reviews and probably requires a fair background to understand fully. However, it does convey both the attractiveness of and the problems with serial information processing models that attempted "to identify the mandatory transformations of information as it passed through the cognitive machinery."

"Psycholinguistics Without Linguistics," by P. N. Johnson-Laird, is not so

much an argument against linguistics as it is against an approach to language exclusively inspired by transformational grammar. A number of linguistic approaches to syntax, meaning, and the relationship between the two are discussed, including problems raised by intonation, context, prior knowledge, and so on. While much of the essay seems more directed at colleagues within the field than outsiders, the paper is a good reference source for some currently influential ideas.

John D. Teasdale describes theory and evidence related to the "Psychological Treatment of Phobias." The essay highlights similarities and differences between systematic desensitization and implosion. The general message is that empirical work has demonstrated that

many components of these treatments as originally proposed (e.g., deep muscle relaxation in the case of systematic desensitization, intense anxiety in the case of implosion) are not necessary for them to work. The critical component, evidently, is the repeated presentation of a feared stimulus with no obviously disastrous consequences.

CUTTING'S AND TEASDALE'S chapters probably come closest to the stated aim of the volume. Johnson-Laird's chapter (and to some extent Henderson's) perhaps tries to cover too much that is too complicated for people unfamiliar with the area. On the whole, the project is worthwhile and successful, and I look forward to reading *Volume 2*.