

### Morgan's Canon

Conwy Lloyd Morgan (1852–1936) was one of the founders of comparative psychology, an approach that attempts to compare humans to non-humans in terms of physiology and behavior, in an effort to identify similarities and differences. Morgan, in examining the explanations of animal behavior by his peers, found that there was a tendency to impart to animals superior intellectual capacities, like a sense of justice or an appreciation of beauty, when simpler explanations may suffice (Sahakian, 1975). As a result of this objection he formulated what has come to be known as Morgan's Canon (a law or principle): "In no case may we interpret an action as the outcome of a higher psychical faculty, if it can be interpreted as the outcome of the exercise of one that stands lower in the psychological scale" (Morgan, 1894, in Sahakian, 1975, p. 70).

### Reference

Sahakian, W. S. (1975). *History and systems of psychology*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.