

About the creator



William T. (Bill) Powers was in the Navy from age 17 to 19 (1944 to 1946), which is where he learned electronics, had his first experiences with repairing and maintaining various kinds of servomechanisms, and learned some basic feedback theory. He went into college in 1947 and graduated from Northwestern University in 1950 with a BS in physics and mathematics.

With a keen interest in human affairs, he began his development of Perceptual Control Theory (PCT) in the early 1950s by applying control engineering and natural science to the subject of psychology.

For many years he was chief systems engineer at the department of Astronomy at Northwestern University. He has invented and designed a number of electronic instruments.

William T. Powers's publications include *Behavior: the Control of Perception*, *Making Sense of Behavior*, anthologies *Living Control Systems I* and *II*, textbook *Introduction to Modern Psychology – The Control Theory View* (with Richard J. Robertson), computer tutorial *Living Control Systems III: The Fact of Control*, and numerous articles on psychology, astronomy and electronics.

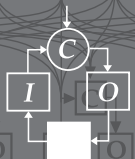
About the books and papers in this volume

Perceptual Control Theory, PCT, results from one man's curiosity, expertise, creativity and determination. The articles and books sampled in this volume would not have been written, certainly not this way, if it were not for William T. (Bill) Powers's seminal insight and tireless efforts across more than fifty years.

This Book of Readings is designed to be a broad-based sampling of the literature on Perceptual Control Theory, PCT, its scientific nature and some applications.

The PCT explanation for what behavior is, how it works and what it accomplishes is well documented. It lays a foundation for a new natural science and can handle behavioral phenomena within a single testable concept of how living systems work. You can demonstrate it yourself with functioning computer simulations.

Whether you are interested in resolving chronic psychological stress, understanding what is going on with an inconsolable baby, getting a different take on what emotions are, resolving conflict in general, becoming a better parent, manager, sales person, friend or lover, you will find fascinating insight when you review these readings and study this new explanatory concept with care.



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