

## Book reviews

### **Scapegoats, Transferring Blame**

*Tom Douglas*

1995, Routledge, London/New-York

213 pages

ISBN: 0-415-11018-1 (hardcover)/

0-415-11019-X (paperback)

Scapegoats are a universal phenomenon, appearing in all societies always in groups large and small, in public and private organizations. Hardly a week passes without some media reference to someone or something being made a scapegoat. Tom Douglas examines the process of scapegoating from the perspectives of victims and perpetrators, tracing its development from earliest times as a rite of atonement to the modern forms of the avoidance of blame and the victimization of innocents. The differences and similarities between the ancient and modern forms are examined to reveal that despite the modern logical explanations of behavior, the mystical element in the form of superstition is still evident.

The theories and explanations which social scientists have evolved to define scapegoating as a form of social behavior are examined and the processes of its management and resolution are covered in detail. Finally, Douglas analyzes the distinction between the 'rational' form, i.e. the deliberate and intentional victimization of innocents in order to ensure personal survival, and the 'irrational'

form, i.e. the response to frustration of unknown or wrongly attributed causes.

*Scapegoats* will be an invaluable resource for all professionals engaging in group work and group workers in training.

### **Adolescence and Delinquency,**

The collective management  
of reputation

*Nicholas Emler and Stephen Reicher*

1995, Blackwell Publishers, Cambridge

267 pages

ISBN: 0-631-13802-1 (hardcover)/

0-631-16823-0 (paperback)

By their mid-teens, most young people growing up in our society will take part in activities that are violations of the law. Yet they will seldom appear in court and few will go on to criminal careers as adults. In this book Nicholas Emler and Stephen Reicher present a new explanation of delinquency by investigating the social dynamics of behavior and misbehavior. The central thesis is that conduct is motivated by reputation: the problem is to explain why so many young people choose to pursue delinquent reputations.

The book begins with a critical look at psychology's traditional reaction to deviance, which has been to attribute flaws or deficits in the individual's psychological make-up. The authors go on to examine the major theoretical perspectives on delinquency in both psychology and sociology, relating them to their common roots in the 'mass society' thesis of the nineteenth century. The fit between these theories and the facts is then explored in some detail. None account suc-

cessfully for the major features of delinquency, particularly its generalized character, and its greater prevalence among males in mid-adolescence.

In the final section, the authors develop their own account of delinquency which suggests that the pursuit or avoidance of delinquent behavior is a choice of social identity and moral reputation. They develop the idea of 'reputation management', and examine the kind of reputation and identity conveyed by delinquent action and the advantages this may have for the actor.

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**Advances in Family Research,**

J.J. Hox, B.F. van der Meulen,  
J.M.A.M. Jansens, J.J.F. ter Laak,  
L.W.C. Tavecchio

1995, Thesis Publishers, Amsterdam  
299 pages

ISBN:90-5170-322-8 (paperback)

This book is the result of a symposium on the current state of research on family issues, such as parenting, educational goals, family interactions, therapeutic intervention, and methodological issues in family research. The emphasis is on the role of empirical research in explaining theoretical and practical issues. The contributors to this book, who are all actively engaged in research, present recent research findings, discuss the state of the art, and reflect on further developments. The book is organized in three sections: child rearing, parenting, and measurement and analysis issues. The viewpoint of the child-rearing section is the young child, while the viewpoint of the parenting section is the role of parents and the support they

may receive from professionals. The topic of the measurement and analysis section is methodological problems that are important especially in family research; for instance the operationalization and measurement of theoretical constructs at the family level, or design and evaluation of intervention studies.

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**Basic Child Psychology, Sixth  
Edition**

Philip Barker

1995, Blackwell Publishers, Cambridge  
368 pages

ISBN: 0-632-03773-5 (paperback)

*Basic Child Psychiatry* has again been rewritten to reflect advances in the field and to ensure that it remains an up-to-date introduction to the subject. Since the publication of the 5th edition, both the 10th edition of the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases and the 4th edition of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-IV) have appeared. Each of these publications proposes a number of changes in the way child and adolescent psychiatric disorders should be classified. These are fully reflected in the book. They are also discussed when the various clinical conditions are described, providing a completely updated view of classification issues.

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**Principles of Cognitive Psychology,**

A volume in the Principles  
of Psychology series

*Michael W. Eysenck*

1995, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates

186 pages

ISBN: 0-86377-253-6 (paperback)

Cognitive psychology is a large and expanding area within psychology as a whole. However, there are certain topics, such as perception, memory, language and reasoning, which are generally regarded as being of fundamental importance. It is this central core of cognitive psychology which is the focus of this book. If you have ever wondered how we perceive the world, or use language, or remember information, then this book provides intriguing insights into how we perform these, and other, complicated activities.

This book provides an up-to-date approach to cognitive psychology, but with a particular emphasis on accessibility and clarity of style. Consequently, the book can be read easily by anyone interested in cognitive psychology even if they do not possess any previous knowledge of the subject.

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**Advances in Social Network  
Analysis**

Research in the Social and Behavioral  
Sciences

*Stanley Wasserman and*

*Joseph Galaskiewicz*

1995, Sage, Thousand Oaks-London-New

Delhi, 299 pages

ISBN: 0-8039-4302-4 (hardcover)/

0-8039-4303-2 (paperback)

Social network analysis, a method for analysing relationships between social entities, has expanded over the last decades as new research has been done in this area. How can these new developments be applied effectively in the behavioral and social sciences disciplines? In *Advances in Social Network Analysis*, a team of leading methodologists in network analysis address this issue. They explore such topics as ways to specify the network contents to be studied, how to select the method for representing network structures, how social network analysis has been used to study interorganizational relations via the resource dependence model, how to use a contact matrix for studying the spread of disease in epidemiology and how cohesion and structural equivalence network theories relate to studying social influence. The volume also offers statistical models for social support networks.

**Families, Children and the  
Development of Dysfunction**

*Mark R. Dadds*

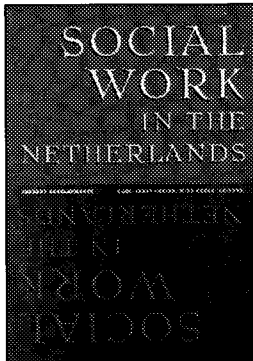
1995, Sage, Thousand Oaks-London-New  
Delhi, 118 pages

ISBN: 0-8039-5191-4 (hardcover)/  
0-8039-5192-2 (paperback)

Families, Children, and the development of dysfunction takes a comprehensive approach to child and family mental health by examining the many ways in which family plays a control role in the health and/or dysfunction of the child. Rich in its coverage, this book

begins with a presentation of the historical underpinnings of the study of the family's relation to child development and dysfunction. It details issues related to identification, assessment, and treatment of child dysfunction in relation to family processes and offers alternative conceptual views of the family. Specific types of dysfunction, such as depression, conduct problems, and anxiety, are also presented to illustrate the ways in which family influences operate.

Developmental Clinical Psychology and Psychiatry, Volume 32



**SOCIAL WORK  
IN THE NETHERLANDS**  
current developments

Karl-Ernst Hesse, Wibo Koole (Eds.)

ISBN 90-6665-134-2

128 pages

Hfl. 34,50

This books shows that social work in the Netherlands is capable of finding new answers to newly grown and longer existing problems. It gives an overview of the innovative capacity of social work in the Netherlands.

Social Work in a highly developed welfare state is facing new demands and expectations. Central in this process of renewal is that the demand of clients is seen as more important than the supply of providers. The possibilities of clients themselves and the activating of their own powers get full attention.

The families of clients and their broader social networks are taken into account by social workers. The social worker takes the role of advisor that sees to it that the client is participating again in the importants parts of his or her social life. In eighteen chapters these developments are presented.