

[Open Peer Review on Qeios](#)

Associative learning

Behaviour Change Intervention Ontology (BCIO)

Source

Behaviour Change Intervention Ontology (BCIO)

Definition: Learning that involves changing the strength of association between two or more mental processes.

Comment: While associative learning is often defined as learning an association between a stimulus and response, the stimulus has to be perceived. Therefore, associative learning is between perceiving or processing information about a stimulus (a mental process) and one or more other mental processes. The label 'associative learning' is also used for a behaviour change technique (BCT) in the BCT Taxonomy v1 (Michie et al., 2013). The definition for this BCT reads as follows: 'Present a neutral stimulus jointly with a stimulus that already elicits the behavior repeatedly until the neutral stimulus elicits that behavior.' As indicated by the definition, the BCT is the deliberate presentation of a stimulus, whereas the MoA is a learning process that occurs in the brain.

This definition was imported from the Behaviour Change Intervention Ontology (see <https://bciosearch.org/>). Comments and suggestions for improvements are welcome using the Qeios review system.

Definitions imported from the Behaviour Change Intervention Ontology (BCIO) are what are known as 'ontological definitions'. See this article in Qeios for an explanation <https://www.qeios.com/read/YGIF9B>.

Ontological definitions can sometimes be hard to read. In those cases we also include an informal definition.

Definitions also often require elaboration to make it clear how they should be used and what they include. In those cases we include a comment.

Also, definitions sometimes require an explanation as to how they came about to help users understand how they relate to

alternative definitions. In those cases we include a curator note.