

## **Do two-systems models constitute a theoretical advance?**

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The present paper examines critically dual-system theories. We start by raising three potential concerns for dual-systems modelers: (i) whether or not the systems are isolable; (ii) whether or not the dichotomous characteristics used to define the dual-system models are uniquely and perfectly correlated; and (iii) whether or not these characteristics are truly dichotomous. Next, we discuss the type of empirical evidence that would be needed to support a dual-system framework, and briefly examine the extent to which such evidence is indeed available. Our analysis questions the scientific utility of dual-system theories for the understanding of aspects of human behavior. Yet, we acknowledge their popularity, and examine why they are so prevalent as explanatory tools. We end by speculating about alternative theoretical frameworks to the dual-system models.