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Trends. Wanted: An Internet Psychology

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Professional psychologists have posited some psychological consequences of Internet use based on empirical and experimental methods. For example, Internet use may induce loneliness and depression, decrease time spent with family and friends, increase time spent working at home, and increase aggression and action orientation when employed as the communication medium of group therapy. Often posited but less researched by other social scientists are putative consequences of the Internet for political socialization including political conceptualization and praxis. Infrequently posited by any class of researchers is the likelihood that the very epistemologies of the psychological and social sciences may prove wanting in the exploration of Internet psychology. The Internet era may even prove resistant to effective psychological and social analysis--as other communications revolutions have for varying lengths of time.

Internet psychology is a target of incredible opportunity for political psychologists. Let's seize the time or be seized by it. (See Beckles, C. (1997). Black struggles in cyberspace: Cyber-segregation and cyber-Nazis. *Western Journal of Black Studies*, 21, 12-19; Group therapy through an Internet chat room: Implications for virtual politics. (September 10, 1999). *IBPP*, 7(10); McKenna, K. Y. A., & Bargh, J. A. (2000). Plan 9 from cyberspace: The implications of the Internet for personality and social psychology. *Personality & Social Psychology Review*, 4, 57-75; More on the psychology of the Internet: Ignoring the old for the new? (February 25, 2000). *IBPP*, 8(8); Internet addiction as diagnostic addiction. (September 3, 1999). *IBPP*, 7(9); Senior, C., & Smith, M. (1999). The internet...A possible research tool? *Psychologist*, 12, 442-444; The Internet and political campaigns: Some early considerations. (December 11, 1998). *IBPP*, 5(23); The political psychology of the psychology of the Internet. (February 18, 2000). *IBPP*, 8(7); Two schools of thought about the political psychology of the Internet. (February 4, 2000). *IBPP*, 8(5).) (Keywords: Internet Psychology.)