



Citizenship: United States (From Austrian origins)

Born: (1896-Veinna-Austria) / Died: (1988-USA)

### **Biography:**

During his childhood, Heider sustained a serious eye injury, and because of his injury, Heider avoided the draft during World War I. In 1914, he enrolled as an architecture student at the Technical University in Graz. In 1915, he obtained the help of his father to enroll in training courses in various fields for a period of four years, and as a result of this, Heidar obtained various knowledge in the fields of premedical science, zoology, philosophy, and art history. He spent semesters in Innsbruck and in Munich. Returning to Graz, Heider focused his studies increasingly on philosophy and, on the fledgling field of psychology. In 1920, Heider developed an initial conception that was considered one of the first causal theories about "perception", in which he described the causal chain between properties of objects and properties of the perceptions to which they correspond.

After a year and a half, Austria emerged from the war as a weak and exhausted nation, as the level of inflation increased and social conditions worsened. After that, Heider moved to Berlin with the support of his uncle (Karl), who was working as a professor. Soon after arriving in Berlin in the fall of 1921, Heider attended psychology courses while earning a modest living through dozens of small jobs. Heider's exciting years in Berlin came to an end in 1924, when, strapped for money, he took a position at an orphanage in Northern Germany. He held out there for a summer but then returned to Austria, unsure what he should do with his life. It therefore seemed natural for Heider to move back to Germany, where his chances of finding an assistantship appeared to be the greatest. By 1927, Heider chose to go forward and became a lecturer in educational psychology at the Psychology Institute in Hamburg, throughout



this period, Heider interacted with philosophers, psychologists, biologists, writers, and artists. In 1930, he moved to America to work in the research field at Clarke School and Smith University, after which he married his colleague at work (Grace Moore). In 1944 he published two research. In 1946, he published his famous article in which he set out his first hypotheses about balance, and at that time many attempts appeared to discourage him, and this caused him to fall victim to states of anxiety, after which he obtained a (Guggenheim) fellowship in Kansas 1947/1948, and again he obtained the same fellowship in 1951/1952 and then Ford Foundation Fellowship 1956/1957. Then he published his first book in 1958; after 15 years of diligent work on this book and 40 years of thinking about interpersonal relationships; after many years of repeated rejection and misunderstanding and so on. Then he continued to publish some historical articles about nature, and then he retired from teaching in 1966.

**Publications:** *(Get it via Amazon)*

1983: Book ([The life of a psychologist: An autobiography](#)).

1958: Book ([The psychology of interpersonal relation](#)).

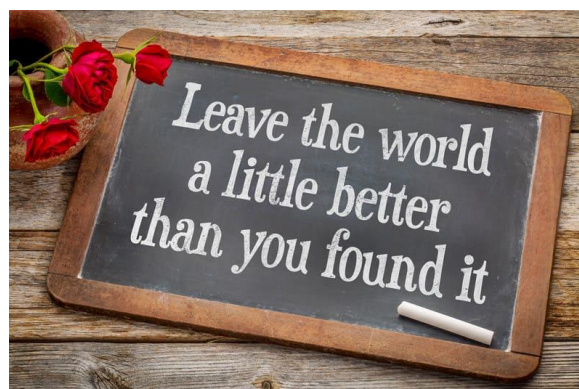
1946: Article (Attitudes and Cognitive Organization).

1944: Article (Social perception and phenomenal causality).

**International awards and certificates of appreciation:**

1965: American Psychological Association (APA) Distinguished Contribution Award.

1959: Lewin's Memorial Prize as the best professor at the University of Kansas.



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