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This Week in

Psychology History

30 March – 5 April

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Melanie Klein

30 March 1882

Melanie Klein was a key figure in psychoanalysis, especially known for her work with children. She developed object relations theory, focusing on how early relationships shape personality. Her use of play therapy helped understand children's inner experiences, showing how early emotional life influences later development.

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René Descartes

31 March 1596

René Descartes was a philosopher whose ideas influenced early psychology. He proposed mind–body dualism, suggesting that the mind and body are separate but interact. His work raised important questions about consciousness and the relationship between mental processes and physical states.

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Abraham Maslow



1 April 1908

Abraham Maslow is known for his theory of motivation, especially the Hierarchy of Needs. He suggested that human behavior is driven by a progression from basic needs to self-actualization. His work shifted focus toward positive human potential and became central to humanistic psychology.

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Ruth Strang



3 April 1895

Ruth Strang contributed to educational psychology and guidance. She worked on understanding students' interests, abilities, and adjustment, helping develop counseling and guidance practices in schools. Her work emphasized supporting individual development through education and structured guidance programs.

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Fred McKinney



4 April 1908

Fred McKinney worked in social psychology and personality, studying how social factors influence individual behavior. His research explored attitudes, adjustment, and personality development, contributing to understanding how individuals interact within social environments.

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James A. Bayton



5 April 1912

James Arthur Bayton contributed to social psychology, particularly in the study of race relations and attitudes. His work examined how social experiences shape beliefs and behavior, helping develop research on prejudice, social interaction, and group dynamics.

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