Recent ideas concerning the development of self and identity have stressed the importance of moving away from an approach which is mainly concerned with outcomes, to one which focuses instead on processes of development and, more specifically, on a relational perspective on these processes. *Identity and Emotion* focuses on the individual development of identity and the processes involved. By working from emotions and a dynamic systems perspective the book offers a new and exciting approach to human identity and its development across the lifespan. The contributors to the book are specialists in this approach, and offer challenging ideas on the development of identity as a self-organizing process. The book offers a wealth of new ideas and insights, but also concentrates on the ways these insights can be translated into research.

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Recent ideas concerning the development of self and identity have stressed the importance of moving away from an approach which is mainly concerned with outcomes, to one which focuses instead on processes of development and, more specifically, on a relational perspective on these processes. This change has also led to increased attention to the role of emotions in the development of self and identity. These developments offer new possibilities and challenges for theory and research. However, they also lead to new concerns and questions at a theoretical, as well as a methodological level.

In 1996, a workshop on the development of self and identity was organized with the explicit intention of focusing on these new trends. The main topics of the workshop were the conceptualization of the development of the person as an emotional, relational, and self-organizing process and the way in which such a dynamic conceptualization can be translated into empirical research employing methodological approaches which are adapted to the study of dynamic processes in self-stability and change.

During the intense and lively workshop discussions, new ideas were developed, and serious attempts were made to clarify and elaborate the development of self and identity as an inherently emotional process embedded within a relational context. This book can be seen as a next step in this discussion. Most of the contributors to this volume were participants in the workshop. Using the workshop discussions as a starting point, they were asked to elaborate their perspective both theoretically and methodologically. Their ideas and the comments provided by others reflect and extend the nature of the workshop discussions and provide an illustration of the self-organizing, dialogical, and open approach which is advocated in this volume.

In the organization of the original workshop and the preparation of this volume we have received considerable support from individuals and
organizations. Here we wish to express our gratitude for their help. The workshop was supported financially by the Dutch Science Foundation (NWO), the Association for Developmental Psychological Research, and the Departments of Developmental Psychology of the University of Utrecht and of the University of Groningen. The latter department provided additional help by paying for the transcription of the audio-taped workshop discussions. This was greatly appreciated since the resulting transcripts not only brought the workshop discussions back to mind, but also helped the authors to prepare their chapters for the book. The Departments of Developmental Psychology of Utrecht and Groningen Universities also gave financial support for the preparation of the book itself.

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Harke A. Bosma and E. Saskia Kunnen