

## BOOK REVIEWS

CULTURE AND EMOTION, edited by Antony S. R. Manstead & Agneta H. Fischer. East Sussex, United Kingdom: Psychology Press, 2002, 196 pp. ISBN 1-84169-924-1. U.S. \$65.00.

This book is a reprinting of a special issue on the topic of culture and emotion from the journal *Cognition and Emotion*. As such, it reads like a special issue of a journal. There are advantages and disadvantages when reprinting a special issue of a journal as an independent book, and these are the focus of this review.

Clearly one of the advantages of reprinting a special issue from a solid journal like *Cognition and Emotion* is that readers are almost guaranteed a selection of fine quality research articles that represent some part of the spectrum of contemporary research in an area of psychology. This issue is no exception; the articles and the authors published represent some of the finest researchers today in the area of culture and emotion. The articles presented display the flavor and methodology of some of the latest innovations in thinking and research methodology in the area. They utilize advanced methods of understanding and measuring culture and include the use of cultural dimensions, cultural selfways, and ecological-level analyses. They examine various domains of emotion, including emotional experience, emotional expression, and the language of emotion. They provide perspectives concerning both pancultural similarities and cross-cultural differences. The articles collectively serve as a solid sampling of the types of research and thinking in this area of psychology, and each article stands on its own.

Three articles, for example, investigate the topic of emotion and language and highlight the close relationship between culture and emotion as expressed in the verbal language. Semin, Gorts, Nandram, and Semin-Goossens show that in interdependent cultures, emotions and the events that bring them about are closely related to interpersonal relations more than in independent cultures. Kitayama and Ishii showed that native English speakers are relatively more attuned to the evaluation of word meaning when processing emotionally spoken words, whereas native speakers of Japanese are more in tune with the vocal emotion. Fontaine, Poortinga, Setiadi, and Markam's study demonstrated cross-cultural similarities and differences in the semantic structure of the emotion lexicon in Indonesia and the Netherlands.

A number of articles examined cultural differences and/or related self-construal differences in emotionality. Becht and Vingerhoets, for instance, showed that crying was related to positive mood change in feminine cultures. Basabe, Paez, Valencia, Gonzalez, Rime, and Diener present evidence that both subjective well-being and affect balance were related to individualism in an ecological analysis of 53 cultures. Mesquita and Karasawa demonstrated how different selfways in the United States and Japan are associated with differences in self-reported emotionality. Rodriguez, Mosquera, Manstead, and Fischer provided evidence that cultural differences in concerns about honor between Spanish and Dutch participants account for differences in responses to insults. Finally, Vrana, and Rollock demonstrated differences in emotional responses to imagined emotional scenarios for ethnic groups within the United States.

The editors do a fine job of identifying current issues that cut across the articles, briefly reviewing the history of research in this area and the nature of the debates that have clouded the field. In their introduction, the editors do an excellent job of placing each of the articles into its own broader context and of sharing their enthusiasm for new research and thinking in the area for years to come.

This is a reprinting of a special issue of a journal and should not be mistakenly construed as an edited book. If it were to be construed as an edited book, there would be many drawbacks. For instance, it does not have the breadth that it could on the topic. The selection of articles was limited to those

authors who chose to submit an article for this topic to this particular journal at the particular time they were solicited. An edited book would normally involve the editors preselecting a broader range of authors from a variety of perspectives, topics, and methodologies to contribute. This could not be achieved in this book because it was a reprinting of a special issue.

Partly because of this limitation, the reprinted articles could not achieve, in my opinion, the goal mentioned by the editors in their introduction, that is, “a new awareness of the need to approach the issue of the relation between culture and emotion in a way that goes beyond the universalism-relativism debate” (p. 4). Such a goal is a worthwhile one, and I was excited to read about this goal in the introduction to the articles. But after having read the collection of articles, I was sorry to find that the collection as a whole did not address this goal. A true edited book with more chapters on more topics from more authors and with integration and discussion of this goal interwoven into the presentation could have achieved such a goal and would have made a solid contribution to the literature beyond the message intended by the individual articles.

My reservations are not intended at all to diminish the amount of work the editors had to do to produce the special issue of the journal. My reservations are related to the fact that the book was a reprint of a special issue, and I am not even sure if the editors had intended this to be the case at the outset of their project. So my comments are intended to reflect limitations in the work as a stand-alone book and not on the editors’ work on the special issue nor on the individual authors of the reprinted articles, who are well-established researchers in their own right.

To summarize, I view the positive qualities of the book exactly as they are in the context of a special edition of a journal. Each of the contributed articles is an excellent study in its own right, and they collectively work well together. As a special issue of a journal, they comprise a fine collection of studies on the topic of culture and emotion. As an edited book, however, which many readers may initially and mistakenly believe it is, I find the collection lacking in a common theme and in the breadth of perspectives that this area of psychology could bring to bear on the questions that face the area of culture and emotion. If one views the book for what it is—a reprinting of an issue of a journal that can be accessed more easily than a journal issue—then readers are sure to be more than satisfied with the work.

—David Matsumoto  
San Francisco State University