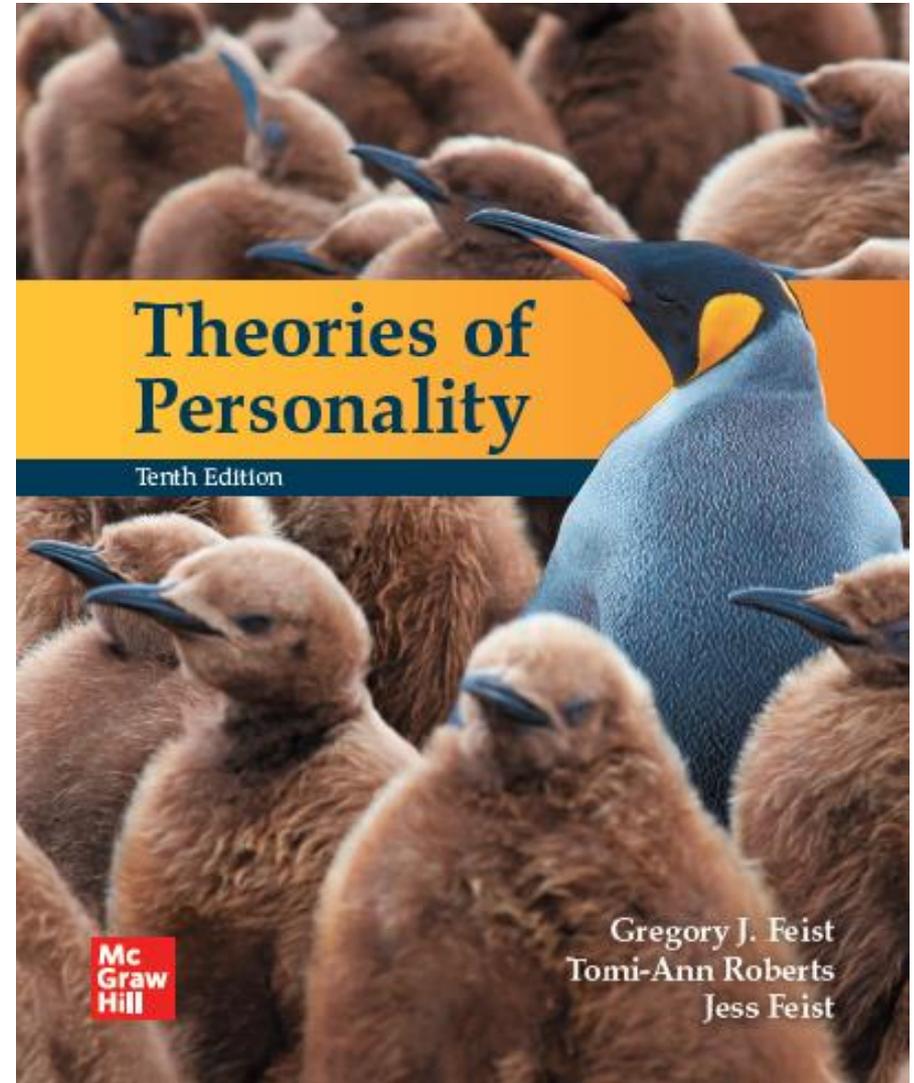
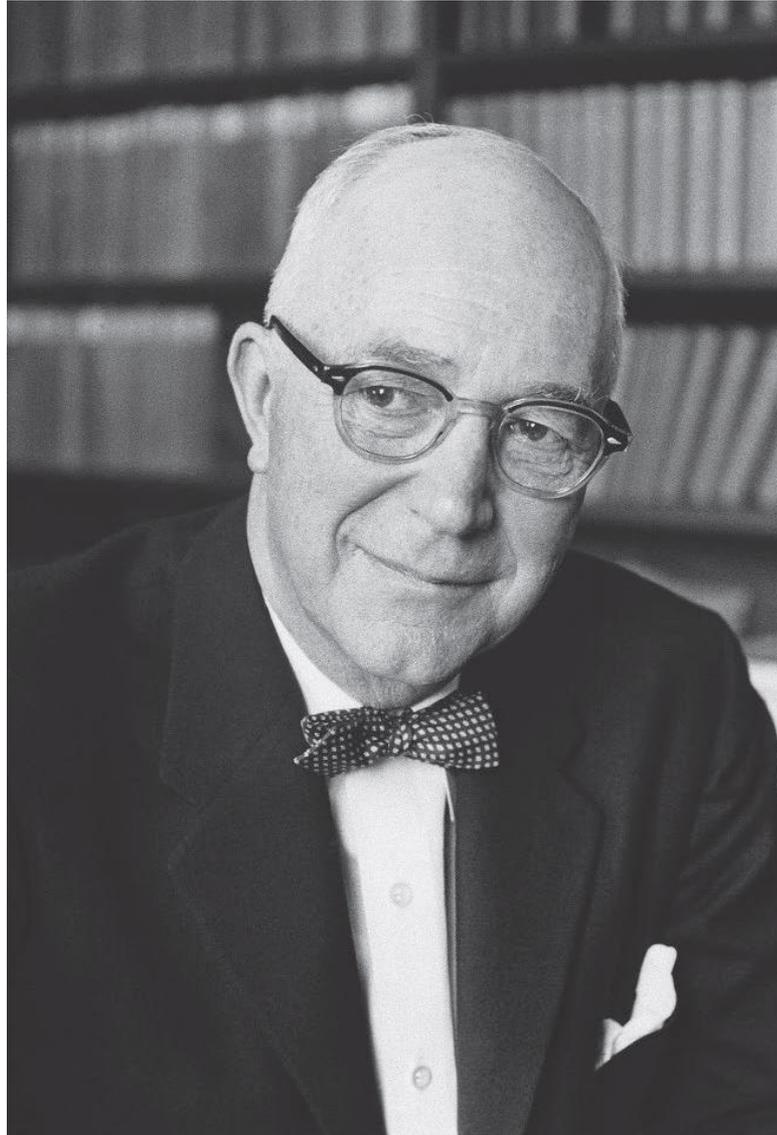


**Allport:
Psychology
of the Individual**
Chapter 12



Gordon Allport



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Chapter Outline ¹

- Overview of Allport's psychology of the individual.
- Biography of Gordon Allport.
- Allport's approach to personality theory.
- Structure of personality.
- Motivation.
- The study of the individual.
- Related research.
- Critique of Allport.
- Concept of humanity.

Overview of the Psychology of the Individual

- Emphasized uniqueness of the individual.
- Traits do not capture individuality.
- Studied the individual or morphogenic science in contrast to **nomothetic** methods.
- Broad, comprehensive theory preferable to a narrow, specific theory.

Biography of Gordon Allport

- Born in Montezuma, Indiana, in 1897.
- Youngest son of a physician and a former schoolteacher.
- Earned undergraduate degrees in philosophy and economics from Harvard in 1919.
- After a fortuitous meeting with Freud, he decided to complete a P h D in psychology at Harvard in 1922.
- President of the American Psychological Association in 1939.
- Died in 1967 of lung cancer.

Allport's Approach to Personality Theory ¹

Sought to answer three questions.

- What is personality?
 - Personality is both physical and psychological.
 - Includes both overt and covert thoughts.
 - Not only is something but does something.
 - Substance and change.
 - Product and process.
 - Structure and growth.

Allport's Approach to Personality Theory ²

- What is the role of conscious motivation?
 - Healthy adults are aware of what and why they are acting the way they do.
 - Accepting self-reports at face value.
 - Some motivation is driven by hidden impulses and sublimated drives.
 - Most compulsive behaviors originate in childhood.

Characteristics of a Healthy Person

- What are the characteristics of a healthy person?
 - Extension of the sense of self.
 - Warm relating of self to others.
 - Emotional security or self-acceptance.
 - Realistic perception of the environment
 - Insight and humor.
 - Unifying philosophy of life.

Structure of Personality

Refers to its basic units or building blocks.

- **Personal dispositions.**
 - **Cardinal dispositions.**
 - **Central dispositions.**
 - **Secondary dispositions.**
- Motivational and stylistic dispositions.
- **Proprium.**
 - Behaviors that are regarded as warm, central, and important in people's lives.

Motivation

A theory of motivation.

- Theory must include both **reactive** and proactive behaviors.

Functional autonomy.

- **Perseverative functional autonomy.**
- **Propriate functional autonomy.**
- Criterion for functional autonomy.
- Processes that are not functionally autonomous.

The Study of the Individual

Morphogenic science.

- Study of **idiographic** information or that which is related to the individual case.

The Diaries of Marion Taylor.

Letters from Jenny.

Related Research

Intrinsic and extrinsic religious orientation.

Religious motivation and mental health.

- Seedall and Butler (2014).
 - Both forgiveness and a more intrinsically motivated approach to religion are both associated with greater mental health.

Critique of Allport

Allport's theory is:

- High on parsimony and internal consistency.
- Moderate on generating research and guiding action.
- Low on falsifiability and organizing knowledge.

Concept of Humanity

- Free choice over determinism.
- Optimism over pessimism.
- Teleology over causality.
- Conscious over unconscious.
- Uniqueness over similarity.



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