

James A. Harold

# The Philosophical Dimension of Psychology

*A Beginner's Guide*

COGNITIVE SCIENCE AND PSYCHOLOGY

## About the author

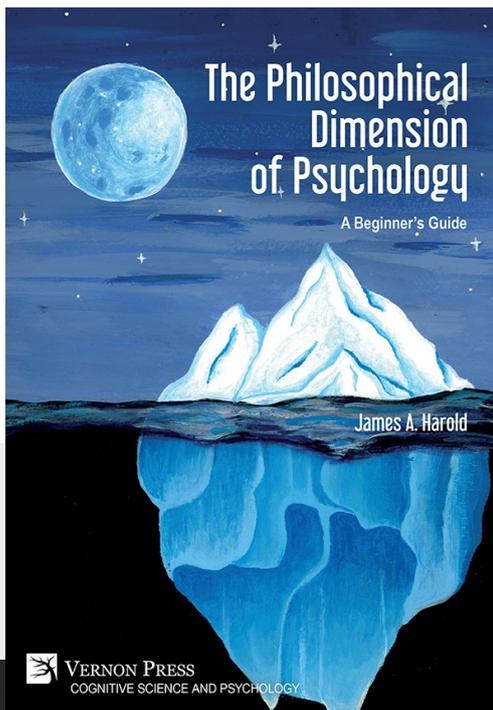
**James A. Harold** is Professor of Philosophy at Franciscan University of Steubenville. Professor Harold graduated from Pepperdine University (M.A., Psychology), University of Dallas (M.A. Philosophy), with a doctorate in Philosophy from the International Academy of Philosophy. He is the author of two books: *An Introduction to the Love of Wisdom* (UPA, 2004) and *Rationality Within Modern Psychological Theory: Integrating Philosophy and Empirical Science* (Lexington, 2016). Harold, with his wife Teresa, are living in Steubenville, Ohio. They have four children and twenty-four grandchildren.

## Summary

Both students and professors typically assume that the content of introductory psychology textbooks, which are empirical in nature, are identical to psychology proper. Yet, what is surprising is how many interesting psychological insights can be found in both philosophy and literature that are often not found in psychology texts. Such insights are clearly psychological in nature, yet they do not go back to any empirical investigation. It seems that basic psychology textbooks—typically providing the basis for undergraduate and graduate psychology programs—represent only one important dimension of psychology: empirical psychology. But there is no simple, co-extensive identity between psychology and empirical psychology.

'The Philosophical Dimension of Psychology: A Beginner's Guide' begins with an investigation of what constitutes the subject matter of psychology, which demonstrates the aspects of psychological reality that are ignored, missed or at times even theoretically denied by mainline contemporary psychology (if they lack an empirical warrant). Such matters include inner conscious experience, the world of intrinsic value, as well as the higher, uniquely personal dimension of human nature (that is, of intellect and will).

This book, therefore, offers a more complete survey of the entire sphere of psychological reality, which could provide the context for more properly interpreting empirical psychological phenomena. For example, should we understand psychological conditioning principles within a broader context of personal freedom? Is a person more rightly conceived in a psychologically immanent way, that is, oriented simply toward the fulfillment of instincts and needs, or is there as well a transcendent orientation, oriented to truth and meaning? Should we understand psychology simply from the point of view of efficient causation, or do we need to also take into account final causation? It will be of interest to psychology students of either undergraduate or graduate level and of great use to those with no prior knowledge of philosophy.



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