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This week in the

History of Psychology

(2nd to 8th June)



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Swipe through to meet 7 remarkable psychologists born this week—each left a deep mark on the way we think, hear, vote, and understand human nature. Their ideas still echo through modern psychology.

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"The Voice Behind the Vote" (June 2, 1912)

Bernard Berelson transformed how we study public opinion and voting behavior. A pioneer of behavioral science, he blended communication research with social policy, influencing everything from media studies to family planning—all while addressing ethics in policy decisions.



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"The Man Who Made Hearing Visible" (June 3, 1899)

Georg von Békésy uncovered how our inner ear decodes sound. His groundbreaking cochlear research earned a Nobel Prize and transformed hearing science, paving the way for modern audiology, hearing aids, and cochlear implants. A true pioneer of sound.



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"The Guardian of Childhood" (June 4, 1952)

Gary B. Melton dedicated his life to protecting children's rights. A pioneer in child abuse prevention and community psychology, his work shaped global policies, built safer communities, and inspired a more humane world for children and families.



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"The Voice of Cultural Understanding" (June 5, 1887)

Ruth Benedict reshaped anthropology with her bold idea: every culture has its personality. A champion of cultural relativism and anti-racism, her work broke barriers and taught the world to embrace human differences with empathy and respect.





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"The Shock Pioneer of Psychiatry" (June 6, 1900)

Manfred Sakel introduced insulin shock therapy—a bold but risky treatment once hailed for schizophrenia. Though later replaced, his work opened doors for biological psychiatry and showed how innovation and controversy often go hand in hand in mental health history.

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"The Electric Pulse Behind Modern Physiology" (June 7, 1829)

Eduard Pflüger decoded how nerves and muscles respond to electricity, laying the groundwork for modern physiology. From metabolism to embryology, his experiments shaped science, even founding a journal still read today. A pioneer whose spark still lives on.

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"The Man Who Made Words the Heart of Psychology" (June 8, 1956)

Jonathan Potter transformed psychology by showing how language creates our social world. From racism to memory, his work in discursive psychology reveals how we "do" psychology in conversation. A trailblazer changing how we understand talk and thought.

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