ABA-ABPMC Conference in Brazil

A Rich and Varied Landscape: Scholarly Publications of Interest to Behavior Analysts

American Journal on Mental Retardation

The Analysis of Verbal Behavior

Avances en Psicología Latinoamericana

The Behavior Analyst

Behavior Analyst Today

On Behavior and Philosophy

Behavior and Social Issues

Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Behavioral Interventions

Education and Treatment of Children

European Journal of Behavior Analysis

Register Here for the 2005 Convention

On Behavior and Philosophy

By Armando Machado, Ph.D.

Behavior and Philosophy is a peer-reviewed journal devoted to the philosophical and epistemological issues that surround the study of behavior, brain, and mind. It publishes original articles and responses to those articles, historical reviews, and book reviews. The journal aims for soundness of argument and clarity of expression, respecting Francis Bacon’s dictum that “truth will sooner come from error than confusion.” The editor, reviewers, and authors attempt to make every article accessible to an educated but unspecialized audience.

To give readers of this newsletter an idea of the journal’s relevance to behavior analysis, perhaps the best I can do is to invite them to visit the journal’s website (www.behavior.org), as I did to prepare this article, and look at some of the contributors to the journal. They will be impressed by the list of authors, a virtual “Who’s Who” of the field. On the website they may also sample the rich variety of conceptual, philosophical, epistemic, and theoretical issues the journal has addressed – and will continue to address – related to behavioral science in general and behaviorism in particular. Here is a random sample of a dozen titles:

- Nature as Nurture: Behaviorism and the Instinct Doctrine
- Private Causes
- The What, the How, and the Why: The Explanation of Ernst Mach
- Linguistic Behaviorism and the Correspondence Theory of Truth
- The Race Concept: A Defense
- Four Naturalist Accounts of Moral Responsibility
- Addiction and Self-Control
- Dennett’s Conceptual Reform
- The Phrenetic Calculus: A Logician’s View of Disordered Logical Thinking in Schizophrenia
- Who’s Afraid of the Turing Test?
- Gibson, Skinner and Perceptual
Authors submitting manuscripts to *Behavior and Philosophy* may expect expedited and competent reviews. The typical review lasts two months, but sometimes it takes as little as two weeks. The review process is carried out by the editor and an extraordinary review board composed of 35 experts in psychology, philosophy, neuroscience, sociology, economics, history of science, and engineering. On occasion, ad hoc reviewers also help.

*Behavior and Philosophy* is the offspring of *Behaviorism*, a journal first published in 1972 under the editorship of the late Willard Day (University of Nevada, Reno). Willard, whom I was not fortunate enough to meet, is described as an engaging, enthusiastic and humane behaviorist, a man who combined the passions of a renaissance humanist with a commitment to many of Skinner’s central ideas. According to some of his friends, this commitment may help to explain why Willard started the journal.

In 1985, Willard asked George Graham, a philosopher at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Peter Killeen, an experimental psychologist at Arizona State University to steer the journal. In 1990, Peter stepped aside and George changed the name of the journal from Behaviorism to its current name Behavior and Philosophy. According to George, the purpose of the change was to increase the readership base of the journal and to speak more broadly to authors and readers with interests in behavioral science and conceptual and philosophical issues related to behavioral science. During George’s tenure as Editor, the journal’s publisher and owner changed from the University of Nevada at Reno to the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies.

In 1992 George passed the baton to Max Hocutt, then the philosophy chair at the University of Alabama and in 1996 Max passed it to John Staddon, an experimental psychologist from Duke University. Finally, during the 2004 ABA meeting in Boston, it was my privilege to be appointed the new editor.

Beginning in 2000, the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies started to publish the journal in two forms: electronic and paper. Instead of collecting a number of articles to fill a printed issue of the journal, each accepted article is published almost immediately on-line at [www.behavior.org](http://www.behavior.org). To ensure that articles are archived and available in libraries for those without internet access, articles published electronically during a calendar year will be
collected, printed, and bound at year end as a traditional hard-copy journal issue. On-line articles in *Behavior and Philosophy* have the same status as their printed versions, with the same page and volume numbers, and may be cited in the same way.

During the last few years, the journal has published from six to 20 articles per year, including, on occasion, conference proceedings and special issues. Currently, the electronic version of the journal is freely available on the internet; the printed version is subscribed by more than two hundred institutions. Current rates are $85 (U.S.) and $95 (outside the U.S.) for a yearly subscription. The journal can be ordered from the CCBS Store at http://store.ccbsstore.com/.