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Education



# Person of the Month: Neal E. Miller (1909-2002)

Ankit Patel<sup>1</sup>\*

**Born** August 3, 1909

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, US

**Died** March 23, 2002 (aged 92)

Hamden, Connecticut, US

**Citizenship** American

**Known for** Biofeedback, Frustration–aggression

hypothesis

University of Washington (B.S., 1931)

Stanford University (M.S., 1932)

Yale University (Ph.D., 1935)

**Awards** Newcomb Cleveland Prize (1956)

APA Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award (1959) National Medal of Science (1964) APA Award for Lifetime Contributions

to Psychology (1991)



Neal Elgar Miller was an American experimental psychologist. delineated as a vigorous man with a range of interests, together with physics, biology and writing, Miller entered the sector of psychology to pursue these. With a background coaching within the sciences, he was galvanized by professors and leading psychologists at the time to figure on varied areas in behavioural psychology and physiological psychology, specifically, relating visceral responses to behavior.

Miller's early work targeted on experimenting with Freudian ideas on behavior in real-life things. His most notable topic was worry. Miller came to the conclusion that worry can be learned through conditioning. Miller then determined to increase his research to different involuntary drives, like hunger, to envision if they worked within the same manner. His distinctive ideas and experimental techniques to check these involuntary drives resulted in findings that modified ideas concerning motivations and behavior.

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Miller was conjointly one amongst the commencement fathers behind the concept of training program. Today, several of his ideas are expanded and intercalary to, however Miller has been attributable with bobbing up with most of the fundamental ideas behind training program. Miller was doing experimentation on acquisition and rats once he discovered training program. Neal Miller, at the side of John Dollard and O. Hobart Mowrer, helped to integrate behavioral and psychoanalytic ideas. They were able to translate psychological analytic ideas into behavioral terms that may be a lot of simply understood. Specifically, they targeted on the stimulus-response theory. These 3 men also recognized Sigmund Freud's understanding of hysteria as a "signal of danger" which some things in Freud's work can be altered to mend this. Miller, Dollard and Mowrer believed that an individual World Health Organization was mitigated of high anxiety levels would expertise what's known as "anxiety relief" along with fellow psychologist O. Hobart Mowrer, Miller offers his name to the "Miller-Mowrer Shuttlebox" equipment. Over the course of his career, Miller wrote eight books and 276 papers and articles. Neal Miller worked with John Dollard and along they wrote the book personality and Psychotherapy (1950) regarding neurosis and psychological learning ideas.

## TIMELINE

- 1909: Miller was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1909. He grew up in the Pacific
- 1931: Miller entered the University of Washington, where he studied biology, physics and also had an interest in writing.
- 1932: He studied at Stanford University, where he received his M.S. and an interest in psychology of personality.
- 1935: He received his Ph.D. degree in Psychology from Yale University.
- 1936: As a faculty member at Institute of Psychoanalysis in Vienna for one year.
- 1939: Published book, Frustration and aggression with Dollard, John; Doob, Leonard William; Miller; Mowrer, Orval Hobart; Sears, Robert R., New Haven: Published for the Institute of Human Relations by Yale University Press.
- 1941: Published book, Social learning and imitation, with Dollard, John. New Haven: Published for the Institute of Human Relations by Yale University Press.
- 1947: Published book, Psychological research on pilot training. Aviation psychology program research reports, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.
- 1950: He was appointed professor at Yale, a position he held until 1966.
- 1950: Published book, Personality and psychotherapy: an analysis in terms of learning, thinking, and culture, with Dollard, John, published by McGraw-Hill publications in psychology. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- 1957: Published book, Graphic communication and the crisis in education, published by Washington, DC: Department of Audio-Visual Instruction, National Education Association.
- 1959: He received the APA Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award.
- 1960: Miller served as President of the American Psychological Association.
- 1964: He received the National Medal of Science from President Johnson, the first psychologist to receive this honor.

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- 1966: He began teaching at Rockefeller University and afterwards spent the early 1970s teaching at Cornell University Medical College.
- 1971: Conflict, displacement, learned drives, and theory, published from New Brunswick, NJ: AldineTransaction. ISBN 9780202361420. OCLC 156810019
- 1971: Learning, motivation, and their physiological mechanisms, published from New Brunswick, NJ.: AldineTransaction. ISBN 9780202361437. OCLC 144328310
- 1971: Neal E. Miller: selected papers. Psychonomic perspectives published from Chicago: Aldine, Atherton. ISBN 0202250342. OCLC 133865
- 1982: Biofeedback: basic problems and clinical applications published with Richter-Heinrich, Elisabeth; Miller from Selected revised papers presented at the XXII<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of Psychology, Leipzig, GDR, July 6–12, 1980. Amsterdam: North-Holland, ISBN 0444863451, OCLC 10751840
- 1985: He returned to Yale as a research associate.
- 1991: He received the APA Citation for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to Psychology.
- 2002: Neal Miller died on March 23, 2002, in Hamden, Connecticut.

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