

CREATING A GOOD THEORY OF PERSONALITY

**“There is nothing so practical as a good theory.”
Kurt Lewin 1936**

**“Theory, when properly fashioned, ultimately
provides more simplicity and clarity than
unintegrated and scattered information.”
Theodore Millon 1990**

Overall Principles of Theorizing (Salvador Maddi)

A Theory Should be Important

**A Theory Should Be Operational
construct validity**

A Theory Should be Parsimonious

A Theory Should Be Precise

A Theory Should be Empirically Valid If a theory can be demonstrated to be rationally adequate, an assessment of empirical validity becomes relevant.

A Theory Should Be Stimulating

CREATIVITY

Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi

“Creativity is the cultural equivalent of the process of genetic changes that result in biological evolution.”

1. There is a defined **domain** which consists of a set of symbolic rules and procedures. A knowledge base.
2. There is a **field**, which includes all the individuals who act as gatekeepers to the domain. It is their job to decide whether a new idea should be included in the domain.
3. There is an **individual person**, using the symbols and data base of the domain has a new idea or sees a new pattern, and when this novelty is selected by the appropriate field for inclusion into the relevant domain.