

were written by international experts from a variety of fields including management, psychology, communication, education, and political science.

According to Clegg and Bailey, organization studies is “the examination of how individuals construct organizational structures, processes, and practices and how these, in turn, shape social relations and create institutions that ultimately influence people” (xliii). Included in each volume is a “Reader’s Guide” that classifies the encyclopedia’s entries into twenty themes or topics, such as “Organizational Relations,” “Approaches to Management Theory,” and “Innovation and Creativity.” The encyclopedia also contains an alphabetical list of all entries and a fifty-plus-age index.

The entries are succinct and average 2 to 3 pages in length. The basic format of an entry consists of the “Conceptual Overview,” “Critical Commentary,” “Future Directions,” and “Further Readings.” In compiling the entries for the encyclopedia, the authors referred to the indexes of two prior reference books by Stuart Clegg: *Handbook of Organization Studies* (Sage, 1996) and *Managing and Organizations* (Sage, 2005) and created a list of topics that was further enhanced by the international contributors.

This encyclopedia covers such diverse topics as “Post-colonial Theory,” “Magic in Organizing,” and the “Free-Rider Problem” in organizational economics. As an example of topic development, in the entry for “McDonaldization,” George Ritzer (*The McDonaldization of Society*, Pine Forge Pr., 1993) presents a clear compendium describing the concept of McDonaldization and its influences on the global community. The entry concludes with a cross-reference pointing the user to entries for “Bureaucracy,” “Capitalism, Models of,” “Globalization,” and “Modernity.”

International Encyclopedia of Organization Studies surpasses comparable works such as the *Handbook of Organization Studies* (Sage, 1996) and *Managing and Organizations* (Sage, 2005) because of its wide and deep scope. *International Encyclopedia of Organization Studies* is an extremely thorough and lucid resource. However, libraries may benefit more from the electronic version of the encyclopedia because the theoretical nature of the content does not encourage browsing and discovery of ideas. Recommended for academic libraries with organizational studies programs.—Colleen Lougen, *Electronic Resources Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz*

Life Events and Rites of Passage: The Customs and Symbols of Major Life-Cycle Milestones, Including Cultural, Secular, and Religious Traditions Observed in the United States. By Jeff Hill and Peggy Daniels. Detroit, Mich.: Omnigraphics, 2008. 520p. alkaline \$71 (ISBN 978-0-7808-0735-8).

Taking a broad approach to life’s rites of passage, this volume describes making the transitions from infancy to death and how the rituals are carried out in the United States at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Formal ceremonies, beliefs, or rituals, many based on specific religions or cultures, are covered in an easy-to-read and interesting format for an

intended audience of middle school and high school students. This book would also be an excellent starting place for college students researching customs and ceremonies or for anyone interested in life’s rites of passage.

The four sections—Birth and Childhood, Coming of Age, Adult Rites of Passage, and Death and Mourning—make it easy to find information on everything from naming a baby to quinceañera to Ramadan to crematoriums. American social customs are continually being shaped by a melting pot outlook that welcomes a variety of customs from regional sources (such as Native American, Mexican American, and Cajun) and from international cultures (such as Chinese and Japanese). The book supports this outlook by providing “see also” references for cross-cultural comparisons and related information. The bibliography offers a wealth of information, recommending websites, articles, and books for further inquiry into each rite or life event. This volume would be an excellent textbook for a class on cultural diversity because of its coverage of folk beliefs, ceremonies, rituals, and everyday beliefs.

Some of the information can be found in encyclopedias such as Len Travers’s *Encyclopedia of American Holidays and National Days* (Greenwood, 2006) or Frank A. Salamone’s *Encyclopedia of Religious Rites, Rituals, and Festivals* (Routledge, 2004), but this book brings together a potpourri of information into one source. This is not a comprehensive tome on the rites of passage in life, but it is a great place for students to begin to understand how we transition from one life stage to the next.—Diane J. Turner, *Senior Reference/Instruction Librarian, Auraria Library, Denver, Colorado*

Queer America: A GLBT History of the 20th Century. By Vicki L. Eaklor. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 312p. alkaline \$65 (ISBN 978-0-313-33749-9).

Described in the introduction as “a ‘one stop’ handbook to U.S. GLBT history of the 20th century” (xii) Vicki Eaklor’s *Queer America* charts the evolution of GLBT identities, political struggles, and cultures. This comprehensive work draws from seminal writings of prominent historians such as John D’Emilio, Allan Berube, and Lillian Faderman. Although its narrative style and organization suggest a textbook rather than a traditional reference source, *Queer America* works well as both a broad-based history and a gateway to the key literature of the field. Eaklor, a professor of history at Alfred University and contributor to Gale’s indispensable *Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History and Culture in America* (2004), organizes *Queer America* as a chronology of GLBT life during specific eras. These engaging chapters weave together primary writings and interviews with political events and social history. A detailed table of contents facilitates topical look-ups, although readers will likely want to read through whole chapters. A selective timeline of GLBT landmark events nicely contextualizes the contents within the larger picture of U.S. history. For example, the entry for the year 1955 includes both the founding of the