



Mary Ainsworth

Mary Ainsworth (1913–1999) needs little introduction. Her development of the Strange Situation made her one of the key figures in developmental psychology. Ainsworth gained her PhD at the University of Toronto but interrupted her teaching to join the Canadian Women’s Army Corp during the Second World War, where she achieved the rank of major. Later she moved to London where she worked with John Bowlby before heading to Uganda to study attachment. It was on her later return to the USA that she developed the Strange Situation as a way of assessing attachment styles.



Christina Maslach

Some students might recognise the name **Christina Maslach** from her work on job burnout and the creation of the ‘Maslach burnout inventory’ for understanding workplace stress. Maslach gained her PhD from Stanford University in 1971. As a graduate student she questioned Zimbardo about the methods he was employing in his prison experiment, ultimately causing him to end the experiment. Later she married him. For over 40 years she has held the position of professor at the University of California, Berkeley, receiving more honours and awards than there is space to list.

Marie Jahoda (1907–2001) is a name that many students will recognise from their studies on abnormality. Interestingly, Jahoda spent 3 months in prison in 1936 during her twenties for her membership of the Austrian Youth Socialist Movement. She later moved to the UK and worked at Brunel University, followed by Sussex University where she became professor of social psychology. Although most students will know Jahoda for her ‘criteria for ideal mental health’, you might not know that during a brief period in the USA she was heavily involved in the civil rights movement, for which she was rumoured to have been investigated by the FBI.



Marie Jahoda

Women in psychology

Historically the under-representation of women’s contributions in psychology makes sense — the American Psychological Association reports that in 1950 only 14.8% of doctoral degrees were awarded to women. By the 1960s this figure had risen to 17.5%. Therefore there weren’t many women who could have been doing research.

After the 1960s, the percentage of woman awarded doctoral degrees grew dramatically. In fact, by the 1980s the percentage of doctoral degrees awarded to women was 50.1% and in 2002 that figure was 66.7%.

Currently head of psychology at Newcastle University, **Vicki Bruce’s** career could have taken a different path if she had followed the route of her first job at Proctor and Gamble, making soap powder. Luckily for the field of psychology she went on to gain a PhD at Cambridge under the supervision of Alan Baddeley. Since then she has had a profound influence on research and theory related to face recognition. She has also published research on memory and eyewitness testimony. In 1997 Vicki was awarded the OBE for services to psychology. Interestingly, she was instrumental in the design of the shape and size of the £1 coin.



Mamie Phipps Clark with her husband Kenneth

Mamie Phipps Clark (1917–83) was born in Arkansas, USA. She attended a segregated school and was required to use facilities that were reserved for ‘Coloreds Only’. Despite this discrimination, she obtained a degree and with her master thesis ‘The Development of Consciousness of Self in Negro Pre-School Children’, she started a line of work that would reverberate not just in psychology but throughout her home country. The studies she conducted were important in bringing segregation to an end in the USA, most particularly her ‘Doll study’ conducted with her husband. Her impact is still felt today and it is difficult to think of any one piece of psychological research that has had such a major impact on the everyday life of millions of ordinary people.

Pre-1950

Even though the percentage of women with PhDs in psychology before 1950 was small, their contributions to the subject were significant.

Mary Whiton Calkin (1863–1930) was the first female president of the American Psychological Association. She completed her doctorate in psychology at Harvard in 1895. Unfortunately for Whiton Calkin, however, Harvard refused to grant her doctorate on the grounds that, at that time, Harvard didn’t accept women. Even posthumously, and despite numerous petitions, she has never been granted her doctorate from Harvard.

In the UK, the first British female to gain a doctorate in psychology was **Beatrice Edgell** (1871–1948), who gained her PhD in 1901 from the University of Würzburg. She later went on to set up one the first psychological laboratories at Bedford College, on a budget equating to around £18 for supplies and equipment. Her most prominent contribution to psychology was the fact that she was one of the founder members of the British Psychological Society and later, in 1930, became its first female president.

Caryl Rusbult (1952–2010) developed the ‘investment model of relationships’, stating that commitment is determined by satisfaction, quality of alternatives and investment made into the relationships. Caryl received her PhD from the University of North Carolina and later worked at the Vrije University in Amsterdam. Sadly she died in 2010 from uterine cancer, aged 57.



Anita Delongis

Anita Delongis is another researcher whose work on stress may be familiar to you. Her examination of daily hassles with Richard Lazarus led to the revised ‘daily hassles and uplifts scale’, which has remained an important predictor of stress. She gained her PhD at the University of California and is currently a professor at the University of British Columbia where she continues her work on stress — in particular, coping with chronic illness.



Suzanne Kobasa

Suzanne Kobasa developed the concept of the hardy personality — with its features of challenge, control and commitment — to explain why certain individuals are able to mediate the effects of stress. Kobasa gained her PhD from the University of Chicago and is currently Professor Emerita at the City University of New York. As well as her study of stressed-out business executives, she is also trained in fine art. You can see her artwork at www.souellette.com.

Elizabeth Loftus’s work on eyewitness testimony will likely be known to you all. Loftus gained her PhD from Stanford University and is now a distinguished professor at the University of California Irvine as well as an affiliate professor at the University of Washington. She has been called upon in court many times as an expert witness, most notably in the trial of the officers accused in the Rodney King beatings. In 2002 she was the highest ranking female in the 100 most eminent psychologists of the twentieth century (she was number 58).



Carol Gilligan

Carol Gilligan was listed by *Time* magazine as one of the 25 most influential Americans in 1996. She is a well-known psychologist whose seminal work was *In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women’s Development*. She famously criticised the gender-biased nature of Kohlberg’s stages of development. Gilligan gained her PhD at Harvard and as well as her academic writing career she has written a popular fiction novel, *Kyra*.



Elizabeth Loftus

Janice Kielcolt Glaser is a name you may recognise from studies on stress and immune system functioning. Kielcolt Glaser gained her PhD from the University of Miami and is professor at Ohio State University where her current research focuses on survivors of cancer. As well as her research into stress she has published two mystery novels, *Detecting Lies* and *Unconscious Truths*.

Anna Stapleton studied criminology and psychology and started a PhD on the theory of planned behaviour but got the teaching bug before finishing. As well as teaching, she has just finished her first fiction novel. She is deputy head of social sciences at Graveney School in London.