



1989.11.14

Professor Jaak Panksepp
Bowling Green State University

Dear Dr Panksepp

I was very gratified by your evaluation of my paper for New Ideas in Psychology. Since there is such a large overlap between your views and mine, I will have little to answer to it.

I agree completely with your evaluation of the negative role that radical behaviorism has played over the past few decades: see the enclosed xerox copy taken from my Philosophy of Psychology (N.Y.: Springer-Verlag, 1987).

I do not disagree at all with your view concerning the importance of wired-in circuits, particularly for the explanation of affect. See my book The Mind-Body Problem (Pergamon, 1980) and the enclosed xerox copies of a few pages of the previously cited book. By the way, unfortunately I came across your excellent BBS paper of 1982 only after the publication of Philosophy of Psychology. But if there is a 2nd edition of this book it will contain the following addendum to p. 170, right after the last sentence in the 2nd paragraph:

In fact, the basic emotions, such as fear, panic, rage, and expectancy, seem to be processes occurring in distinct hard-wired (genetically determined) neural circuits running through the hypothalamus. (See Panksepp 1982.)

Fortunately, although I had not seen your paper I placed affect in the 2nd place, right after movement, among the basic functions, along with sensation, attention, and memory. Learning, perception, conception, cognition, intention and consciousness I took to be higher functions, i.e. functions of the plastic regions of the brain.

Kindly include my name in your mailing list.

Sincerely



Mario Bunge

