

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-56585-1 - Psychologists on the March: Science, Practice, and Professional Identity in America, 1929-1969

James H. Capshew

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Psychologists on the March argues that World War II had a profound impact on the modern psychological profession in America. Before the war, psychology was viewed largely as an academic discipline, drawing its ideology and personnel from the laboratory. After the war, it was increasingly seen as a source of theory and practice to deal with mental health issues. With the support of the federal government, the field entered a prolonged period of exponential growth accompanied by major changes in the institutional structure of the field that spread to include the epistemological foundations of psychology.

The book is the first sustained study of this important era in American psychology. Moving back and forth between collective and individual levels of analysis, it provides a narrative that weaves together the internal politics and demography of psychology in relation to the cultural environment. It is based on extensive archival research and includes discussions of the wartime reformation of the American Psychological Association, the role of gender politics, the rise of reflexivity, and the popularization of psychology, among other topics. A series of vignettes focused around the career of Edwin G. Boring, the noted psychologist-historian, provides grounding for the larger story.

James H. Capshew is an associate professor in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at Indiana University.

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Subcommittee on Survey and Planning, Emergency Committee in Psychology, National Research Council, 1942. *Top row, left to right:* Richard M. Elliott, Ernest R. Hilgard, Edwin G. Boring. *Bottom row:* Edgar A. Doll, Robert M. Yerkes, Alice I. Bryan, Calvin P. Stone. (Carl R. Rogers is not pictured.) Photograph courtesy of Ernest R. Hilgard.

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*Dedicated to those who showed me
the scholar's way,
at Indiana University,*

Thomas F. Gieryn
Eliot Hearst
Herman B Wells

and, at the University of Pennsylvania,

Mark B. Adams
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*Like all good teachers
they taught me more than they could ever know.*

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Stand therefore,
having your loins girt about with truth,
and having on the breastplate of righteousness. . . .
Above all, taking the shield of faith.

Ephesians 6:14, 16

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Acknowledgments

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Abbreviations

ABCP	Advisory Board on Clinical Psychology
ACMH	Army Center of Military History, Washington, D.C.
AGO	Adjutant General's Office Records, National Archives
AIB	Alice I. Bryan Papers, New York City
APA	American Psychological Association Papers, Library of Congress
CML	Chauncey M. Louttit Papers, Yale University Archives
EGB	Edwin G. Boring Papers, Harvard University Archives
GWA	Gordon W. Allport Papers, Harvard University Archives
JGM	James Grier Miller Papers, La Jolla, California
NCWP	National Council of Women Psychologists
PAL	Psycho-Acoustic Laboratory Records, Harvard University Archives
RMY	Robert M. Yerkes Papers, Yale University Archives
RRS	Robert R. Sears Papers, Stanford University Archives
WVB	Walter V. Bingham Papers, Carnegie-Mellon University Archives