# Article information:

Multifaceted Nature of Intrinsic Motivation: The Theory of 16 Basic Desires
<https://journals-sagepub-com.ezproxy.neu.edu/doi/epub/10.1037/1089-2680.8.3.179>

# Article summary:

1. The theory of intrinsic motivation proposes that certain motives, such as curiosity and autonomy, have common characteristics that distinguish them from drives.

2. The assertion that "intrinsic enjoyment" is common to intrinsic motives exaggerates the significance of pleasure in human motivation and confuses consequence for cause.

3. An empirically testable theory of 16 basic desires is put forward based on psychometric research and subsequent behavior validation, which may have different evolutionary histories.

# Article rating:

Appears strongly imbalanced: The article is written in a biased or one-sided way, and the information it provides is not trustworthy enough to be considered a reliable source. You should consult other sources to find reliable information on the presented issues.

# Article analysis:

The article titled "Multifaceted Nature of Intrinsic Motivation: The Theory of 16 Basic Desires" presents a critical analysis of R.W. White's theory on intrinsic motivation and proposes an alternative theory based on psychometric research. While the article provides some valuable insights into the nature of human motivation, it suffers from several biases and limitations that undermine its credibility.

One potential bias in the article is its dismissal of White's theory as anecdotal and unscientific without providing sufficient evidence to support this claim. While it is true that White's theory lacks empirical validation, it has been widely influential in the field of psychology and has generated considerable research interest. By dismissing White's theory outright, the authors risk overlooking important insights into the nature of intrinsic motivation.

Another potential bias in the article is its emphasis on psychometric research as the basis for its proposed theory of 16 basic desires. While psychometric research can provide valuable insights into human behavior, it also has limitations, such as relying on self-report measures that may be subject to social desirability bias or other forms of response bias. Additionally, the authors do not provide sufficient evidence to support their claim that these 16 basic desires are largely unrelated to each other and may have different evolutionary histories.

The article also suffers from one-sided reporting by presenting only the authors' perspective without exploring counterarguments or alternative theories. For example, while the authors criticize White's theory for exaggerating the significance of pleasure in human motivation, they do not acknowledge that pleasure may play an important role in motivating behavior in certain contexts.

Furthermore, the article contains promotional content by presenting its proposed theory as empirically testable without providing sufficient evidence to support this claim. The authors also do not note any potential risks or limitations associated with their proposed theory.

Overall, while the article provides some valuable insights into human motivation, it suffers from several biases and limitations that undermine its credibility. To improve its scientific rigor and objectivity, future research should aim to explore multiple perspectives and consider a wider range of evidence sources beyond psychometric research alone.

# Topics for further research:

* Critiques of R.W. White's theory of intrinsic motivation
* Empirical validation of theories of human motivation
* The role of pleasure in human motivation
* Alternative theories of intrinsic motivation
* Limitations of psychometric research in understanding human behavior
* Evolutionary history of human desires and motivations

# Report location:

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