Emotions: A Cultural Studies

Reader

Edited by

Jennifer Harding
and E. Deidre Pribram
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Emotions: A Cultural Studies Reader brings together the best examples of recent and cutting-edge work on emotions in cultural studies and related disciplines. The book differentiates between theoretical traditions and ways of understanding emotion in relation to culture, subjectivity and power, thus mapping a new academic territory and providing a succinct overview of cultural studies as well as studies of emotion. The collection provides students with an essential overview of contemporary academic debate within the humanities and social sciences on the place of emotions in culture, as part of everyday individual, cultural, and political life.


The Emotions: A Cultural Reader Edited by Helena Wulff. Berg; Oxford/New York, 2007. 432pp, Hdbk ISBN 9781845203672 Pbk ISBN 9781845203689. The Emotions: A Cultural Reader is a rich and fascinating collection that is well worth reading and will be useful for teaching. Thinking about emotion is difficult and emotion studies in her introduction, which is divided into classic studies of emotion, ethnographies of emotion, emotion and nationalism, theories of emotion and emotion, and culture. The Reader is actually divided into five parts: Exploring Emotions; Love. and Hate; Anger Shame and Grief; Desire and Expectations; and the Emotional Self. and Identity. Cultural studies of emotions originated from anthropology, sociology and psychology. The first accounts of emotion from a cultural perspective were ethnographic, and described emotions as idiosyncratic. Researchers such as Margaret Mead, Gregory Bateson and Jean Briggs described unique emotional phenomena and stressed emotions as culturally determined. Theories that view emotions as culturally based tend to emphasize aspects related to the social environment: antecedent situations, overt behavior, and culturally specific ways of thinking and talking about emotions. Theories that regard emotions as universal, on the other hand, tend to focus on individual emotion elements such as facial expression.

Australian National University. Human Emotions: Universal or Culture-Specific? The search for fundamental human emotions has been seriously impeded by the absence of a culture-independent semantic metalanguage. The author proposes a metalanguage based on a postulated set of universal semantic primitives, and shows how language-specific meanings of emotion terms can be captured and how rigorous cross-cultural comparisons of emotion terms can be achieved. Cross-Cultural Comparison of Emotions. Consider the Polish words tąsknota (noun) and tąsknic' (verb).