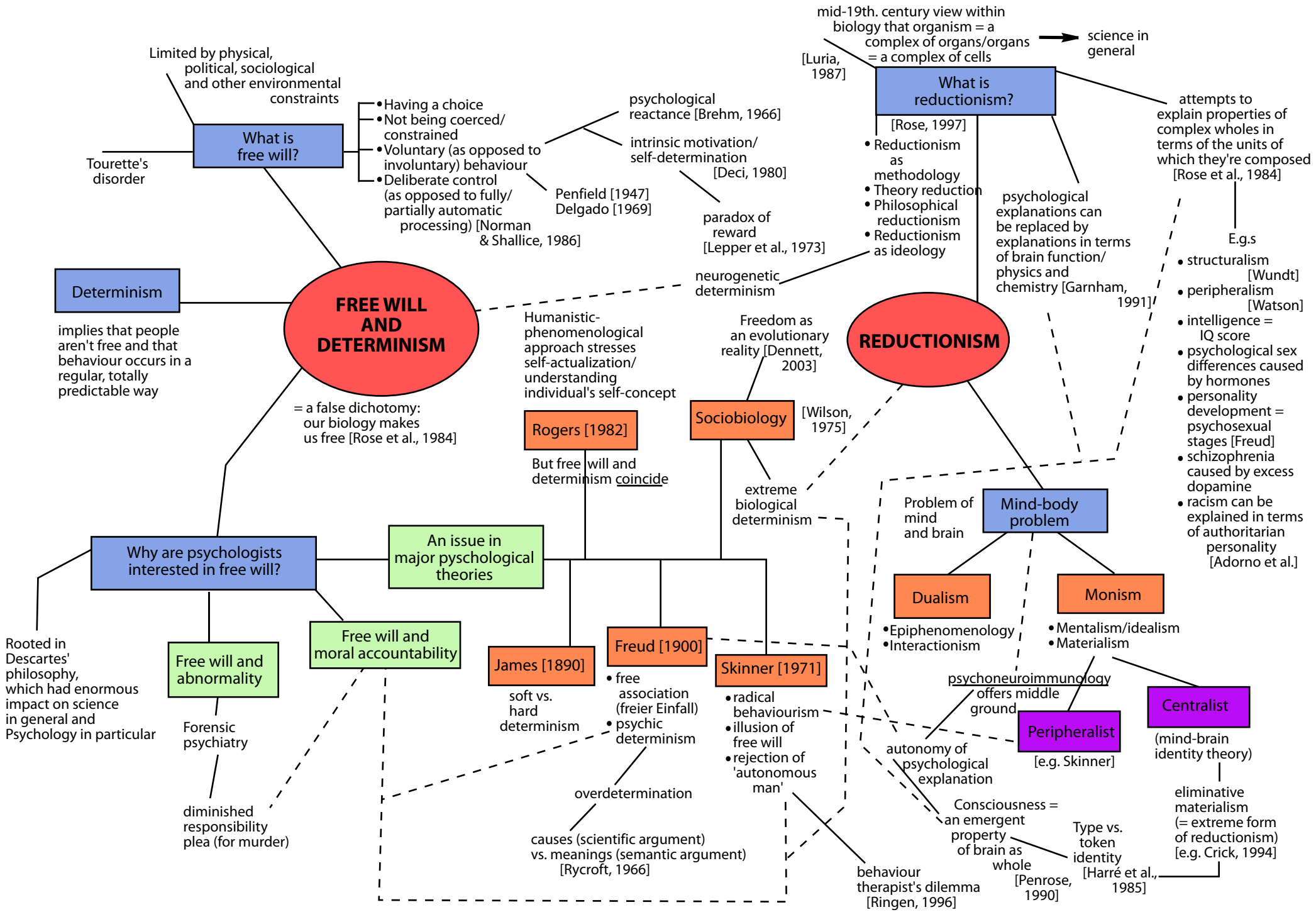
FREE WILL AND DETERMINISM
What is free will?
Limited by physical, political, sociological and other environmental constraints
Tourette's disorder
• Having a choice
• Not being coerced/ constrained
• Voluntary (as opposed to involuntary) behaviour
• Deliberate control (as opposed to fully/ partially automatic processing) [Norman & Shallice, 1986]
psychological reactance [Brehm, 1966]
intrinsic motivation/ self-determination [Deci, 1980]
Penfield [1947] Delgado [1969]
paradox of reward [Lepper et al., 1973]
neurogenetic determinism
Determinism
implies that people aren't free and that behaviour occurs in a regular, totally predictable way
= a false dichotomy: our biology makes us free [Rose et al., 1984]
Humanistic-phenomenological approach stresses self-actualization/ understanding individual's self-concept
Rogers [1982]
But free will and determinism coincide
Freedom as an evolutionary reality [Dennett, 2003]
Sociobiology
[Wilson, 1975]
extreme biological determinism
Why are psychologists interested in free will?
Rooted in Descartes' philosophy, which had enormous impact on science in general and Psychology in particular
Free will and abnormality
Forensic psychiatry
diminished responsibility plea (for murder)
Free will and moral accountability
An issue in major pyschological theories
James [1890]
soft vs. hard determinism
Freud [1900]
• free association (freier Einfall)
• psychic determinism
overdetermination
causes (scientific argument) vs. meanings (semantic argument) [Rycroft, 1966]
Skinner [1971]
• radical behaviourism
• illusion of free will
• rejection of 'autonomous man'
behaviour therapist's dilemma [Ringen, 1996]
REDUCTIONISM
What is reductionism?
[Rose, 1997]
• Reductionism as methodology
• Theory reduction
• Philosophical reductionism
• Reductionism as ideology
mid-19th. century view within biology that organism = a complex of organs/organs = a complex of cells
[Luria, 1987]
science in general
psychological explanations can be replaced by explanations in terms of brain function/ physics and chemistry [Garnham, 1991]
attempts to explain properties of complex wholes in terms of the units of which they're composed [Rose et al., 1984]
E.g.s
• structuralism [Wundt]
• peripheralism [Watson]
• intelligence = IQ score
• psychological sex differences caused by hormones
• personality development = psychosexual stages [Freud]
• schizophrenia caused by excess dopamine
• racism can be explained in terms of authoritarian personality [Adorno et al.]
Problem of mind and brain
Mind-body problem
Dualism
•Epiphenomenology
•Interactionism
Monism
•Mentalism/idealism
•Materialism
psychoneuroimmunology offers middle ground
Peripheralist
[e.g. Skinner]
Centralist
(mind-brain identity theory)
eliminative materialism (= extreme form of reductionism) [e.g. Crick, 1994]
autonomy of psychological explanation
Consciousness = an emergent property of brain as whole [Penrose, 1990]
Type vs. token identity [Harré et al., 1985]