PERSONALITY,
COGNITION,
AND EMOTION
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Volume 2
PERSONALITY, COGNITION, AND EMOTION
Edited by Michael W. Eysenck, Małgorzata Fajkowska, and Tomasz Maruszewski

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Volume 3
PERSONALITY DYNAMICS: EMBODIMENT, MEANING CONSTRUCTION, AND THE SOCIAL WORLD
Edited by Daniel Cervone, Michael W. Eysenck, Małgorzata Fajkowska, and Tomasz Maruszewski
PERSONALITY, COGNITION, AND EMOTION

Edited by
Michael W. Eysenck
Roehampton University
Whitelands College
London, United Kingdom

Małgorzata Fajkowska
Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities and
Polish Academy of Sciences
Warsaw, Poland

Tomasz Maruszewski
Polish Academy of Sciences and
Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities
Warsaw, Poland

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Contributors

Ewa Domaradzka • Interdisciplinary Center for Applied Cognitive Studies, Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw, Poland

Michael W. Eysenck • Department of Psychology, Roehampton University, Whitelands College, London, United Kingdom

Małgorzata Fajkowska • Institute of Psychology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland; Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw, Poland

Angela N. Fellner • Department of Psychology, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

Nico H. Frijda • Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Alina Kolańczyk • Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Faculty in Sopot, Sopot, Poland

Elizabeth Malouf • Department of Psychology, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, USA

Debra Mashek • Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, California, USA

Gerald Matthews • Department of Psychology, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

Tomasz Maruszewski • Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw, Poland; Institute of Psychology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland

Keith Oatley • Department of Human Development and Applied Psychology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
Contributors

William Revelle • Department of Psychology, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, USA

Grzegorz Sedek • Interdisciplinary Center for Applied Cognitive Studies, Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw, Poland

Jeff Stuewig • Department of Psychology, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, USA

June Price Tangney • Department of Psychology, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, USA

Szymon Wichary • Interdisciplinary Center for Applied Cognitive Studies, Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw, Poland; Department of Psychology, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

Bogdan Wojciszke • Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw, Poland
Foreword

The first Biennial Symposium on Personality and Social Psychology (BSPSP), organized by the Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, was arranged in the hope that we would be able to gather internationally recognized researchers in the fields of personality and social psychology to exchange ideas and discuss possibilities for future collaboration in these areas of research. Małgorzata Fajkowska accepted the challenge to organize the BSPSP, with results that have surpassed our expectations. Only after the first meeting did the idea mature to publish the most interesting and significant intellectual fruits of this meeting. I am glad we were able to convince the organizers that the only way to have the results of our symposia internationally disseminated is to publish them in English, but as psychological monographs rather than conference proceedings. I am pleased that Eliot Werner agreed to publish selected papers presented in the symposia in the form of extended chapters in a series Warsaw Lectures in Personality and Social Psychology, and hope Eliot shares my impression that this was a sound decision.

The first three volumes—Personality From Biological, Cognitive, and Social Perspectives, this one, and the third one in preparation (Personality Dynamics: Embodiment, Meaning Construction, and the Social World, based on the third biennial meeting that took place in 2010)—convinced us that our decision, strongly influenced by the well-known series Nebraska Symposia on Motivation, was right. Indeed, we were able to generate interest in our symposia among highly recognized researchers and experts in personality and social psychology. To mention only a few of them who have taken part in our symposia and contributed to the volumes: Susan Andersen, John Cacioppo, Daniel Cervone, Michael Eysenck, Nico Frijda, Hubert Hermans, Shulamith Kreitler, Gerald Matthews, Risto Näätänen, Paula Niedenthal, Keith Oatley, Ernst Pöppel, William Revelle, Robin Vallacher, and Frank Van Overwalle.

I am pleased that Volume 2 is now in the hands of the reader. The book is divided into two parts: Part I, “Differential Approaches to the Study of Cognitive and Affective Processes”; and Part II, “Self in Social Behavior and Emotional Expression.” As stated by the editors in their introduction, “Part I is concerned with the effects of individual differences and emotion on cognitive processing and performance,” whereas “Part II is concerned with emotions and with the relationships between emotional states and various aspects of individual differences and cognitive processes.”

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To some extent the uniqueness of this volume has its roots in the provocative question posed by Robert Zajonc, “Which occurs first, feeling or thinking?” to which he answered, “Feeling before thinking.” This was probably the first well-grounded empirical approach aimed at studying the relationship between cognition and emotion. In this volume evidence is presented showing that there are reciprocal relationships between both variables under discussion: feeling influences cognition and, inversely, cognition influences emotions; and the same is true if we take into account the mutual relationships among the triad cognition-emotion-behavior. Further, in most of the chapters the reader will find extensive theoretical discussions—much broader than those in typical journal articles—in the context of which data are presented. The concluding chapter (with over one hundred references) written by William Revelle shows the broad empirical and theoretical context within which the chapters in this volume are discussed.

After perusing the chapters included in Volume 2, edited by Michael Eysenck, Małgorzata Fajkowska, and Tomasz Maruszewski, I am firmly convinced that researchers and students interested in personality and social psychology will find this book both challenging and exciting. My congratulations to all those who contributed in different ways to this significant work.

Jan Strelau, Pro-Rector for Research
Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities
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