

Correction of the Abstract of
METHODOLOGICAL BEHAVIORISM, CAUSAL CHAINS, AND CAUSAL FORKS

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B.F. Skinner argued that in a causal chain from an environmental cause, E, to an inner state, I, and then to a behavior, B, the prediction, explanation, and control of B can be achieved better by focusing on the environmental cause, E, than by focusing on the inner state, I. In particular, he claims that the observable relationship of E to B is not affected by whether the inner state, I, exists. The present paper evaluates Skinner's claims and then shifts from a causal chain to a different causal arrangement, ~~wherein two environmental states, E1 and E2, each causally contribute to a behavior, B. In this case, postulating an inner state, I, that is caused by both E1 and E2, and which causes I, affects one's predictions concerning the relationship between environment and behavior~~ wherein an environmental state E causally contributes to two behaviors B1 and B2. In this case, postulating an inner state, I, that is caused by E, and which causes both B1 and B2, affects one's predictions concerning the relationship between environment and behavior.

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