

problems, data, and theories of social psychology on the other. A first group of chapters presents the reader with a general introduction to dynamic systems concepts. They do so in a non-technical but certainly not trivial way. Nowak and Lewenstein, for instance, describe notions such as deterministic chaos, attractors, and catastrophe models and apply them to examples from social behavior. Mandell and Selz introduce the reader to statistical dynamics and provide an overview of statistical properties of nonlinear dynamic systems. Those properties are very unlike the properties that can be found in the average social science statistics handbook. Unfortunately (but inevitably in light of the limited space available), this chapter is little more than an invitation to further reading.

A second group of authors employs dynamic systems concepts in a basically metaphorical way. They try to shed new light on old phenomena by recasting existing problem domains in terms like "cusp catastrophe" and "attractor spaces" (examples are chapters by Tesser and Achée on aggression, love, and conformity and by Eiser on attitude change). One could argue that a metaphorical approach is hardly more than a *testimonium pauper-tatis* from the side of poor old psychology, but such a claim clearly disavows the function of metaphor for a scientific discipline that has begun to explore a new theoretical universe. Metaphors play an important role in detaching the existing models from connotations they acquired in the fields where they originated (laminar flow in fluids, for instance) and in assimilating them to data and methods from an entirely different world of thought (such as social relations and behavior).

A third group of chapters presents actual dynamic systems modeling of data from social psychological experiments. Selz and Mandell, for instance, discuss the application of symbolic dynamics to individual differences in behavioral style. Vallacher and Nowak discuss an experiment on "on-line" tracking of changes in judgment and show that the dynamics of judgment is actually more interesting than the final judgments themselves.

In a summarizing chapter, Nowak, Lewenstein, and Vallacher argue for a social psychology that accounts for change instead of states and for the mutual (instead of asymmetric) causality that is typical of human social behavior. They argue that dynamic systems modeling does not merely imply the building of quantitative mathematical models but leaves ample room for qualitative approaches that will greatly enrich social psychology. The book, probably the first of its kind, pro-

vides a very interesting, accessible and informative introduction to a new and exciting approach to social psychology.

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