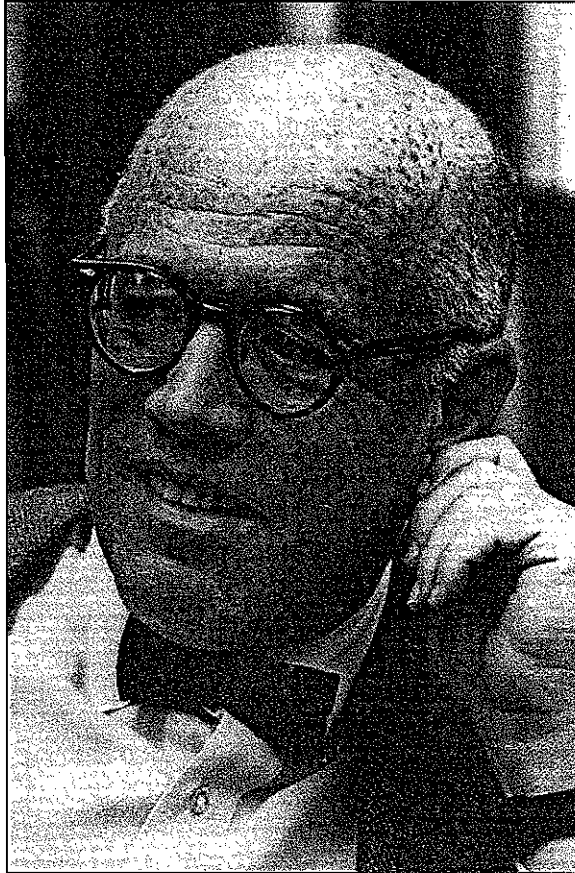

GARDNER LINDZEY



27 NOVEMBER 1920 · 4 FEBRUARY 2008

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

GARDNER'S FORMAL EDUCATION was entirely in psychology, with an A.B. (1943) and M.S. (1945) from Pennsylvania State and a Ph.D. (1949) from Harvard, with a dissertation, "An Experimental Study of Displacement of Aggression with Particular Reference to Minority Group Prejudice," directed by Gordon W. Allport. His teaching and research career began at Penn State, followed by his becoming research fellow, research associate, and assistant professor (1948–53), and lecturer and chairman, Psychological Clinic (1953–56), all at Harvard. After spending 1955–56 at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS), he returned briefly to Harvard, then became professor of psychology at Syracuse University for a year and at Minnesota for seven years.

The next big move (1964–72) was as professor, department chair, and also, starting in 1968, vice president for academic affairs at the University of Texas. Following another brief interlude at Harvard, he returned to Texas as vice president and dean of graduate studies. During this entire period, he was a fellow at the CASBS in 1955–56, 1963–64, and 1971–72, a record matched by only a few others. His career was capped by fourteen years as director of the Center, during which time he also served as adjunct professor at Texas, Courtesy Professor at Stanford, and senior adviser to the Mellon Foundation. When he retired in 1989, the Center held a festive retirement party for him. After that he experienced a prolonged physical, but not mental, decline, dying in early 2008. The Center hosted a memorial celebration (he outspokenly disdained formal memorial services) of his life and contributions on 17 April 2008.

Awards. Perhaps the most notable were his election to four major honorary societies: the American Philosophical Society (1970), American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1971), Institute of Medicine (1975), and National Academy of Sciences (NAS) (1989). He was presented with the Distinguished Scientific Contribution to Clinical Psychology Award of the American Psychological Association (APA) (1976), the Dobzhansky Memorial Award for Eminent Research in Behavior Genetics of the Behavior Genetics Association (1982), the NAS Award for Scientific Reviewing (1987), the Gold Medal Award for Enduring Contribution by a Psychologist in the Public Interest of the APA (1988), and honorary doctorates from the University of Colorado (1990) and Rutgers University (1992).

Contributions to Social Psychology and Personality. His first studies in social psychology were his dissertation and subsequent publications with Allport. His most outstanding influence on social psychology was

via brilliant editing of the monumental *Handbook of Social Psychology*, which he began working on when fresh out of graduate school. He continued to edit it for fifty years. A spectacular achievement, the *Handbook* has gone through five editions, all co-edited with others, including Elliot Aronson, Daniel Gilbert, and Susan Fisk. The *Handbook* set the agenda for an entire field. In addition, along with Calvin Hall, he wrote *Theories of Personality* (1957), which became perhaps the most influential textbook in personality theory in the history of the field.

Contributions to Behavioral Genetics. As with other fields where Gardner played a major role, here, too, it was primarily a catalytic one. With D. D. Thiessen he wrote *Contributions to Behavior-Genetic Analysis: The Mouse as Prototype*. In addition to receiving the Dobzhansky Memorial Award, he served as president of the Society for the Study of Social Biology from 1978 to 1981.

Other Expository Contributions to Behavioral Sciences. In addition to his contributions to social psychology, he originated the idea of a revision of the famed S. S. Stevens (1951) *Handbook of Experimental Psychology*. He recruited Richard C. Atkinson, the late Richard Herrnstein, and Luce to be co-editors. It appeared in 1988 in two volumes, titled *Stevens' Handbook of Experimental Psychology*. At much the same time, he also began editing *A History of Psychology in Autobiography*, 1989, vol. 8, which he continued to edit until his death. That is the field's chief compendium of the personal histories of its most influential scientists during the second half of the twentieth century.

Professional Leadership Fostering the Behavioral and Social Sciences. In addition to his prominence as a scientist and expositor, Gardner was one of his generation's most gifted academic leaders and administrators. He devoted more of his time and energies to furthering the social and behavioral sciences than almost anyone of his era. In this work he displayed an uncommon talent both for the administration of science and for good judgment. He managed the infrastructures of behavioral science with effectiveness and grace. Moreover, his legendary powers as a connector made those infrastructures work. As Eric Wanner, president of the Russell Sage Foundation, recently told the *New York Times*, Gardner's "main contribution was to organize psychology, make connections between people and create a more effective scientific infrastructure."

At base, this work was rooted in his deep commitment to basic science in the behavioral and social sciences. He did not disdain applied research and scholarship, but he believed that the best practical work—the best application and policy—came from the basic science and scholarship. This is the vision that guided him. It was an inclusive vision—all good research was welcome—and he was a tolerant man. But the enabling and disseminating of basic science was his resolute mission.

He accomplished this in several ways. First, as noted above, he served in numerous administrative roles. He was the chair of three different psychology departments—at the University of Minnesota, the University of Texas, and Harvard University. He was a vice president for academic affairs at the University of Texas, and he was the longest-serving director of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences—from 1975 to 1989. His commitment to basic science, his talent for creating a social atmosphere conducive to the interdisciplinary goals of the Center, and his success at garnering resources, created a golden era for the Center and consolidated an institutional culture that has lasted to this day. His leadership was extraordinary, matched by few others in the behavioral and social sciences.

Second, Gardner was a leader not only in the profession of psychology, but in all of the behavioral and social sciences. Gardner was president of the American Psychological Association (1966–67), American Psychological Foundation (1974–76), and Society for the Study of Social Biology (1978–81). And he served on numerous scientific advisory boards and chaired major policy committees in the social and behavioral sciences. For example, Gardner chaired the National Academy of Sciences committee reviewing the legalization of marijuana—an issue that put the scientific community in the middle of very powerful political pressures. As was already mentioned, he also won the National Academy of Sciences Award for Scientific Reviewing. It is likely that he directed more site visits than anyone of his generation.

In these various ways, Gardner did as much to further the social and behavioral sciences as anyone ever did. His was a career of great influence, but above all, a career of great generosity to the people and to the structures that serve the science of human behavior.

PERSONAL LIFE

Gardner was born 27 November 1920 in Wilmington, Delaware. He and Andrea Lewis were married one day after his twenty-fourth birthday. Five children resulted: Jeffrey (1945), Leslie (1948), Gardner (1950), David (1953), and Jonathan (1959). Andrea died in early 1984, while he was still director of the CASBS. Some years later he and Lynn Carlsmith became close companions for the rest of his life.

Retirement years. Gardner's active athletic life, until almost the end, reflected his earlier athletic prowess. He was on his high school wrestling team, and later on the wrestling team at Penn State as an undergraduate. In his later years, he played tennis religiously, and did some other exercises less so. For more than a decade after his retirement he

could be found every Sunday morning on the tennis courts, and sometimes on other days as well.

Gardner was a great host for all occasions. His affability was one of the important attributes of his successful role as director of CASBS. The many social occasions he hosted supported his efforts to organize and foster productive activities for a wide circle of research groups in the behavioral and social sciences. Finally, it would be a mistake not to mention Gardner's wonderful, ironic style of conversation. He had a delightful way with words, not only in writing but also in talking. He loved to answer a question with a side remark about some aspect of the questioner—funny, witty, and, at the same time, quite appropriate. Even during his extended illness in his last couple of years, he could not resist an ironic remark about his situation. A typical quote would be, "I don't like my life, but I'm getting used to it." This concerned the hospice where he spent his last couple of years; he not only said it, but he also meant it. Even though his physical condition in this last period was not the best, he returned to work and continued editing manuscripts almost until the last day.

Elected 1979; Secretary 1993–99; Social Sciences Sabbatical Fellows Panel 1998–2003

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