The editors of this latest series of review articles are eminently qualified to seek out "the work of investigators who are pursuing new techniques and concepts in the fields of normal and pathological personality research." Based at Harvard University's Department of Psychology and Social Relations, the editors, who have published extensively in the area of research in psychopathology, are well placed to undertake important integrations in the related field of experimental personality research. As the Edward C. Henderson Professor and Chair of Psychology, Brendan Maher undoubtedly provides essential leadership and direction on the most promising lines of future investigations in the personality research area. Given the unique standing of the editors, and in view of the title of the latest series of reviews, with its emphasis being on the "experimental" progress in personality research, the reader may well expect to undertake a stimulating and exciting voyage into the realm of new and empirically tested personality findings. Unfortunately, much of the evidence reviewed in this book may disappoint the reader.

Clearly, the editors have attempted to include the work of psychologists from non-English speaking countries, with chapters originating from Japan, Israel, Spain, India, Canada, and the United States. At first glance, the six chapters provide a diverse cross-cultural presentation of personality research topics, but despite this major stated goal of the editors, only the chapter by Pandey, on the sociocultural aspects of ingratiating specifically takes into account cross-cultural issues. Moreover, the chapters from both Canada and the United States serve no purpose in bringing work from foreign psychologists to the attention of the English speaking world. Indeed, casual perusal of the references cited by the contributors from outside the North American continent suggests that the predominant emphasis (except for their own work) is on the efforts of mainstream psychology in the United States. In this respect, the foreign contributors provide little that is new to mainstream personality psychologists.

The book includes chapters on the social psychological perspectives of hypnosis, nonvolitional responding, and multiple personality (Spanos); personality theorems and research programmes focusing on self-evaluation and self-esteem (Fierro); self-esteem and the seeking and receiving of help, taking into account theoretical and empirical perspectives (Nadler); the relationship of personality to environmental vulnerability and proenvironmental orientation (Iwata); psychological markers of vulnerability to schizophrenia (Harvey, Walker, & Wielgus), in addition to the chapter by Pandey mentioned above. Given this diversity of topics, it is surprising that the editors have not provided an introductory chapter (or at the very least a more extensive preface) together with a concluding chapter to enable the reader to gain a more integrated and holistic view of the current status of experimental personality research. Indeed, the single-page preface seems quite inadequate for a book dealing with such diverse, conceptually complex, but nevertheless critically important aspects of personality research. As Werner (1988, p. 150) correctly pointed out, "The editors must have had some thoughts about how it all fits together; more discussion by them would have provided the reader with a superordinate perspective on the papers included."

Not only do many of the references in each chapter refer predominantly to mainstream American research into personality constructs, as indicated above, but in addition, the vast majority of these references to published work relate to rather dated (or at least to pre-1980s) studies. In the main, the more recent reference
citations relate to each of the contributor's own published works. Examination of this factor, chapter by chapter, reveals that for Spanos, some 72% of his nearly 300 references on the topic of hypnosis are pre-1980s publications, thereby suggesting comparatively less awareness of recently published work in this field, aside from his own. Even more problematic is the chapter by Fierro, wherein no less than some 81% of his reference citations are comprised of dated, pre-1980s references. The corresponding proportions of dated reference citations for the remaining chapters by Nadler, Iwata, Pandey, and Harvey et al. are 55%, 69%, 73%, and 54% respectively. Under these circumstances, it is obvious that the great majority of the studies reviewed in this book by the six authors collectively, pertain to rather old work which predates the massive amount of effort put into the experimental exploration of personality constructs during the 1980s. In this context, the present series of chapters brought together by the editors adds comparatively little new light on experimental personality. Certainly there is discussion of new personality research findings, but overall, this new contribution comprises only about one-third of the book on the basis of the relative proportion of dated to more recent reference citations. Accordingly, most of this book reviews "old" literature, despite the stated aim by the editors to seek out "new techniques and concepts" in the personality research field.

The very title of this book includes the term "experimental" as an essential descriptive adjective. Accordingly, the book presumably concerns the scientific investigation of personality. While measurement is the sine qua non of scientific enterprise, this book nevertheless seems to be rather light in terms of its measurement basis. It is well-known that study of personality requires a multidimensional psychometric basis of measurement, as the prodigious Cattellian school of psychology has demonstrated. Apart from the chapter by Fierro, wherein it is argued that "reliance on unidirectional explanatory models by personality researchers severely restricts the field's ability to understand the complexity of human behaviour and experience" (Werner, 1988, p. 150), the chapters in general deal with only very limited aspects of personality from a somewhat narrow measurement perspective. Thus the chapters on ingratiating, and on markers for schizophrenia, deal with specific syndrome clusters of surface traits, but fail completely to take into account the numerous underlying source traits which constitute these behavioural phenomena. Perusal of the references cited in the various chapters indicates that little attention is paid to the extensive and contemporary multivariate personality research covered in essential journals such as Multivariate Behavioral Research, Personality and Individual Differences, or Multivariate Experimental Personality Research. This is perhaps, however, partly a function of the current trends in American psychology, wherein not a single APA journal is devoted specifically to the multivariate psychometric approach in psychology. While the chapter by Harvey et al. does include a brief section on psychometric characteristics of marker variables for schizophrenia, nevertheless, their discussion is wordy and generally fails to present hard scientific data. Likewise, in Iwata's chapter, while some psychometric findings are reported, there seems a marked lack of sophistication, as he provides evidence based on the extremely unreliable projective TAT method. One might expect this level of analysis to be more characteristic of the sophomore student than of the competent research worker. The chapters by Fierro and Pandey do incorporate inferential statistical analyses of data derived from objective measurements, but the chapters by Spanos and Harvey et al. seem particularly devoid of statistical analyses of new data. Hence, these latter chapters must remain more at the speculative, subjective level of analysis, as does the chapter by Iwata.
Notwithstanding the above limitations, the present book does provide a number of new and important insights into the various phenomena discussed. While there are many avenues for improvement in considering the topics covered in the book, nevertheless, the editors must be given credit for bringing together much of the research literature pertaining to a diversity of work in the experimental personality field. While the book may not completely meet its stated goals, it does, however, devote at least a third of its content to new contemporary research studies. The present review has focused largely on a critique of the work presented, but clearly one could highlight the more positive contributions it makes. It is to be hoped that this book will serve as a springboard for further investigations in the area of experimental personality research. One important point which the editors make is that, "Personality psychologists continue to work on the problem of defining, measuring, and validating individual dispositions, but have become more interested in specifying the kinds of situations in which these dispositions will be manifested. Thus the interactionist paradigm has come to provide a general framework for trait theorists. The contributions published in this volume reflect this state of affairs" (p. vii). Clearly, despite the inclusion of many older studies, the present book does provide a valuable resource for personality researchers. Its weakness is the relative lack of attention given to multivariate psychometric studies utilising objective multidimensional instruments as the basis of measurement. Experimental personality research of necessity demands a multivariate perspective.

Reference

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