# **CONSUMER PSYCHOLOGY**

THE 'DISRUPTIVE' IMPACT OF PSYCHOLOGY:

FROM BEHAVIOURAL ECONOMICS TO MARKETING AND PUBLIC POLICY



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## **CONSUMER PSYCHOLOGY**

consumer psychology is about the understanding of how and why people, both as individuals and groups, engage in consumption activities, with products and brands, and how and why they are affected by them.

**1960** - establishment of the Consumer Psychology division in the American Psychological Association.





## AS ANY APPLIED SCIENCE IS INTERDISCIPLINARY

insights from socio-cultural studies, economics, communication and management.

In the Principles of Psychology, James (1840) discusses the relationship between personal SELF-CONCEPT AND MATERIAL POSSESSIONS:

"...a man's Self is the sum total of all that he can call his, not only his body and his psychic powers but his clothes and his house, his wife and children, his ancestors and friends, his reputation and works...If they wax and prosper, he feels thriumphant, if they dwindle and die away, he feels cast down (James, (1890), 1950, 291-292).



A
Beautiful
Woman
deserves a
Beautiful
Home~

A lovely woman, like a precious gem, looks best when in the proper setting. A cheerful, attractive, wellpainted home is to a beautiful woman what a Tiflany setting is to the finest diamond.



Consult the Devoe Authorised Agent In your community about the Devoe Home Improvement Finn which will enable you to paint your house—feated and compaint your house—feated and compaint your house. This Finnentia Finn 123% less expense to the preperty owner than any timiler plan the paint industry. Or, write oa.





KEEP your home bright, cheerful and inspiring with Devoe Paint and Varnish Products—the oldest, most complete and highest quality line in America.

Look for the sign of the Devoe Authorized Agent in your community! He will give you advice on paint or painting worthy of Devoe's 171 years' experience.

Devoe & Raynolds Co., Inc., 101 Fulton Street, New York
Branches in Leading Cities

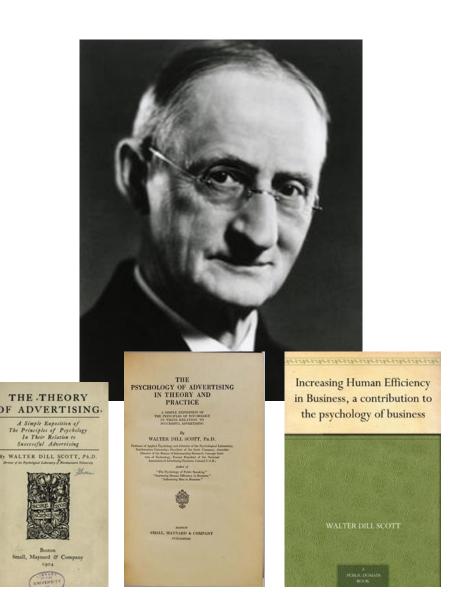


## Walter Dill Scott (1869 – 1955)

The first to apply psychology to management and advertising

#### ADVERTISING AND HUMAN SUGGESTIBILITY:

- Scott argued that because consumers often do not act rationally they can be easily influenced.
- In his book "The Theory of Advertising' (1903) he produced a number of laws and principles that advertisers should have followed, including **REPETITION, RECENCY AND VIVIDNESS**.
- In his most famous book "The Psychology of Advertising' (1908) he presented an integrated perspective inclusive of irrational aspects such as INSTINCTS AND EMOTIONS TOGETHER WITH ATTENTION investigated with various methods including longitudinal observations, qualitative and quantitative reports.
- Founder of the first very successful business psychology firm (1920)



## REPETITION

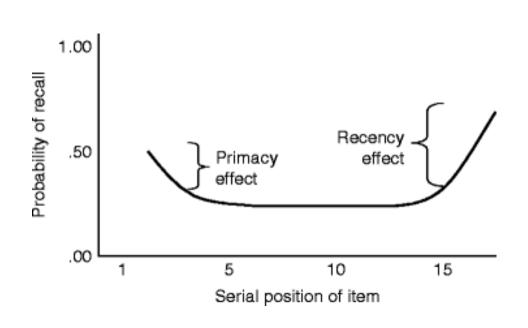
Repetition can build brand familiarity, increasing attention and memory. However, to be effective, repetition must be used in the right measure: consumers can become so tired of an ad that they tune it out or actively avoid the product.





## PRIMACY AND RECENCY

Attention span and Memory explain both primacy and recency effects. We tend to remember more and better items presented at the beginning or at the end of a list. The recency effect has been seen to affect judgements significantly. People evaluates things based on the last information stored in memory.







Dolce & Gabbana fashion show cancelled in Shanghai following racist remarks, Nov 2018

The two fashion designers apologize





## **VIVIDNESS**

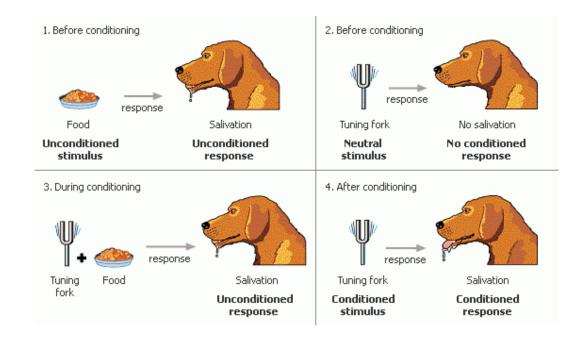
messages with images and simple wording are proven to be more effective

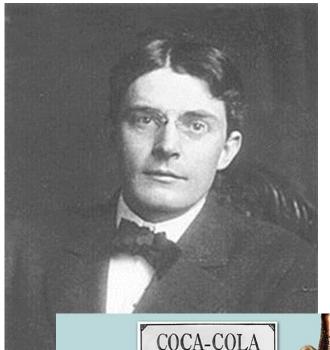




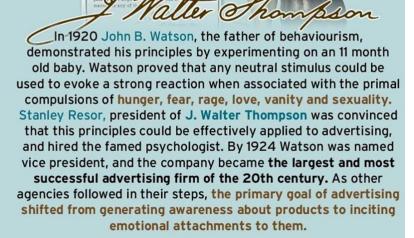
## John B. Watson

- In the 1920s he was employed by the advertising company J. Walter Thompson in New York where he was able to persuade the business world about the opportunity to adopt behaviourist psychology to predict and even control consumer behaviour.
- In his academic career he largely experimented PAVLOV'S CLASSICAL CONDITIONING TECHNIQUE and based on this learning method he believed that humans beings could be easily conditioned to be and act in any possible ways.





SYRUP \* AND \* EXTRACT
For Soda Water and other Carbonated Beverage



### CLASSICAL CONDITIONING (Pavlov, 1900)

a process that occurs through association between environmental stimulus and a natural occurring stimulus – for which a stimulus that was neutral (a), after repeated associations with a non-neutral stimuli (b), will consequently produce the same response of the non-neutral stimuli (b) even when presented in isolation



- UCS Good looking people, fun, sexy, cool, happiness
- UCR Feeling good / desire to be like this
- NS Coke
- CS Coke
- CR Feeling Good about coke / desire to buy coke
- We learn to associate coke with positive images. Coke becomes meaningful and we are more likely to purchase it over other drinks





## OPERANT CONDITIONING (Skinner 1929)

Learning occurs through rewards and punishments for behavior. Through operant conditioning, an association is made between a behavior and a consequence for that behavior.

	Punishment (decreasing behavior)	Reinforcement (increasing behavior)
Positive (adding)	adding something to decrease behavior	adding something to increase behavior
Negative (subtracting)	subtracting something to decrease behavior	subtracting something to increase behavior





## **Ernest Dichter**

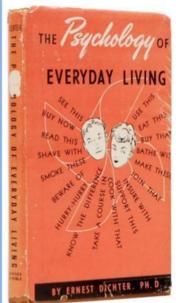
- the father of MOTIVATIONAL RESEARCH, introduced Freudian concepts into the US advertising industry.
- He set up in New York his Institute for Motivational Research, and while providing consultancy to major companies he explored the use of in-depth interviews and projective techniques to underpin both conscious and unconscious processes involved in the interpretation of consumer behavior.
- He was the first to coin the term focus groups: "FOCUS GROUP is a qualitative research method in which a group of people are asked about perceptions, opinions, beliefs and attitudes toward products, services, concept, ideas, packaging, etc..



Ernest Dichter (14 August 1907 – 21 November 1991) was an Austrian-American psychologist and marketing expert known as the "father of motivational research."

Dichter pioneered the application of Freudian psychoanalytic concepts and techniques to business — in particular to the study of consumer behavior in the marketplace.







1947 Book 'Psychology of Everyday Living'

"designed as an accessible self-help manual to help Americans 'accept the morality of the good life'...

Chapters such as "The Magic of Soap", "What Bread Means to You", "How to Be Happy While Cooking", and "The Psychology of Buying" purported to solve the psychological issues of everyday life, but largely encouraged a positive attitude to consumption by stressing the good feelings associated with a new purchase or the use of a specific commodity.







Trying to achieve the modern aim of being unique or different.



Survey research had predicted housewives would embrace such an easy baking tool - however once launched sales were much lower than expected.

Dichter solved the issue...with a couple of eggs thanks to motivational research!



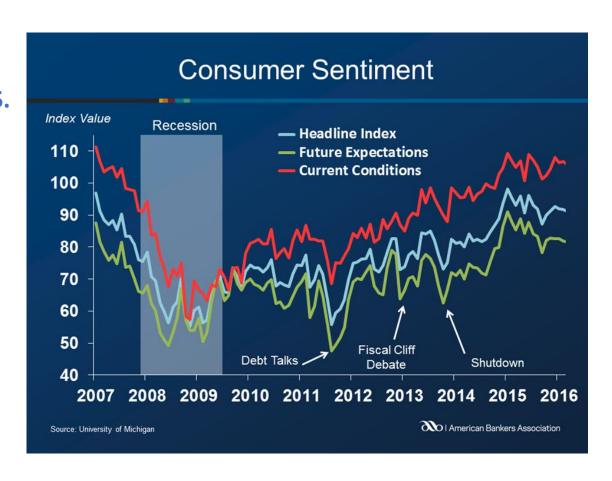
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CrpzHMWTWCI



## GEORGE KATONA (1901-1981) Hungarian-born American psychologist –

the first to advocate interdisciplinarity between economics and psychologists. 'The father of modern behavioural economics'

- CONSUMERS' WILLINGNESS TO SPEND AS A RELIABLE INDICATOR OF ECONOMIC TRENDS. In contrast with previous economic theory explanations, Katona showed the significant role of attitudes and expectations such as 'willingness to buy' as opposed to 'ability to buy'.
- 'UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CONSUMER SENTIMENT INDEX'. A questionnaire to measure consumer expectations for the application of psychological principle to macroeconomics
- This index enabled him to predict the postwar boom in the United States at a time when conventional econometric indicators were predicting a recession



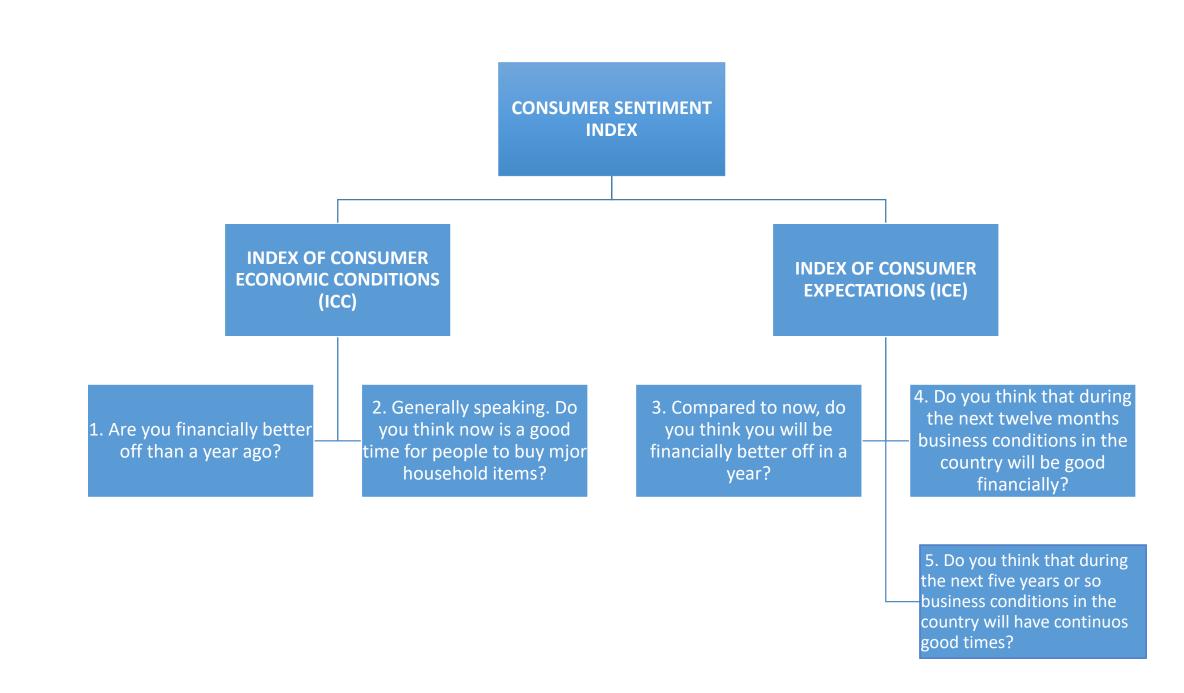
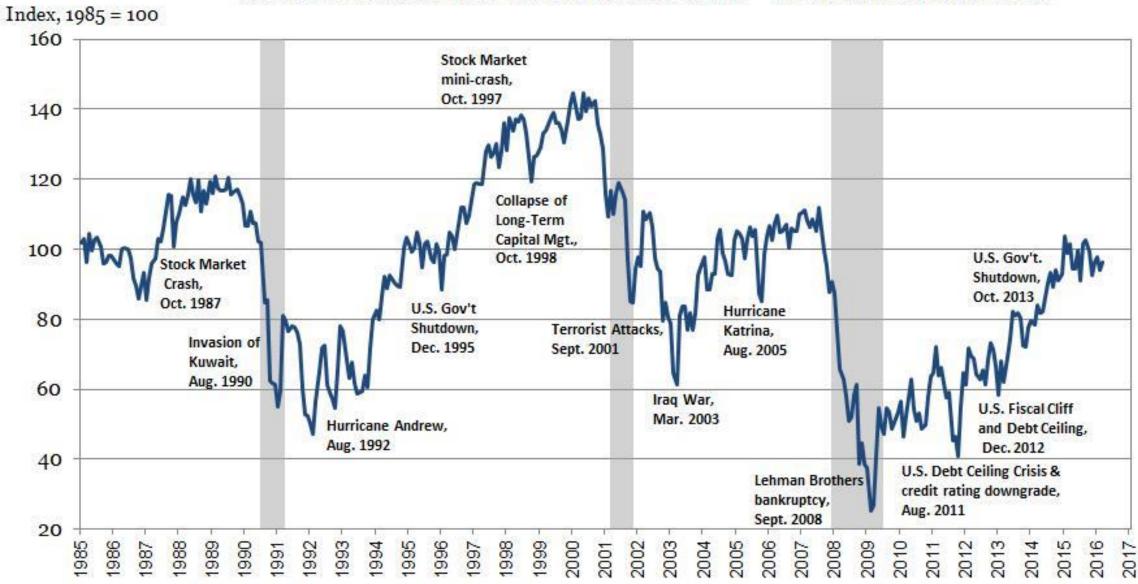
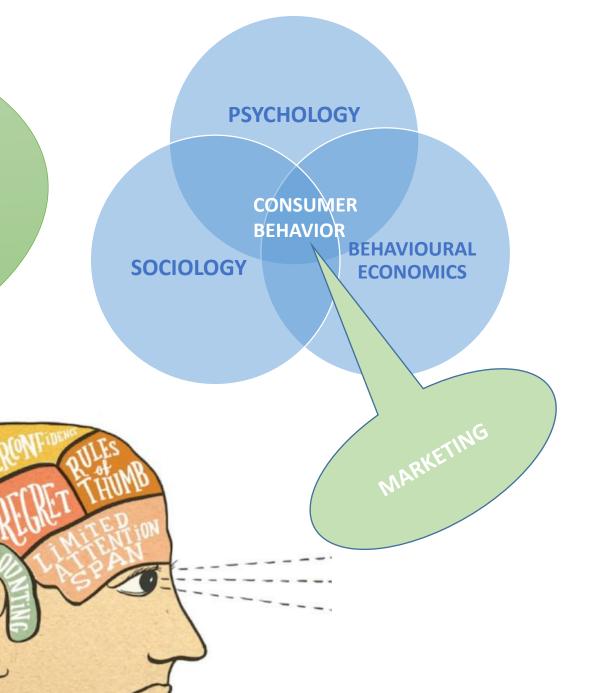


Chart 1: Consumer Confidence Index® & Historical Shocks



<sup>\*</sup>Shaded areas represent periods of recession.
Sources: The Conference Board; Nielsen; TNS; NBER
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BEAVIOURAL ECONOMICS
vs
consumer psychology
??



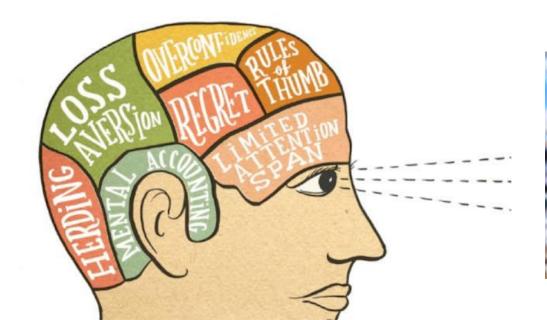


## A matter of.. LIMITED RATIONALITY

The Theory of Bounded Rationality (Simon, 1981)

In order to make decisions as according to the principle of <u>coherence</u> and <u>maximization</u>, actors should have the availability of:

(1) ALL THE NECESSARY INFORMATION; (2) COGNITIVE COMPUTATION ABILITIES, (3) TIME



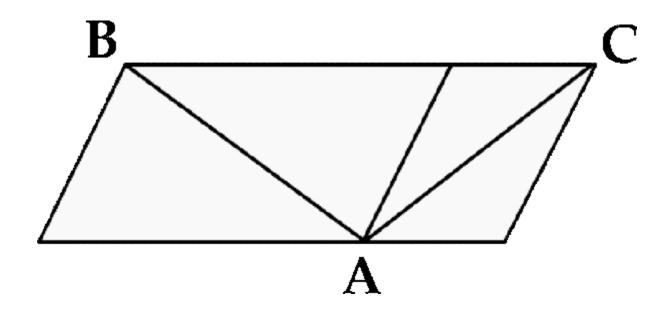


**CONSEQUENCES?** 

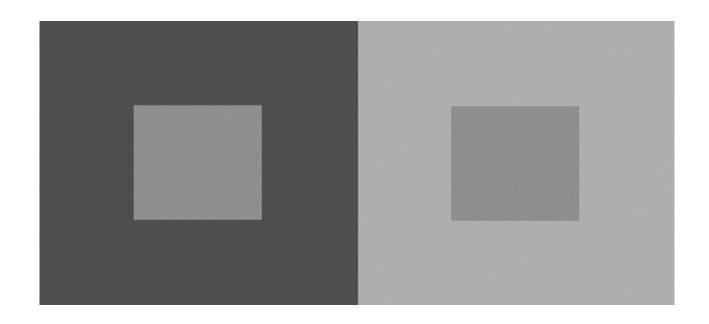
**APPROPRIATENESS?** 



# Is segment A-B longer than A-C?



# Are the central squares of different or same colour?



## **CHOOSE BETWEEN:**

A) a certain earning of £ 3000

B) a probability of 80% to win £ 5000

# MOST PEOPLE CHOOSE OPTION A : a secure earning of £ 3000

**RISK AVOIDANCE FOR GAINS** 

## **CHOOSE BETWEEN:**

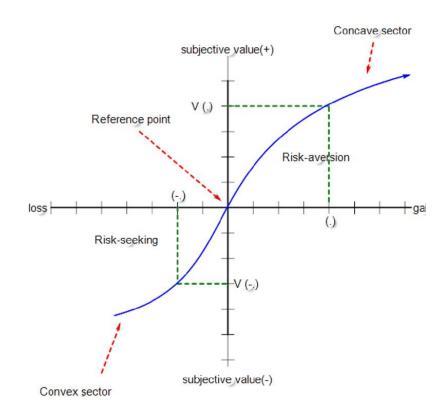
A) a certain loss of £ 3000

B) a probability of 80% to lose £ 5000

# MOST PEOPLE CHOOSE OPTION B: The probability to lose more

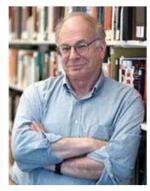
**RISK TAKING FOR LOSSES** 

### THE DISAPPOINTMENT/FEAR TO LOSE IS 'HIGHER' THAN THE PLEASURE TO WIN









Daniel Kahneman

"Prospect Theory: An Analysis of Decisions Under Risk," Econometrica (1979) 47:263 – 291.

"The Framing of Decisions and the Psychology of Choice," Science (1981) 211:453 - 458.

"...the research that Tversky and I conducted was guided by the idea that intuitive judgments occupy a position ... between the automatic operations of perception and the deliberate operations of reasoning...we held *a two-system view, which distinguished intuition from reasoning*." -- Kahneman's Nobel Lecture

## Insights from Kahneman and Tversky



- ☐ BECAUSE OF LIMITED RATIONALITY, PEOPLE USE SIMPLE RULES OF THUMB (HEURISTICS) TO HELP THEM MAKE JUDGMENTS AND FORECASTS
- THE USE OF THESE HEURISTICS LEADS TO SYSTEMATIC ERRORS (BIASES)
- □ RANDOM ERRORS WOULD NOT MATTER TO ECONOMIC THEORY, BUT SYSTEMATIC ERROR IS A BIG DEAL!!

## MENTAL ACCOUNTING





A friend and I are given tickets for a musical in London . There is blizzard... we decide to skip the theatre and stay home in front of the telly....

My friend says 'if we had paid full price for those tickets we would have gone!'

Question: DO YOU AGREE AND WHY?

I buy 20 \$ for two theater tickets — I lose the tickets. Do I buy them again to go to the theatre?

☐ YES

I lose 20 \$ - do I buy two theater tickets that cost 20 \$?

☐ YES

□ NO

A bat and a ball cost in total £11. The bat costs 10 more than the ball.

How much is the ball?

□ £ 5.00

☐ £ 1.00

□ £ 0.50



Shane Frederick (2005)

Cognitive Reflection and Decision Making

### HEALTH INTERVENTION FOR AN ASIAN ILLNESS THAT MIGHT KILL 600 PEOPLE

#### **CHOOSE BETWEEN:**

- A. With programme A 200 people will survive
- B. With programme B there is 1/3 of probability that all the 600 people will survive and 2/3 probability that no one will be saved



### HEALTH INTERVENTION FOR AN ASIAN ILLNESS THAT MIGHT KILL 600 PEOPLE

#### **CHOOSE BETWEEN:**

C. With programme C 400 people will die

D. With programme D there is 1/3 probability that no one will die and 2/3 probability that 600 people will die.





72%

- A. WITH PROGRAMME A 200 PEOPLE WILL SURVIVE
- B. WITH PROGRAMME B THERE IS 1/3 OF PROBABILITY THAT ALL THE 600 PEOPLE WILL SURVIVE AND 2/3 PROBABILITY THAT NO ONE WILL BE SAVED
- C. WITH PROGRAMME C 400 PEOPLE WILL DIE
- D. WITH PROGRAMME D THERE IS 1/3
  PROBABILITY THAT NO ONE WILL DIE
  AND 2/3 PROBABILITY THAT 600 PEOPLE
  WILL DIE.



78%

## FRAMING EFFECT

Levin and Gaeth (1988) have found that people 's perception of food quality vary significantly if the information focuses on positive rather than negative attributes:

CONSUMERS REPEATEDLY SHOWED TO PREFER MEAT THAT WAS LABELED 'LEAN FOR THE 75%' THAN THE MEAT DESCRIBED AS 'FAT FOR THE 25%'.



## ENDOWMENT EFFECT..STATUS QUO BIAS

(KAHNEMAN, KNETSCH, THALER, 1990)

The endowment effect and status quo bias



Token experiments: Markets worked just as in text books.

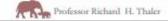


Mugs experiments:

Too little trading...initial assignments seem "sticky"!

### Why?

- ■Loss aversion: Mug owners demanded about twice as much to give up their mugs as non-owners were willing to pay to get one.
- ■Status quo bias, the tendency to stick with what you have.
- **■Other reinforcing factors**:
- □The comfort of the known vs. the unknown.
- □Inattention, laziness and procrastination. Example: television watching.



### Wine

Meet Professor Rosett. Chair of Economics Dept.

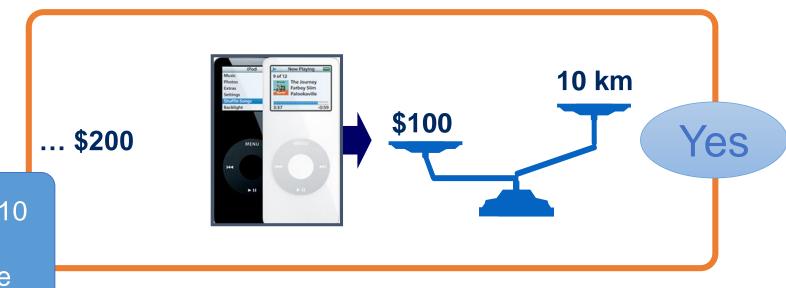
- □Years earlier (1950s) he bought some bottles for \$4.95
- □He can sell a bottle for \$100
- □He never pays more than \$30 for a bottle of wine
- □But he sometimes drinks one of his old ones

So he won't buy, won't sell, but will drink. **Huh?** 

#### More research topics!

The "endowment effect"; loss aversion; status quo bias.

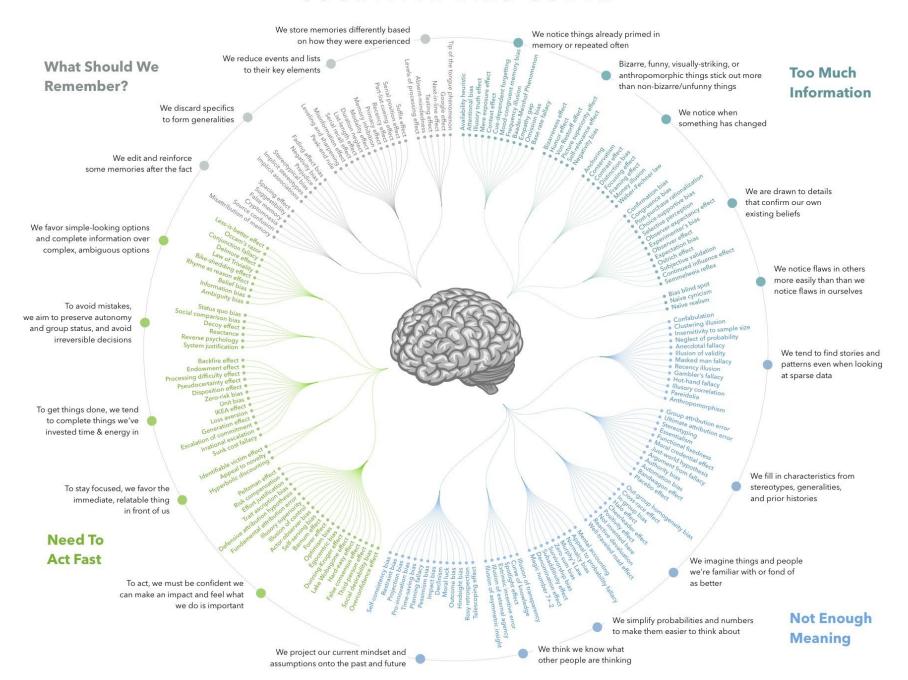




Would you drive 10 km to save \$100 out of an expense of ...?

... \$10,000 \$100 NO

#### COGNITIVE BIAS CODEX



# THESE BIASES PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN DETERMINING THE SUCCESS OF SELLING TOOLS AND APPROACHES IN SEVERAL CONTEXTS

### **Selling tools**

Selling script



Selling approach



Leaflet



### **Examples of industries**



Financial services



Telecom



Retail

## A FIXED TELEPHONY PRICING SCHEME ...



Better price per minute than competitors ...



... 100 free calls per month ...



... with a €5 monthly fee ...



... and the first 2 months are free!

### ... proposed by telesellers



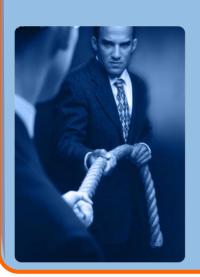
You probably know XXX, the largest telephone operator and its new unrivalled offers ...

Do you mainly use the phone during the day or at night?

... you' Il get a better than any other operator, plus 100 free calls per month. It costs only 5 Euros per month, and the first 2 months are free

Are you interested?

I would like to inform you that we have already credited your phone with 200 free calls ...



People will be more willing to pay to keep something they already have, than to acquire something new

Loss aversion

You probably know XXX, the largest telephone operator and its new unrivalled offers ...

Do you mainly use the phone during the day or at night?

... you' Il get a better tariff than any other operator, plus 100 free calls per month. It costs only 5 Euros per month, and the first 2 months are free

Are you interested?

Could I ask you a few questions in order to decide together what is the best way for you to use the free calls?



You are more likely to obtain a large commitment if you get to obtain a small one first **Endorsement** 

You probably know XXX, the largest telephone operator and its new unrivalled offers ...

Do you mainly use the phone during the day or at night?

... you'll get a better tariff than any other operator, plus 100 free calls per month. It costs only 5 Euros per month, and the first 2 months are free

Are you interested?

You'll get 200 free calls that you can make in the following 2 months. After that, you can keep on getting 100 free calls per month paying only 5 Euros per month



People like to keep their habits. If you get to change their habits first, you are likely to get them to pay not to change them again

Status quo bias

Source: McKinsey

You probably know XXX, the largest telephone operator and its new unrivalled offers ...

Do you mainly use the phone during the day or at night?

... you' Il get a better than any other operator, plus 100 free calls per month. It costs only 5 Euros per month, and the first 2 months are free

Are you interested?

Are you interested?
You are free to decide
anytime to unsubscribe
with **no exit fees** 



People do not take action because they fear to make mistakes. Choice can be stimulated by making clear they can go back

Fear to regret

# CHOICE ARCHITECTURE: NUDGE & PUBLIC POLICY

- Choice architecture describes how the decisions we make are affected by the layout / sequencing / and range of choices that are available
- For example getting students to eat more helpfully might involve altering the design of the school or college restaurant
- Smart building designs might make it more attractive / easier to take the stairs rather than use a lift!
- Choice architecture is often more effective when it encourages simplicity in the decisions that people have to make and in which the benefits and costs are made



Getting more people to use the salad bar at lunch



Traffic flow & speed is influenced by the road architecture



How can we encourage people to avoid the lift and take more exercise?



How best to get people to use hand sanitizers more frequently?

# Implementation in Environmental Policy



# ARE ON-LINE CONSUMERS COGNITIVELY BIASED?

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF INTUITIVE JUDGMENTS, EMOTIONS AND ...?





WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR DIGITAL MARKETING?









Shop Now

"Selected models only. Conditions apply.

Featured Brand of the Month





### WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THIS GARDEN TABLE AND CHAIRS?



£ 129,95

### WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THIS GARDEN TABLE AND CHAIRS?





### I PIÙ VENDUTI













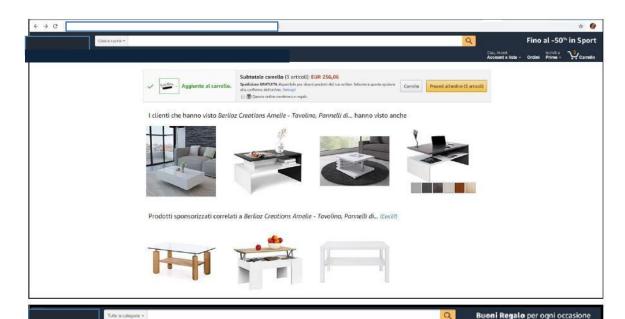


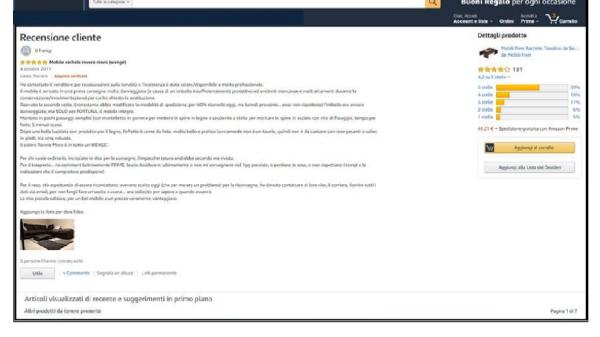


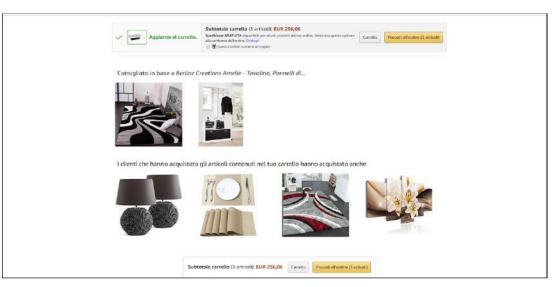
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72,95 € 129,95 €











# **IMPULSE BUYING VS** PLANNED CONSUMPTION





**ECCESSIVE & COMPULSIVE SHOPPING** 

### Rug Carpet Embroidered











### Adam Hess 📀 @adamhess1



Bought a rug online for my room & realised the importance of specifying the size of the product you're selling

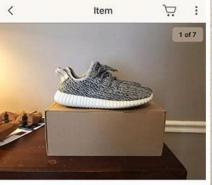
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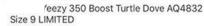


**1** 711

**1**,093







古古古古古 (0)

US \$750.00 +US \$13.20 Shipping or Best Offer

Est. Delivery Fri, Mar 24

Delivery in 4 days



### PHYSICAL CONTEXT STILL MATTER

### ...BUT...NEW TRENDS ARE EMERGING











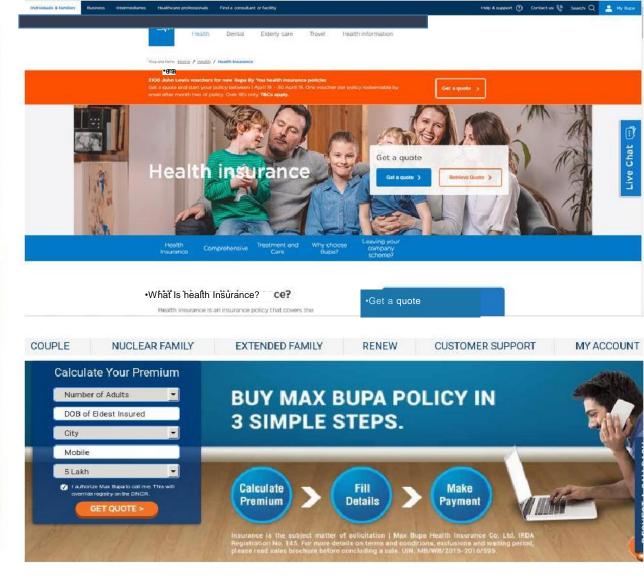




# BOOK DIAGNOSTIC TESTS ON THE GO!



ANYTIME. ANYWHERE.









# **CONSUMER DECISION MAKING PROCESS**



#### PLANNED VS. IMPULSE SHOPPING

### PLANNED IMPULSE

#### **TOP 5 PLANNED CATEGORY PURCHASES**

FOOD NON-FOOD

Milk Cat food

Eggs Dog food

Fresh produce Toilet paper

Creamer Prescription

Packaged bread OTC Medicine

#### TOP 5 UNPLANNED CATEGORY PURCHASES

FOOD NON-FOOD
Candy (non-choc.) Cosmetics
Chocolate candy Air fresheners
Cookies Toothbrushes
Frozen desserts / bakery
Frozen snacks / apps Hand / body lotion

Source: Nielsen, Category Shopping Fundamentals.

I have got a problem:

I NEED.....

- 1) INFORMATION SEARCH
- 2) INFORMATION EVALUATION
- 3) CHOICE



# MARKETING STRATEGIES CAN STIMULATE CONSUMERS' PRIMARY OR SECONDARY DEMAND

## PRIMARY DEMAND

EXPLAIN ADVANTAGES OF THE FUTURE CONDITION AND EMPHASISE THE LIMITS OF PRESENT SITUATION



# **SECONDARY DEMAND**

FOCUS ON PRODUCT TRAITS
AND GIVE REASONS WHY ARE
'BETTER' THAN COMPETITORS



PROVIDE SYMBOLIC ASSOCIATIONS



## INFORMATION SEARCH - FOR PLANNED PURCHASES ONLY

From 1 weeks till

2 months

4 MAIN STAGES OF THE PURCHASING PROCESS FOR FTV (MARKET RESEARCH FOR PHILIPS )
Up to 6 months

### 1<sup>st</sup> spark

- General Interest for innovation, technology, design and entertainment
- The largest FTVs are an appealing product
- Consumers start being receptive to advertising and communication
- Involvement increases steadily

# Store exploration and decision to buy

- Consumers explore stores to experience technology: watching and touching
- Excitement turns into high involvement when the decision to bring technology at home is taken
- Decision to buy is associated with decision regarding size and approximate budget

Duration: 10-40 min.

### Comparison

- Consumers compare models and prices in various shops
- Consumers read information cards and interact with sales assistant
- A second decision is taken on the model and on two-three possible brands.
- Only a few used the Internet (youth)

Duration: 20-60 min.

### **Final decision**

The same day of

comparison till 2-3 weeks/ 1 month

- Decision is negotiated within the family
- Sales assistant can solve last question marks and affect final decision with a personal opinion
- Key factors: picture quality, design and technological extras
- Brand is less important and may be suggested by the sale assistant

Duration: 30-60 min.

**Decision making influences** 

Partner (++), family (++) and friends (+++) are important to increase interest in technology Family (+++), partner (+++) and friends (+) affect decision to buy, size and budget to be allocated

Partner(++), family (++) friends (++) and sale assistant (++) influence decision.

Salesman (+++) is key for the final choice

Information search, experience and risk perception

## HIGH INVOLVEMENT vs LOW INVOLVEMENT









	HIGH RISK PERCEPTION CONSUMERS	HIGH RISK PERCEPTION PRODUCTS
FINANCIAL RISK		
FUNCTIONAL RISK		
PHYSICAL RISK		
SOCIAL RISK		
PSYCHOLOGICAL RISK		

Solomon (2002)



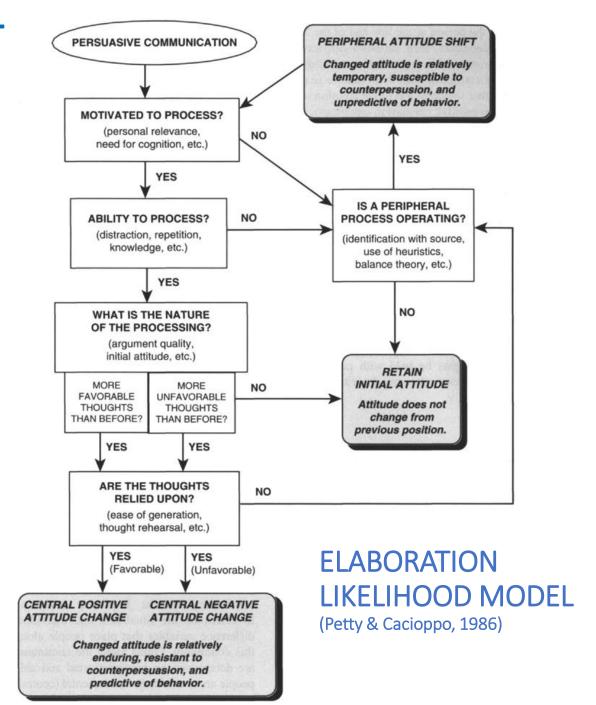
WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIES ADOPTED BY CONSUMER TO COPE WITH RISK PERCEPTION?

### A matter of MOTIVATION — INVOLVEMENT







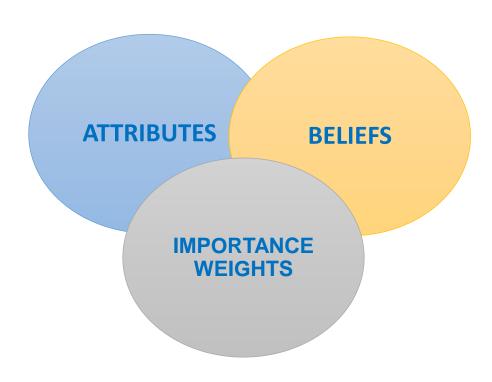


## **ATTITUDE**

- Attitude is the amount of affect or feeling for or against a stimulus
- Attitudes are stored in long-term memory
- Beliefs are the cognitive knowledge about an object
- In high involvement situations, beliefs predict attitudes.

HOW DO ATTITUDE FORM?
HOW ATTITUDE CAN BE CHANGED?

Multiattribute ATTITUDE Models Assume That a Consumer's *Attitude* (Evaluation) of an *Attitude Object* Will Depend on the *Beliefs* He or She Has About Several or Many Attributes of the Object.

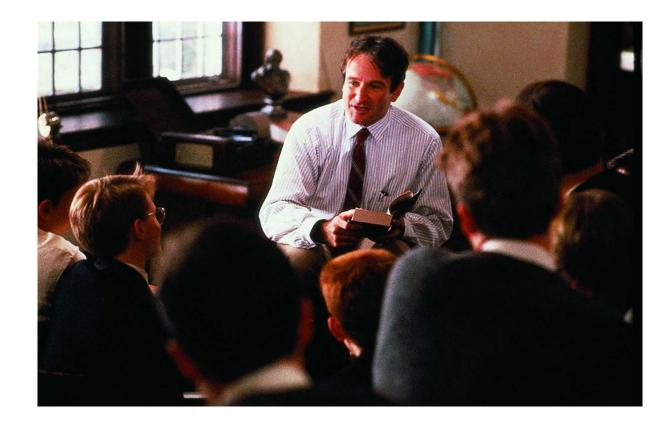


## **EXPECTANCY-VALUE THEORY (EVT)**

Dr. Martin Fishbein is credited with developing the expectancy-value theory (EVT) in the early to mid-1970s.

### EVT has three main principle:

- Individuals respond to novel information about an item or action by developing a belief about the item or action.
- individuals assign a value to each attribute that a belief is based on.
- 3) an expectation is created or modified based on the result of a calculation based on beliefs and values.



For example, a student finds out that a professor has a reputation for being humorous. The student assigns a positive value to humor in the classroom, so the student has the expectation that their experience with the professor will be positive. When the student attends class and finds the professor humorous, the student calculates that it is a good class.

# **Theory of Reasoned Action**

Fishbein and Ajzen (1975) represented the expectancy value theory with the following equation where attitudes (a) are a factorial function of beliefs (b) and values (v).

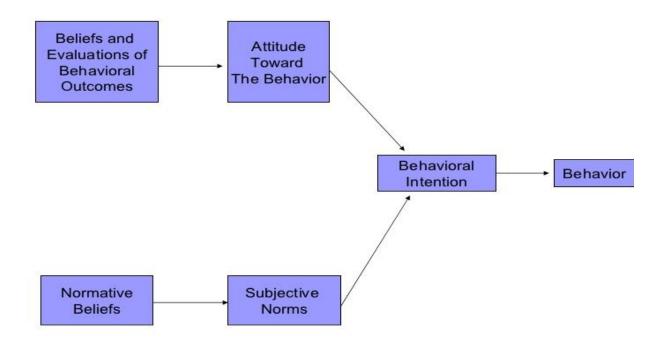
the TRA can be expressed as the following equation: B I = ( A B ) W1 + ( S N ) W2

**BI = BEHAVIOURAL INTENTION** 

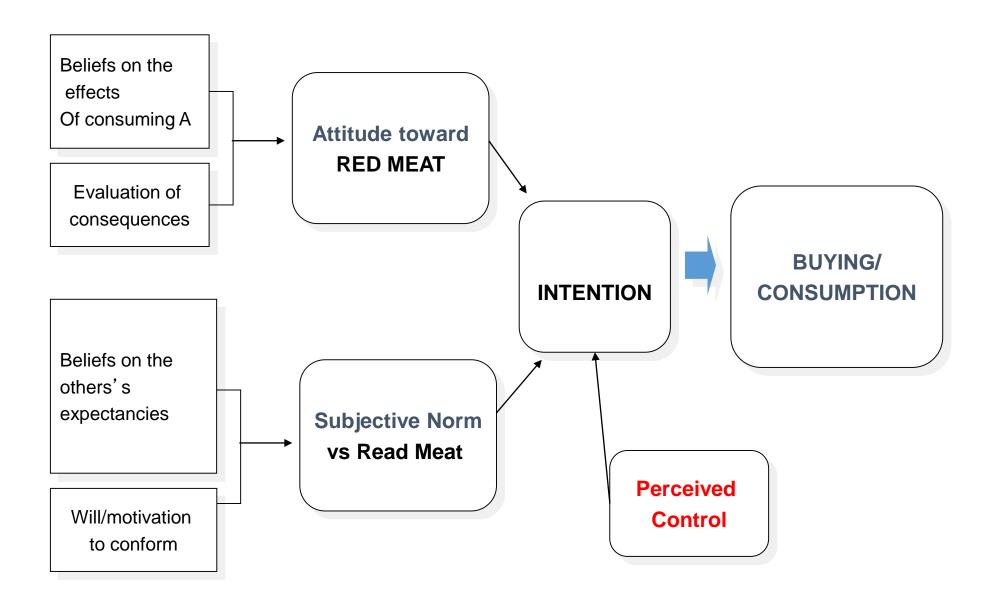
AB = ATTITUDES TOWARD PERFORMING THE BEHAVIOR

W = EMPIRICALLY DERIVED WEIGHTS

SN = SUBJECTIVE NORM RELATED TO PERFORMING THE BEHAVIOR (CONFORMITY TO OTHERS AND WILLIGNESS TO CONFORM)



# THEORY OF PLANNED BEHAVIOUR (Aizen, 2002) – the role of perceived control



•••but behaviour is not always palnned and rational:

# **IMPULSE BUYING**

- 1) GRATIFICATION
- 2) SALIENCE
- 3) 'CONVENIENCE'



# PACKAGING – STORE LAYOUT - PROMOTIONS and... ... SYMBOLS!!!

### **MEANING DIMENSIONS IN IMPULSE PURCHASES**

1) INSTRUMENTAL



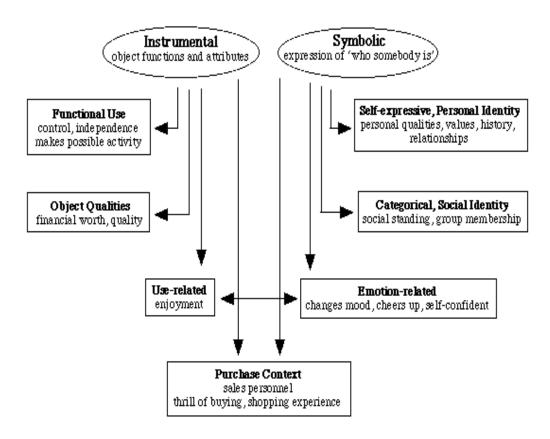
2) SYMBOLIC



3) EXPERIENTIAL



Figure 1: Meaning dimensions in impulse purchases

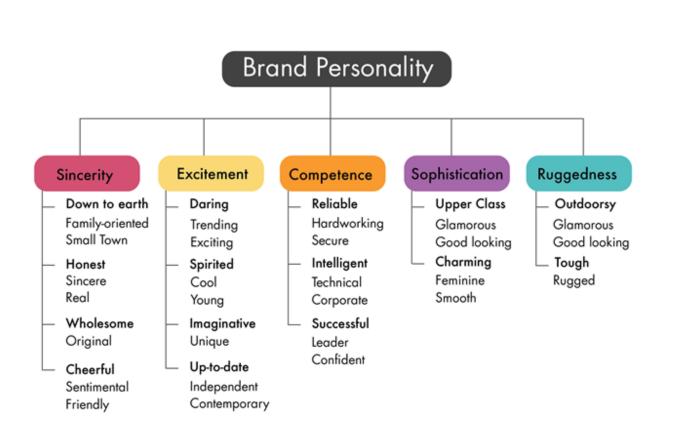


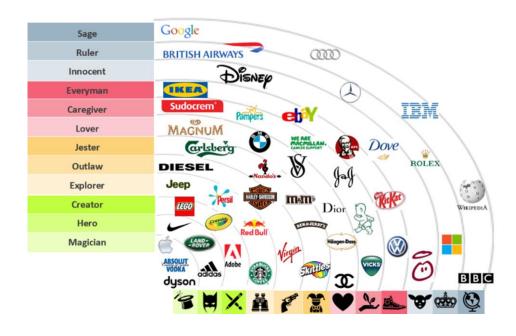
### **CONSUMPTION AND PERSONAL IDENTITY**

- Self-concept
- Real vs ideal self
- Self-Completion Theory (Wicklund e Gollwitzer, 1982)



# BRAND PERSONALITY IS A SET OF PERSONAL CHARACTERS ASSOCIATED AND RELATED WITH THE BRAND (Aaker, 1991)





**BRAND IDENTITY** the set of associations that represent what the brand stands for and that imply a promise to customers from the organisations. It generates a value proposition involving functional, emotional and self-expressive benefits to stablish a relationship with the customers

