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Preface

This is a new history of psychology, drawing on half a century of research, from the perspective of a historian of science. It is a critical history in the sense that it looks at psychology ‘from the outside’: it understands psychological beliefs and activity historically and does not take a psychological way of thought for granted. The book is for everyone interested in human nature and in the relations of the sciences and the humanities. I also hope students and psychologists of all kinds will find stimulus here, though it is not a textbook. Its coverage is unusually full. I write distinctively about the variety of psychological activity and the intellectual and social worlds of which it has been part. The history of psychology covers a field without clear boundaries, and I try to do justice to this. It is possible, though, to read chapters separately.

The book has an origin in an earlier and larger study, *The Fontana (or Norton) History of the Human Sciences*, published some fifteen years ago and out of print. This new book is different, with a sharper focus on psychology and much new material. In places, I have rewritten and brought up to date earlier material where that best suited my purpose; and I have also rewritten material taken from a version of the Fontana/Norton history translated and published in Russia.

I keep references to a minimum, listing sources for quotations at the end of the book. In a note on reading at the end of each chapter I suggest some material (mostly relatively recent), not including primary sources, which I find interesting, and where absolutely necessary, I indicate sources important for the discussion. As psychology has always been an international undertaking, I give titles of primary sources in the original language, along with a translation or the title of publication in English. As for the names of institutions or positions, I use capitals conservatively (names are often not in English or have changed over the years).

A book like this is really a collective work, albeit written in one voice. I build on the scholarship of many people over many years. It is my business to draw on a multiplicity of published work as well as on my own thinking, and it is simply not realistic to list sources comprehensively (it would be a book in itself). But I would here like gratefully to acknowledge my debt. I hope this book shapes collective scholarship into a larger picture. In England, Alan Collins, Jim Good, Graham Richards and Sonu Shamdasani have especially supported me in such a project, along with Ben Hayes at Reaktion Books, who launched it. I have written the book in Moscow, after taking early retirement from the history department at Lancaster University in the UK, and a little bit of the Russian influence, not least that of Irina Sirotkina, is evident, in addition to all the support which Lancaster gave me earlier for teaching and research.