

THE CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY

Second Edition

Research in personality psychology is making important contributions to psychological science and applied psychology. This second edition of *The Cambridge Handbook of Personality Psychology* offers a one-stop resource for scientific personality psychologists. It summarizes cutting-edge personality research in all its forms, including genetics, psychometrics, social-cognitive psychology, and real-world expressions, with informative and lively chapters. The team of renowned international authors, led by two esteemed editors, ensures quality and a wide range of theoretical perspectives that characterise the whole field of personality psychology. Each area is discussed in terms of scientific foundations, main theories and findings, and future directions for research. The handbook features advances in technology, such as molecular genetics and functional neuroimaging, as well as contemporary statistical approaches. An invaluable aid to understanding the central role played by personality in psychology, it will appeal to students, researchers, and practitioners in psychology, behavioral science/neuroscience and the social sciences more broadly.

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CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOKS IN PSYCHOLOGY

SECOND EDITION

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Edited by

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Preface

The second edition of *The Cambridge Handbook of Personality Psychology* is a major update of the 2009 first edition. It is different in a number of crucial respects. First, and most importantly, chapters are longer, more detailed and pitched at a higher level, which will better meet the needs of graduate students, researchers and more seasoned academics. Second, there is now a more even and adequate coverage of the whole of personality psychology – not only compared to the first edition but, we believe, to similar handbooks on the market. Third, the first edition had separate chapters on a number of psychopathological disorders; for conceptual depth and clarity, the second edition has fewer chapters of a more integrative and comprehensive character. They focus on the relationships between personality and clinical psychology, models of mental health, and anxiety, depression and cognitive dysfunction – there is also a related chapter on models of physical health. Lastly, some new topics have been added: accuracy in person perception, the unconscious, needs, goals and motivation, and social and economic behavior. In addition, recognizing its growing prominence, the Appendix contains a chapter on statistical analysis and computer programming.

We continue to believe that the study of personality requires an unusual feat of scientific vision. Those of us working in the field need to focus narrowly on one or a few topics, while simultaneously maintaining a wide-angle view of the broader psychological landscape. This is not easy. For this reason, a handbook of this nature yields a special value in reminding us of what exists beyond our own, necessarily narrow, field – we hope this serves to foster collaborative effort, leading to greater integration across theoretical and applied psychology. In pursuit of this, the handbook aims to balance a comprehensive account of the current state of the science with perspectives on how the field has evolved since the first edition, along with its likely future trajectories.

The line-up of contributors to the handbook is outstanding. All are internationally renowned scholars with a wealth of expertise, knowledge and authority. The quality of this handbook could not have been achieved without them. We appreciate especially their willingness to strive for consistency between chapters, adhering as far as possible to the following chapter structure: (1) introduction, including historical developments and how their topic is positioned in relation to personality psychology more generally; (2) a thorough review of the seminal studies in the field, with discussion of methodologies and statistical procedures typically used; (3) critically appropriate presentation of the state of play of the literature with discussion of the crucial problems that dominate; (4) delineation of emerging issues for present/future research; and (5) summary of major findings, challenges and limitations.

We are grateful to Cambridge University Press who encouraged the second edition, and especially to the Commissioning Editor, Janka Romero, for her unfailing guidance and support throughout.

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