

Birth order and prominence in the History of Psychology.

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AB Examined birth order (BO) information for 79 prominent psychologists. The History of Psychology in Autobiography series (C. Murchison, 1930; G. Lindzey, 1980) was used as an indicator of prominence and a primary source for family data and was supplemented by biographies of other historically important individuals. Nearly 56% of Ss were either 1st-borns or only children. Using more selective criteria (e.g., American Psychological Association presidency, election to the National Academy of Sciences) did not change the proportion of 1st-born to later born. Results demonstrate a BO effect among prominent figures in the history of psychology and suggest that BO may be one factor leading to eventual success.