# Article information:

Harry Harlow's pit of despair: Depression in monkeys and men - Rosmalen - 2022 - Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences - Wiley Online Library  
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/jhbs.22180>

# Article summary:

1. Harry Harlow, famous for his research with rhesus monkeys, was heavily criticized when he undertook his controversial experiments trying to find a solution for depression in the 1960s–1970s.

2. Recently disclosed hand-written notes show, for the first time, the severity of Harlow's depressions as he wrote in detail about his feelings and thoughts during his stay in a mental hospital in 1968.

3. Harlow's research into depression was strongly driven by his personal experiences and may explain why he did not stop his rigorous animal experiments where critics argue he should have, and he eventually managed to book positive results.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "Harry Harlow's pit of despair: Depression in monkeys and men" provides a detailed account of Harry Harlow's research into depression, which was driven by his personal experiences with the condition. The article highlights the urgency that Harlow felt to find a solution for depression, given the lack of effective treatments available at the time. The article also discusses Harlow's earlier research into learning and love, which laid the foundation for his later work on depression.

One potential bias in the article is its focus on Harlow's personal motivations for conducting his research, which may overshadow ethical concerns about his methods. While the article acknowledges that animal rights activists protested against Harlow's experiments, it does not fully explore these concerns or provide counterarguments to them. Additionally, the article presents Harlow's research as ultimately successful in finding a cure for depression, without fully considering alternative perspectives on this claim.

Another potential bias in the article is its promotion of Harlow as a pioneering psychologist who made significant contributions to the field. While this may be true, it could also lead readers to overlook ethical issues with his methods or to uncritically accept his findings.

Overall, while "Harry Harlow's pit of despair" provides valuable insights into one psychologist's personal motivations for conducting research on depression, it could benefit from more balanced consideration of ethical concerns and alternative perspectives on Harlow's work.

# Topics for further research:

* Ethical concerns with Harry Harlow's research methods
* Animal rights activism and Harlow's experiments
* Criticisms of Harlow's claim to have found a cure for depression
* Alternative perspectives on Harlow's contributions to psychology
* The impact of Harlow's research on the treatment of depression
* Contemporary debates on the use of animal models in psychological research

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/aea008598795d8abcc08af7542082c3c>