more “emotional.”

In this excellent introductory chapter, she also summarizes some of the beliefs and treatments for what are seen by societies as emotional disorders from medieval to modern times. She ends on a hopeful note that as more is learned about emotion, treatments for what are seen to be disorders will become more effective. The accompanying references offer readers resources that expand on this introduction.

The entries run the gamut from significant individuals to general terms about emotional, physiological, and cultural states. There are many disorders and symptoms, treatments, diagnostic techniques and instruments, and organizations concerned with human emotions. The list of entries and list of entries by type offer general finding aids. The twenty page index guides users to the multiple places that a term may be discussed.

When compared with the Encyclopedia of Human Emotions (Levinson, Ponzetti, and Jorgensen (eds), Macmillan, 1999), it is apparent that rather than replace the earlier work, the Encyclopedia of Emotion complements and expands on the topics and terms. While the basic psychological and psychiatric topics are included in both works (anxiety, bipolar disorder, fear, intimacy, jealousy, joy, learned helplessness, etc.), there are differences. For example, in the list of people mentioned, Clint Eastwood appears briefly in the lengthy Macmillan entry on guilt (and the index). There is a lengthy discussion of literature and film portrayals of guilt or its absence. The Greenwood title's entry on guilt is a more clinical description of its function in society. Staying in the Es, the new work has entries for ego-mania, emo (a type of music), emotional brain, empathogen, empty nest syndrome, enmeshment, and euthymia, not found in the earlier work. On the other hand, the Macmillan encyclopedia includes ego ideal, emblematic gestures, emotion script, empty love, ennui, envy, and Eros. Together, the two works offer a broad introduction to much of what is known about human emotions.

It also may have differing emphases on specific topics. For example, the entry on embarrassment is four pages long with a lengthy bibliography in the 1999 encyclopedia. It is just over a page with only four readings and references in Reevy’s work. Both describe embarrassment in more and less detail, respectively, with considerable emphasis on techniques for coping with embarrassment in the 1999 work. Reevy quotes a definition of embarrassment and then emphasizes the submissive aspects of this self-conscious emotion. She points out that more work on understanding the differences among embarrassment, shame, guilt, and pride is needed.

Among the strengths of Reevy’s work are the succinct, direct definitions in the first line or lines of each entry. “Rational emotive behavior therapy (REBT) was developed by Albert Ellis in 1959 to highlight the power of reframing one's irrational beliefs into more rational perspectives” (489). These journalistic-like statements are frames on which the rest of the information in each entry is hung. Such clarity in a part of human experience that can be clouded and fraught with emotion is salutary.

I question the use of just a few illustrations in a reference work of any kind, when more may have been useful, or none would have been equally appropriate. Sometimes it is better to forego illustrations rather than use them to break up the mass of text every twenty pages or so. For example, photographs of the significant individuals would be appropriate. There are just thirty illustrations in this odd, sometimes irrelevant, collection sprinkled through the two volumes. The Beatles (370) with their guru does not add much to a description of meditation. A stock photo (558) of a Mexican Redknee Tarantula kept as a pet because of its color has little to do with tarantism, a medieval mental disorder. The photograph of the Kennedy family (514) with Rosemary Kennedy as an example of a mildly retarded person who developed schizophrenia accompanying the entry on schizophrenia seems a bit voyeuristic and over the top. However, such illustrations, as the example of a feelings chart (268), do add to the entry.

The three appendixes add value. Appendix A: Pharmacology lists drugs commonly prescribed for the range of mood and thought disorders and for specific symptoms and other conditions. It reads like an expanded drug insurance formulary with category, drug, brand names, uses, and comments. An extensive list of mental health organizations is found in appendix B. And the suggested readings in appendix C includes self-help, first person accounts, readings for general and academic audiences, biographies, and textbooks.

When one pays attention to the text, writing quality, the extensive addition of terms to the discussion of emotions, and to the wealth of basic psychological, sociological, and psychiatric terminology and concepts included, it is easy to recommend this Encyclopedia of Emotion to libraries of all types.—Linda Loos Scarth, Retired Reference Librarian, Cedar Rapids, Iowa


There are at least two major disciplinary perspectives which have informed our understanding of identity. Psychologists often view identity as an internal, developmental process through which a person “integrates” different aspects of selfhood into a continuous and definable entity. Sociologists tend to focus on people’s differentiation from others, their categorization into groups, and the various places people hold within society. To put it another way, the most recent APA Dictionary of Psychology (American Psychological Association, 2007) states that identity is “an individuals sense of self defined by (a) a set of physical and psychological characteristics that is not wholly shared with any other person and (b) a range of social and interpersonal affiliations and social roles” (463). Unfortunately, the Encyclopedia of Identity only tells half the story.

Jackson’s specialty is the relationship between identity and communication, especially pertaining to African American masculinity. The five associate editors have extensive backgrounds in African/African American studies, arts, communication, philosophy, and sociology. Thus it is unsurprising that
the work “takes a broad comprehensive approach to identity as a socially constructed phenomenon” and that one of its main premises is that “identities are cocreated via interaction with others” (xxv–xxvi). Among approximately three hundred entries (more than nine hundred pages), there are the requisite listings on “Deconstruction,” “Hermeneutics,” “Hyperreality,” “Simulacra,” and the like. Yet the lack of a psychologist on the editorial board is apparent. Many crucial insights from that field, such as James Marcia’s research on identity achievement, diffusion, foreclosure, and moratorium, or Hazel Markus’s work on possible selves, are only briefly discussed within entries on the development of identity or self-concept. Psychologists’ ideas certainly contribute to the notion of cocreated identity and merit entries of their own.

There are notable deficiencies even among the areas that should be the editors’ strongest suits. Despite an article on “Absolute Poverty,” there are no entries for income or wealth. Instead, most economic aspects are covered within a three-page article on “Class Identity.” Similarly, there are entries on “Bisexual/Bicurious,” “Gay,” and “Womanism,” but little information about femininity/masculinity, men who sleep with men, transvestitism, or other aspects of sexuality. If mentioned at all, these only appear in articles on “Gender,” “Sexual Identities,” or “Sexual Minorities.”

Another major fault is that the encyclopedia does not include entries for fundamental attributes that people are most likely to use when introducing themselves (“Hi, my name is Bernadette. I’m a librarian from Pennsylvania. I am married with no children”). Inexplicably, there are seventeen entries pertaining to the arts (including one on “Renaissance Art”), but there are no entries on family roles, occupational/professional identity, educational status, geographic/regional affiliation, or hobbies/recreation/sports. Since encyclopedias are used most heavily by students, it is also unfortunate that there are no articles on clothing, music, and other self-expressions that young adults would recognize. These are significant problems in a work whose “purpose” is to “offer an opportunity to everyday readers to understand identity as an everyday phenomenon, process, and dynamic that affects their lives” (xxv).

It is tragic that the encyclopedia misses or shortchanges so many important aspects of the topic, because there are few if any reference sources available. Although it can function as a starting point for philosophically-oriented readers with a special interest in social constructionism, I encounter few such brave souls among my undergraduates. An optional work whose “purpose” is to “offer an opportunity to everyday readers to understand identity as an everyday phenomenon, process, and dynamic that affects their lives” (xxv).

Entry types are varied and include descriptions of companies, organizations, individuals, countries, products, and technologies related to nanoscience. Entries are arranged alphabetically, typically one to four pages in length, and include cross references and suggestions for further reading. Black-and-white illustrations sprinkled throughout the text add visual interest. The reader’s guide found in volume 1 is an indispensable feature that helps readers explore issues in depth by grouping entries by topic, such as “Economics and Business,” “Environment and Risk,” “Ethics and Values,” “Governance,” and “History and Philosophy.” Using the reader’s guide, one can easily explore complex issues such as governmental nanoscience funding decisions, economic development opportunities, and the challenges associated with regulation of this technology to ensure environmental, occupational, and personal health.

Additional features enhance the usefulness of this title. A chronology in volume 1 provides context by charting the scientific advances that have led to the era of nanoscience. Volume 2 includes a glossary that defines unfamiliar technical terms, a resource list of books, websites and journals for additional information, and an extensive index. An appendix in volume 2 containing the 2003 U.S. congressional hearings on the societal implications of nanotechnology provides insight into some of the key controversies and concerns surrounding nanoscience.

The Encyclopedia of Nanoscience and Society has a pleasing layout and is easy to navigate. Articles are written at an advanced level that makes this title ideally suited for college students and the scientifically literate public who want to explore the implications of nanotechnology. This title provides an essential starting point for understanding the societal challenges and concerns surrounding nanoscience and nanotechnology. Highly recommended for academic and large public