

Historical developments in Experimental Psychology: Contributions to Experimental Pragmatics

I will survey the development of experimental psychology while paying attention to those areas that have had an impact on what we call experimental pragmatics today. These areas include reasoning, development, text comprehension, and sentence processing. The survey reveals both researchers' tendencies in carrying out experiments and recurring themes with respect to comprehension. For example, the earliest studies in experimental psychology and in experimental pragmatics assumed that one can count on participants' abilities to introspect.