


Module 4: States of Consciousness

Topic 2 Content: Opposing Theories on Hypnosis

Introduction

Opposing Theories on Hypnosis

Introduction



In this interactivity, click the vertical tabs to view the opposing theories on hypnosis.

- Divided Consciousness Theory
- Social Influence Theory
- Summary

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Divided Consciousness Theory

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Divided Consciousness Theory

Divided Consciousness Theory

The Divided Consciousness Theory argues that hypnosis is truly an altered state of consciousness that differs from waking consciousness. It is based on the idea that hypnosis causes a split in awareness. Those who agree with this theory believe that during hypnosis, the mind is able to split away from the conscious mind in a state of dissociation. Pioneer hypnosis researcher Ernest Hilgard argues that hypnosis is not unlike other examples of everyday dissociation. For instance, daydreaming while listening to a teacher's lecture and losing one's focus while reading are examples of how the mind splits daily.



Social Influence Theory

Summary

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Social Influence Theory

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Divided Consciousness Theory

Social Influence Theory

Social Influence Theory



Contrary to the Divided Consciousness Theory, the Social Influence Theory does not maintain that hypnosis leads to an altered state of consciousness. Rather, this theory believes that hypnotic subjects behave like good actors, going along with the role they have agreed to play: the role of a hypnotized person. These theorists point to research that revealed subjects only carry out hypnotist's suggestions if others are watching.

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Summary

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Divided Consciousness Theory	Social Influence Theory	Summary	<h4>Summary</h4> <p>Take a moment to think about the information you learned on the <i>Divided Consciousness Theory</i> and the <i>Social Influence Theory</i>. Which one makes more sense to you? Why?</p> 
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Take a moment to think about the information you learned on the *Divided Consciousness Theory* and the *Social Influence Theory*. Which one makes more sense to you? Why?