

## Book reviews

### **The culture of adolescent risk-taking**

*Cynthia Lightfoot*  
1997, Guilford Press  
ISBN 1-57230-189-9

An in-depth exploration of the relationship between adolescent risk-taking and peer group culture, based on extensive interviews with teens themselves, this elegantly written book shows that taking risks is a natural and necessary part of growing up. The author proposes that risks are declarations of the self, worn like badges of autonomy, or defiance, or group membership. With a broad interpretive approach locating human action within the symbolic forms, communicative practices and shared idioms of culture, Cynthia Lightfoot elucidates the cultural and psychological processes through which risk acquires meaning for teenagers and vividly depicts the drama and daring of adolescent social life.

This book will be of value to professionals and students on developmental, adolescent and health psychology and in anthropology.

### **A mother's nightmare - incest** A Practical Legal Guide for Parents

and Professionals

John E.B. Myers

1997, Sage, London

ISBN 0-7619-1057-3 (cloth)

ISBN 0-7619-1058-1 (paper)

When parents - usually mothers - try to protect their children from sexual abuse, they can be devastated to find that support from the legal system is not always there. Suspecting their husbands or partners of the abuse, mothers may seek a divorce and custody or, if already divorced, request withdrawal of visitation rights. However, if unable to prove abuse, a mother can be labeled 'hysterical' and her desperate efforts to secure her child's safety may jeopardize her case - and even result in the suspected perpetrator being granted custody of the child.

This book addresses this troubling issue and provides parents and professionals with the necessary information to protect themselves against a legal system backfire. Myers advises parents not to act too quickly, stresses the importance of documenting evidence and supplies a step-by-step strategy for attaining victory in the current United States court system. Topics discussed include psychosocial evaluations, legal options, consequences of false allegations and maintaining emotional balance.



**Cognition and emotion**

**From Order to Disorder**

*Michael J. Power & Tim Dalgleish*

1997, Psychology Press

The suggestion that emotions might profitably be approached from a cognitive perspective was first mooted by Aristotle in *The Art of Rhetoric*. However, Aristotle's ideas had little currency for almost 2,000 years, until the broad adoption of the Aristotelian approach to emotions by psychologists in the latter part of this century. Currently, the area of cognition and emotion is fertile ground for a host of interesting and provocative research programs and theoretical ideas. This burgeoning of interest was reflected by the launch of the journal entitled 'Cognition and Emotion' in 1987.

This volume is the first book, which seeks to review and integrate the various areas, which fall under the umbrella of cognition and emotion. The text has two principal aims: the first is to integrate work on normal emotions with work on the so-called emotional disorders. Within the cognition and emotion literature there are a number of influential theories of 'normal' emotions; however, these rarely address the issue of disordered emotions. Similarly, there are numerous theories which seek to explain one or more emotional disorders (e.g. Depression, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) but they rarely discuss normal emotions. The present book introduces a theoretical framework, which can be applied to both normal and disordered emotions. The second aim of the forthcoming volume is to provide a core cognition and emotion textbook by including a comprehensive review of the basic literature. This aim reflects the increased emphasis

on cognition in undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

The book is divided in two parts. The first part provides a broad theoretical overview of the cognition and emotion literature, with chapters on the cognitive philosophy of emotion, theories of normal emotion and theories of emotional disorder. The key points from these three review chapters are carried forward to an integrative theoretical chapter in which a framework for analyzing both normal and disordered emotions is outlined.

The second part of the book contains separate chapters on the five basic emotions of fear, sadness, anger, disgust and happiness. Each chapter provides a broad review of the relevant empirical and theoretical literature, a discussion of disordered variants of the emotion and an analysis of the normal and disordered presentations within the theoretical framework proposed in Part I.

*Cognition and Emotion: From Order to Disorder* should prove of interest to undergraduate and postgraduate students, clinicians and researchers alike.



**Working with sexually abusive adolescents**

**A Practice Manual**

*Masud S. Hoghughi, Surya R. Bate & Finlay Graham*

1997, Sage, London

ISBN 0-8039-7758-1 (cloth)

ISBN 0-8039-7759-X (paper)

This book presents a clear and comprehensive overview of the key factors involved in working with adolescent sex offenders.

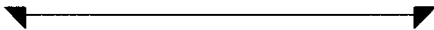
With an emphasis throughout the book on practical guidance, a team of leading practitioners addresses a number of important questions.

- Who are sexually abusive adolescents and what do they do?
- What are the current theories of adolescent sexual abusiveness?
- How can we address issues of risk estimating and management?
- What are the assumptions behind many aspects of assessment and treatment?

Accessible and interdisciplinary in its approach, *Working with Sexually Abusive Adolescents* will be invaluable reading for practitioners - as well as students and researchers - in psychology, psychiatry, counseling, social work and nursing.

prevalence among young people today. Always alive to the practical implications of their analysis, they provide a thorough and comprehensive strategy for addressing the plight of the homeless in which prevention and intervention go hand-in-hand.

*Homeless Youth* will be an invaluable resource for all those involved in tackling this complex social problem from a variety of perspectives, including psychology, psychiatry, social work and social policy.



**Homeless youth**

*Jan van der Ploeg & Evert Scholte*

1997, Sage, London

ISBN 0-8039-7805-7 (cloth)

ISBN 0-8039-7806-5 (paper)

This wide-ranging book analyzes the problem of youth homelessness in the Western world. Taking into account psychological characteristics while highlighting the major risk factors in the family, at school and in society at large, the authors offer both practitioners and policymakers tools for dealing with all aspects of this issue.

Within a clear conceptual and theoretical framework, Jan van der Ploeg and Evert Scholte define the phenomenon of homelessness, drawing on data from across Europe and North America to establish its scope and