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## Albert Bandura

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**Bandura, Albert** (1925–). Known for his development of a social learning theory of personality and abnormal behavior. Bandura grew up in the hamlet of Mundare in northern Alberta. His undergraduate study was done at the University of British Columbia, and at his graduation in 1949 he received the Bolocan Award in psychology.

Influenced by the presence of Kenneth Spence at the University of Iowa, Bandura chose that institution for graduate study. The Iowa program emphasized theories of learning and rigorous experimentation. Following completion (1952) of his Ph.D. in clinical psychology under the direction of Arthur Benton, Bandura took a postdoctoral internship at the Wichita Guidance Center. He joined the Stanford University faculty in 1954 and has remained there since, except for one year at the Center for Advanced Studies in Behavioral Science.

When Bandura went to Stanford, he brought with him interest in learning and in abnormal behavior. Under the influence of Robert Sears he began investigation of social learning and aggression with his first doctoral student, Richard Walters, culminating in their books on aggression and personality. Further studies of observational learning and symbolic modeling led to several more books. More recent work involves self-regulatory mechanisms and self-precepts of efficacy. He is currently involved in study of the mechanisms by which self-referent thought mediates action and affective arousal.

Bandura's professional activities and awards have been numerous. Among the more prominent ones are serving on the editorial boards of about 20 journals, editing the Social Learning Theory series for Prentice-Hall, receiving a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Distinguished Scientist Award from the American Psychological Association's Division 12 in 1972, being elected president of the association in 1974, receiving the J. McKeen Cattell award in 1977, and being elected president of the Western Psychological Association in 1981.

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See SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY; MODELING; SELF-EFFICACY.