

Donald Hebb



1904-1985

Biography

- Born in Chester, Nova Scotia on July 22, 1904
- Home-schooled by mother (who was influenced by Maria Montessori) until the age of 8
- Graduated with a B.A. from Dalhousie University
- Held multiple teaching and farming jobs until going into psychology at McGill University
- Studied under Karl Lashley at the University of Chicago and Harvard, where he earned his PhD
- Married 3 times, 2 daughters with his second marriage
- Died in Nova Scotia in 1985

Major Contributions

- The Organization of Behavior (1949)
 - Hebbian Theory
 - "When an axon of cell A is near enough to excite cell B and repeatedly or persistently takes part in firing it, some growth process or metabolic change takes place in one or both cells such that A's efficiency, as one of the cells firing B, is increased"
 - "cells that fire together, wire together."

Major Contributions (continued)

- The Adult Comprehension Test and The Picture Anomaly Test
 - Frontal lobes were only instrumental in learning early on in life
- "Nature vs Nurture"
 - Brain damage in children vs adults