

# A Review of *Is Psychology Based on a Fallacy?*

James F. Welles<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Independent Researcher, USA

Correspondence: James F. Welles, Independent Researcher, USA.

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## Abstract

The state motto of Florida should be “The state where no one does his job”, and there is unfortunately abundant evidence that this assertion is justified. It is a state in which the police break the law. The prosecutors go after the victim not the villain. Lawyers look after themselves rather than their clients. Settlements usually include a non-disclosure clause designed to protect the guilty. The media make up stories rather than present the facts. Cape Kennedy-based NASA has two major malfunctions/disasters to its credit. Only the physicians appear to abide by their commitment to provide the best care possible to their patients, although dentists have prevailed upon the state legislature to require procedures like x-rays which are not necessarily needed by the patient, but they certainly build up the bill.<sup>1</sup>

**Keywords:** freedom, mobs, tyranny, misinformation, errors

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## 1. Discussion

This phenomenon had its antecedents in pre-Revolutionary America with the *Continental Association*, a system of surveillance and persecution by which Americans watched and judged the words and actions of their fellow citizens.<sup>2</sup> Men were legally punished for not breaking the law and tarred and feathered for drinking tea. The irony is that such coercive measures were employed in the cause of liberty—e.g., presumably in the cause of freedom of speech, in New York in 1775, mobs beat men who refused to curse the king.<sup>3</sup> That is, people were compelled to be free through a system of suspicion, fear and terror comparable to that of the Spanish Inquisition.<sup>4</sup> Loyalists who were driven out or escaped from America referred to it as the land of oppression and tyranny.<sup>5</sup> Unfortunately, there is a parallel in the scientific

community in which the Washington-based American Psychological Association publishes misinformation and fails even to ask the source of the error to provide a citation or documentation for claim made in print.<sup>6</sup>

Perhaps all the expectations we have of the way people are supposed to behave are based on studies conducted in laboratories in which subjects behave rationally rather than humanly. We need a science of human behavior which reflects what people actually do rather than what they should do if they obey the rules. Certainly no one would predict the behavior described in the examples cited here from studies published in the psychological literature. Such studies would lead one to expect the police would abide by the law while enforcing it and welcome public scrutiny of their actions. Lawyers would be ethical, and the Florida Bar

Ethics committee would answer the phone and mail in an open, responsible manner, but the job of the Florida Bar Ethics Committee is to protect unethical lawyers from legitimate complaints of unethical conduct. The media might forgo fiction in favor of facts, politically correct or otherwise. After all, if we do not know what is broken, we cannot fix it, but one of the rules of society is that no one is allowed to say what is actually going on, so whatever is broken remains unfixed. Although it is anecdotal, a cyberfriend of mine is a former southern belle whose father incestuously imposed himself upon her from the age of six until her first period. On the other hand, her mother slapped her for once mentioning the word "Sex". After all, the family had standards.

## 2. Conclusion

"Should" appears to be the missing principle in all the example provided, with people routinely doing not what they should but what they should not. Perhaps we need a science of "Should".

We now need a spirit which not only expresses but transcends the technoculture which produced us. We need an enlightened spirituality which retains the means for us to reach beyond ourselves.

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<sup>1</sup> In this regard, they are simply like other states which do the same.

<sup>2</sup> Hooock, H. (2017). *Scars of Independence*. Crown; New York. p. 28.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 37.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p. 33.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. p. 37.

<sup>6</sup> Welles, J. (Aug. 12, 2002). An Error Uncorrected: A Case Study in Intellectual Corruption. *Ethics in Science and Environmental Politics*. 12-14. <http://www.in/res.com/articles/esep/2002/esep.welles.pdf>.