

History of Black Psychology

Francis Sumner

First Black to earn a PhD in Psychology in 1920 from Clark University in Massachusetts

- Father of Black Psychology
- Became chair of Howard University's Psychology Department



Inez Beverly Prosser

First Black woman to earn her PhD Psychology

Dissertation: The Non-Academic Development of Negro Children in Mixed and Segregated Schools

Found that Black children fared better in segregated schools.



Mammie and Kenneth Clark

Doll studies (1940s)

Dr. Kenneth Clark was first Black American to be APA president (1970) (One of three)



Reginald Jones

Wrote “Black Psychology” (1972)

First to be published on the topic



Robert Williams

Specializes in Areas of Cultural Bias Testing and Racism

Founding Member of ABPsi.



Margaret Beale Spencer

Specializes in the development of Black children and adolescents

Phenomenological Variant of Ecological Systems Theory (PVEST)



Janet Helms

Research focuses on Black/White Racial Identity Development

Created the Model of White Racial Identity



Joseph White

Published “Toward a Black Psychology” in
Ebony Magazine

Founding member of ABPsi



Linda James Myers

Specializes in psychology and culture, moral
and spiritual identity development and healing
patterns of psychotherapeutic processes.



Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi)

Created because Black psychologists felt that the American Psychological Association (APA) was non-supportive and upheld racist positions regarding racial-ethnic minority concerns.