

CENTER FOR COGNITIVE SCIENCE

University at Buffalo, State University of New York

Wednesday, October 3, 2001

280 Park Hall
North Campus
2:00 pm –4:00 pm

From "Thing and Medium" to Ecological Psychology: A Tale of Two Research Programs

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In the middle decades of the 20th century, two psychologists -- James Gibson working in perception, Roger Barker working in social development - separately proposed an ecological psychology that was a radical break from standard approaches in their respective areas. Although each employed the label 'ecological psychology' to describe their contributions, their proposed programs were distinctly dissimilar from each other, both with respect to their problem focus and also with regard to their level of analysis. In keeping with these notable differences, theory and research in each program proceeded independently. And yet, in spite of their notable differences, each program embraced as one of its foundational ideas Fritz Heider's (1926) highly original analysis of 'thing and medium.'

This presentation will identify some of the distinctive and significant contributions of each ecological program, examine their common ties to Heider's seminal work, and offer an integrated view of an ecological psychology that functions at both the level of individual-environment interaction and collective social processes.

**Refreshments will be available
Everyone is welcome to attend!**

For information please call the Cognitive Science Office at (716) 645-3794 or check
<http://wings.buffalo.edu/cogsci>