Robert J. Sternberg, of Yale University, is one of the leading figures in the new band of research workers who are trying to extend the frontiers of human intelligence. His book presents a new "triarchic" theory of human intelligence which deals with the relations between general, practical and academic intelligence. Sternberg's book is a major contribution to our understanding of the psychological reality of everyday actions; here, intelligence is defined as "the ability to plan a sequence of steps to attain a goal." Sternberg makes the case for a distinction between explicit theories, in which the nature of intelligence is defined by psychologists and forms the object of empirical investigation, and implicit theories, which form the basis of everyday actions and experience. Sternberg demonstrates that these theories become simply "what the people say it is." Sternberg's book is divided into three interrelated subtheories, but no hierarchical positioning is implied.

The "componential subtheory," the best amplified, is an attempt to "specify the mechanisms by which intelligent performance is generated." The unit of the "componential subtheory" is an "elementary information processing operation," an "elementary internal processing operation." Sternberg lists a number of components, used for gaining new knowledge. Amed with these components, Sternberg interprets aspects of everyday actions; here, intelligence is defined as "the ability to plan a sequence of steps to attain a goal." Sternberg makes the case for a distinction between explicit theories, in which the nature of intelligence is defined by psychologists and forms the object of empirical investigation, and implicit theories, which form the basis of everyday actions and experience. Sternberg demonstrates that these theories become simply "what the people say it is." Sternberg's book is divided into three interrelated subtheories, but no hierarchical positioning is implied.

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