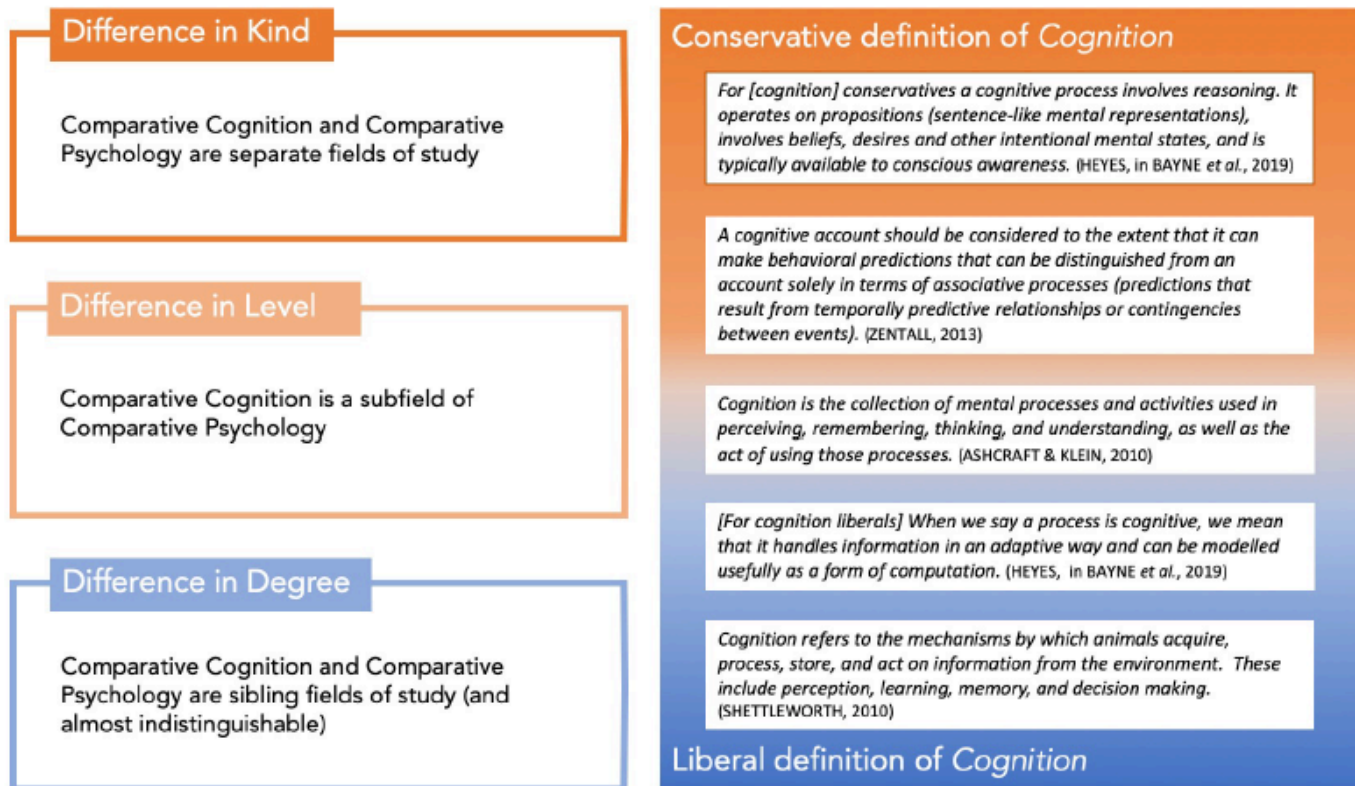


What is the difference between Comparative Cognition and Comparative Psychology?



There are three categories of opinion regarding the difference between Comparative Cognition and Comparative Psychology.

1. **Difference in Kind.** Comparative Cognition and Comparative Psychology are separate fields of study that share some features but are fundamentally distinct (e.g., Abramson 2015).
2. **Difference in Level.** Comparative Cognition is a subfield of Comparative Psychology. This view is exemplified by textbooks such as Greenberg and Haraway's *Principles of Comparative Psychology* (2002), in which the topic of animal cognition is covered in a separate chapter. This *Handbook of Comparative Psychology* adopts the same perspective.
3. **Difference in Degree.** Comparative Cognition and Comparative Psychology are sister fields, and to carry the metaphor further, Cognitive Ecology (Chapter 8) is the monozygotic twin of Comparative Cognition. For some, Comparative Cognition and Comparative Psychology are so closely related as to be almost indistinguishable, with the terms sometimes being used interchangeably (e.g., McMillan & Sturdy, 2015; Shettleworth, 2010).

We propose that which of these three opinions one holds is related to how one defines *cognition*, which can range from the more conservative to the more liberal (Heyes, in Bayne et al., 2019). The liberal definitions are broad enough to include such phenomena as perception, memory, categorization, and associative learning, as well as the formation of representations that allow for flexible problem-solving across contexts. The more conservative definitions of *cognition* exclude processes such as associative learning, instead emphasizing reasoning and inference.

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