



*International Council of Psychologists ICP*

## Psychology's Contribution To People, the Planet, and the World

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Cosponsored by:

Dyson College Center for Global Psychology

PACE UNIVERSITY

41 Park Row

Bianco Room

(New York City Campus)



Facultad de Psicología  
UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA

# PSYCHOLOGY & GENDER AN INELUDIBLE HISTORICAL DEBT

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Saturday, July 29, 11:00-11:20  
Room W-622

## INTRODUCCTION



The Psychology's object to study is the human being, behavior and internal psychic functioning. That is why their contributions have been fundamental to characterize the human race as a rational, affective and social entity.

However, the lack of visibility of women pioneering in Psychology and the invisibility of existing ones, has made it possible for ancestral misogynist stereotypes to permeate their foundations, contributing to the reproduction of irrational beliefs about the nature of women.

This prejudicial inheritance is responsible for the fact today - despite the undoubted achievements of the female- the History of Psychology remains in some aspects male and biased. It would seem that even today women are still a black continent for Psychology, as Freud already said years ago.

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## INTRODUCCION

Huarte de San Juan -Spanish doctor of the XVI, precursor of differential Psychology -as well as most of the considered parents of Psychology, Gall, Spencer, or Freud- had really very negative ideas about women. They assimilated without criticism the traditional philosophical and / or religious androcentrism and, despite their pretended objectivity, they made radical mistakes in characterizing women. They despised, isolated, discriminated against women and, even more seriously, prevented their access to knowledge.

It is a fact, the first pioneer women had many difficulties of access to the University, but despite this, many were able to make their voices heard.





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## INTRODUCCION

In other ICP Conferences we presented some pioneers. Initially\* to Christine Ladd Franklin (USA, 1847-1930), Jane Adams (USA, 1860-1935), Mary Whiton Calkins (USA, 1863-1930), Julia Jessie Taft (USA, 1882-1960), Karen Horney (Germany 1885-USA 1952) and Carol Gilligan (USA, 1936). After to\*\* Lou Andreas Salomé (Russia 1861- Germany 1937), Hermine Von Hug-Hellmuth (Viena 1871-1924), Margaret Floy Washburn (USA 1871-1939), Helen Bradford Thompson Wooley (USA 1874-1947), Helene Deutsch (Polonia 1884-USA 1982) and Leta Stetter Hollingworth (USA 1886-1939).

Now I add other six woman psychologist pioneers: MILLICENT WASHBURN SHINN (USA 1858-1940), MARY PARKER FOLLETT (USA 1868-1933), SABINA SPIELREIN (Russia 1885-1942), MERCEDES RODRIGO BELLIDO (Spain 1891-Puerto Rico 1982), ZERKA TOEMAN MORENO (Dutch 1917- USA 2016) and CAROLYN WOOD SHERIF (USA 1922-1982).

\* Guil, Ana y Villela, Esther (2011). "Ethics of care: from feminism to the new masculinities". In Milgram, N.; O'Roark, A.M. & Roth, R (Eds) *Scientific Psychology: New Developments Internationally*. Germany: Shaker, Verlag, 59-64.

\*\* Guil, Ana (2015). "The Voice of Women Psychologists". In Guil, A.; Comunian, A.L. and O'Roark, A.M. *Celebrating 70 years of working towards Health, Peace and Social Justice*. Sevilla: ArCiBel Editores, 399-407. <http://grupo.us.es/generoysocdelcto/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Celebrating-70-years-of-working-towards-Health-Peace-and-Social-Justice.pdf>

## MILICENT WASHBURN SHINN (USA 1858-1940)



- Milicent began her studies in University of California, Berkeley, in 1874.
- Between 1882-1895 she was editor of *The Overland Monthly*, a magazine published in California in 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- In 1898 was the first woman doctorate at California University, Berkeley, for her acclaimed study on *the development of a child* (her niece), since she would make several publications\*
- During her PhD, published a popular article *The Marriage Rate of College Women*, offering a counter-analysis of the effect of higher education on women's marriage prospects. Not because less interested in marriage, but because educated women could support themselves and could be more discriminating in their choice of mates. Also suggested that some men simply disliked intellectual women, preferring the role of intellectual superior to equal helpmate.
- After PhD, Shinn gave up research to care for her sick mother, taking care of the mortgage and other duties. After her mother death, Milicent in her fifties, was in poor heart health, and did not return to academic life. She never married or had children.

\* Notes on the development of a child. Univ. of California Press (1893-99), Notes on Children's Drawings (1897), The Biography of a Baby (1900), The Development of the Senses *in the First Three Years of Childhood* (1908)



## MARY PARKER FOLLETT (EEUU 1868-1933)

- She was born in Massachusetts and graduated in *Radcliffe College* in 1898
- Called *Mother of Modern Management*, analyzed the administration from a humanist perspective. Her ideas about decentralized decisions, shared power, transformational leadership, participation and empowerment, negotiation or conflict resolution, have influenced the further development of organizational Psychology.
- Follett contributed greatly to the win-win philosophy, coining the term in her work with groups. Her approach to conflict was to embrace it as a mechanism of diversity and an opportunity to develop integrated solutions rather than simply compromising. For this reason, she was also a pioneer in the establishment of community centers.
- She published several books and, a collection of speeches and short articles, was published posthumously: Follett, Henry C. *Dynamic Administration: The Collected Papers of Mary Parker Follett*. Routledge.



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## SABINA SPIELREIN (Russia, 1885-1942)

- She was born into a complicated family and had imbalances in adolescence, an early intelligence and facility for languages. She was patient in the clinic where Carl G. Jung worked, healing and deciding to study Psychiatry in Zürich. Between 1904-11 he had an affair with Jung.

- Her PhD *The psychological content of a case of schizophrenia* uses this term for the first time. She was the 1st woman admitted by Freud in the Psychoanalytic Society of Vienna (1911), where she reads her 2nd most important work: *Destruction as the cause of the birth* (1912) and later (1922): *The origin of the infantile words dad and mom*.

- She was successful and traveled throughout Europe. In Geneva she was prof. of Psychoanalysis at the *Rousseau Institute*, analyzing among others to *Claparède* and *Piaget*. Her interest in Child Psychology led her to found the *White Nursery*, which ended up being closed, but she continued as a full prof. until her transfer to Rostov in 1926 (Stalin would ban Psychoanalysis in Russia in 1936). In 1912 she had married a doctor, Paul Scheftel; she had 2 daughters and separated in 1915. In 1942 she was shot in Rostov with her daughters.



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## MERCEDES RODRIGO BELLIDO (Spain 1891-Puerto Rico 1982)



- Mercedes graduated in Teaching in Madrid. Worked in special education until 1920, when she was awarded a scholarship to study in Europe by the Board for the Extension of Studies. At the University of Geneva she was a pupil of *Jean Piaget* and *Sabrina Spielrein*, graduating in PsychoPedagogy in 1923.

- On her return, she published a famous Spanish review of the *Claparéde tests* and worked especially in Vocational Guidance, Accident Prevention, at Juvenile Court, and as director of the *National Institute of Psychotechnique*, until her exile for politic reasons.

- Her professional consolidation will be in Colombia where she organized in Bogotá the Service of Psychology embryo of the Faculty of Psychology and in 1949 the first program of Medical Psychology.

- Exiled again to Puerto Rico, in 1950 was founding member and later president of the Association of Psychology. With 80 years he travels to Colombia to receive the *National Award of the Colombian Federation of Psychology* "for his great pioneering work".



## ZERKA TOEMAN MORENO (Dutch 1917-USA 2016)



- Zerka T. Moreno was a pioneer of Psychodrama and Group Therapy. She was born in Amsterdam, in 1932 moved to London and in 1939 to USA
- She met Dr. Jacob Levy Moreno -her later closest colleague and husband- while seeking psychiatric care for a sister. A year after they founded the Sociometric Institute on Park Avenue and established the Psychodramatic Institute ( 1942)
- They began the journal Group Psychotherapy (originally called Sociatry) in 1947, publishing a volume of research documenting their application to the social sciences of Sociatry, Psychodrama, and Sociometry. Both was been partners and co-creators for over thirty years until the death of Jacob Levy in 1974
- Zerka continued training and teaching the psychodramatic theory and method, for more than 30 years. She was been recognized as a world leader in this area.

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## CAROLYN WOOD SHERIF (USA 1922-1982)



- Social psychologist and feminist, Master of Psychology in Iowa, rejected other work to work with Muzafer Sherif - known author of *The Psychology of Social Norms*, 1936 - with whom she would publish many of her books and would marry in 1945.

- In 1958, she returned to study in Texas University for her PhD (1961), years during which also took care of its 3 children.

- Work on gender bias in research, reproduction and menstrual cycle, gender roles and identity, which considered social constructs.

- As a Visiting Prof. at Cornell University, she created the 1st Women's Studies course and participated in 1st Postgraduate Seminar on Women's Psychology (1972) at Penn State.

- Founded 35 APA Division, which later created a prize in its honor for recognize those who stand out for their teaching, orientation, research and leadership in Women's Psychology.



## CONCLUSION

- Our purpose with this work is to draw attention to the contributions of women to Psychology and the need to end the discriminations that still drag on, having been historically considered -as so aptly named by Simone de Beauvoire- second sex.
- The pioneering women we have presented - on behalf of many others - proved the worth of women, against the stereotyped beliefs about them present at the end of the nineteenth century and much of the twentieth century. But above all, these women contributed to building the foundations of present psychological science, although much of their work was forgotten for years, because the books of History of Psychology traditionally spoke almost exclusively about men.
- Feminist and gender studies are contributing to the visibility of many women pioneers in all areas of knowledge. Our debt as professionals of Psychology, is also to bring to light the women psychologists who preceded us, contributing to make visible their life and their work, so that they can serve as professional models for young generations.