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Reviewed by Dr. Alexander John Bridger who is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Huddersfield

Navigating identity and selfhood

Social Identity in Question: Construction, Subjectivity and Critique

Parisa Dashtipour

Routledge

2012

£19.99

In this book Parisa Dashtipour reads research from the social identity framework (i.e. social identity theory, self-categorization theory, minimal group studies and group processes) through the work of Lacan and Lacanian scholars. Readers of this book need not be already familiar with the work of Lacan, as Parisa does an excellent job of explaining Lacanian concepts with examples. She writes that discursive and experimental research does not account for how social categories influence its members. The arguments through the book lead to a convincing justification for why a psychoanalytic approach to social identity processes is needed. Indeed, she points out that many social identity concepts are in fact rooted within psychoanalysis. This inevitably has implications for consideration of the underpinning concepts of the experimental social identity framework, making it then necessary to question certain concepts in psychology that are taken to be 'fact' such as individuals as being unitary, rational and transparent. Overall, the book makes for a sophisticated and first class account of the social identity framework and should be considered of interest by students and scholars in psychology.

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