

# Personality theories

[Psychology](#)



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Personality Theories By: Theorist Orientation Key motivational forces Model of personality structure View of personality development

Sigmund Freud

Psychodynamic

Reform of the insane asylum

Interest in abnormal psychological states

Id, Ego, and Superego

Personality develops through a series of stages, each characterized by a certain internal psychological conflict

Carl Gustav Jung

Humanistic

Sexuality, importance of ones creative forces and development towards wholeness

Psyche

A persons behavior comes from the individuals inborn tendencies to use their minds in different ways

Alfred Adler

Humanistic

Interested in the need to understand individuals within their social context.

The need for humans to belong and feel significant

Inferiority and Birth order

Every person is born with some sense of inferiority as evidenced by how weak a new born is

Karen Horney

Psychodynamic

Sex is not a governing factor in personality.

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Social and cultural conditions have a powerful effect on later personality

Unconscious mind.

Interpersonal relationships and societal factors contributes to mental development.

Environment of childhood contributed to personality development

Erik Erickson

Psychodynamics

Adaptive and creative characteristic of ego

Ego

There is still plenty of room for development throughout a persons life.

Adolescence is the crucial stage for developing a persons identity

Erick Erickson

Erick Erickson works covers psychosocial stages extensively. He was an ego psychologist who emphasized the role of culture and society. Erick argued that ego develops as it successfully provides solutions that are not social in nature. He came up with a lifespan model that took five stages up to 18 years and three other stages after that. According to him, the adolescent period is crucial for developing a persons identity. Besides, he argued that personality develops in a predetermined order, and builds upon each previous stage (McLeod, 2013).

References

McLeod, S. (2013). Erik Erikson. Simply Psychology .

McLeod, S. (2008). Psychology Perspectives. Simply psychology .

Robinson, D. N. (1995). An Intellectual History of Psychology. Univ of Wisconsin Press,.