



Psychology A01: Chapter 1, Lecture 1

# There's No Soul in Psychology



# The Relevance of Soul

- To pursue something scientifically one must first assume that the behaviour of that thing conforms to some sort of natural laws, laws that can eventually be understood, specified, and used to predict future behaviour
- “Souls” are spiritual entities and, as such, they DO NOT conform to natural laws ... given this, trying to understand them via a scientific process is pure folly

# Back in the day ...

- Magic, Falling Rocks, Volcano Bound Virgins ... and a concept called animism



# What about humans?

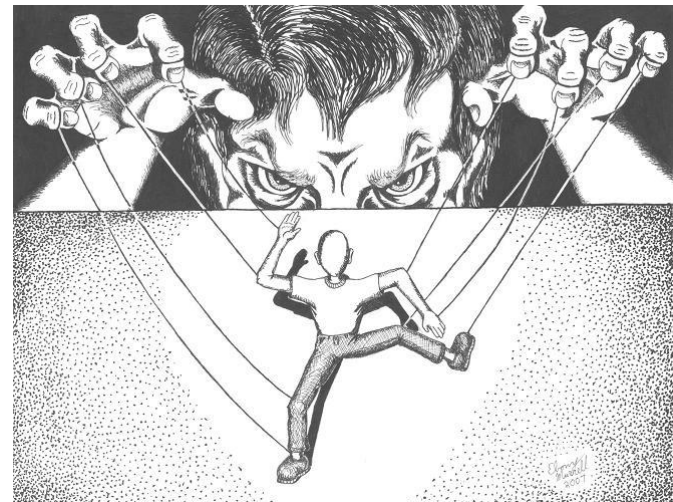
- If a computer can do what a human can do, is the machine intelligent? Or is the human not?
- And what about soul?



# Dualism: A Foot in the Door



Rene Descartes (1596 – 1650)



Cartesian Dualism  
A machine, controlled by a soul

# Allowing others to barge through!



John Locke (1632-1704)

Mind is Machine  
La Table Rassa  
Empiricism



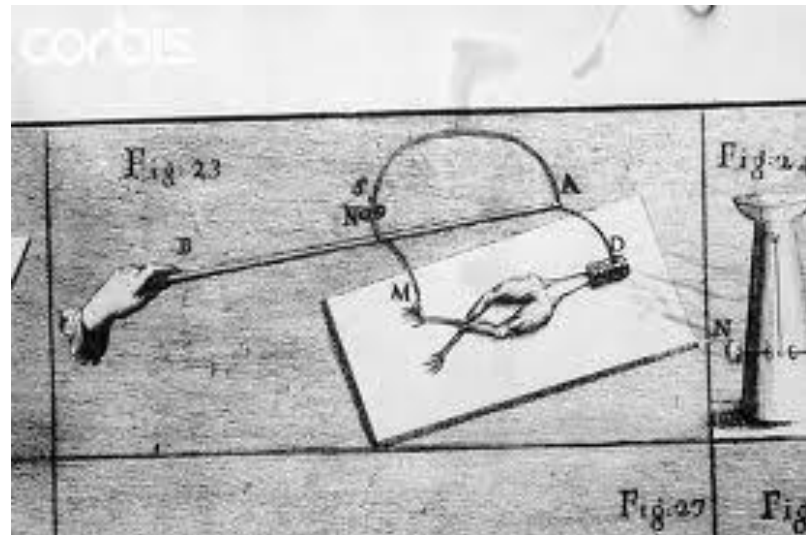
James Mill (1773 – 1836)

Materialism!

# Why Believe Any of This?



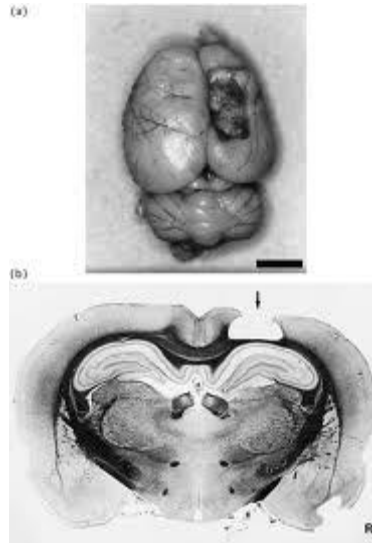
Luigi Galvani (1737-1798)



# And it didn't stop there ...



Johannes Müller (1801-1858)  
Doctrine of Specific Nerve  
Energies



Pierre Florens (1774-1867)  
Ablation Studies



Paul Broca (1824-1880)  
Localization of Language

# And so the stage is set ... for Act II

If human behaviour is at least partly, if not totally, determined by natural laws ... then it should be possible to study it scientifically

But by the mid 1800s, nobody was doing that yet



What was the catalyst? What drew the would-be psychologist to the stage to play their roles. Tune in next lecture!