

# Contents

<b>1 The Meaning of Constructs</b> . . . . .	1
What is a Paradigm? . . . . .	2
General Integrative Paradigms . . . . .	3
Particular-Specific . . . . .	3
Operational. . . . .	3
The Systems Paradigm as the Fourth Force in Psychological Theories . . .	5
Early Beginnings of the Systems Paradigm . . . . .	6
The Contribution of Wolfgang Koehler . . . . .	6
The Contribution of Andras Angyal. . . . .	7
The Contribution of James K. Feibleman and Julius W. Friend . . . . .	8
The Contribution of Philip Selznick . . . . .	8
The Contribution of Ludwig von Bertalanffy . . . . .	9
The Contribution of W. Ross Ashby. . . . .	9
The Contribution of Ernest Nagel . . . . .	10
The Contribution of Valery I. Kremyansky . . . . .	10
The Contribution of Russell L. Ackoff. . . . .	11
The Contribution of Frederick E. Emery and Eric L. Trist . . . . .	12
The Contribution of Herbert A. Simon . . . . .	12
The Contribution of David Katz and Robert L. Kahn . . . . .	12
The Contribution of Gerd Sommerhoff . . . . .	13
The Contribution of Marc-Paul Schutzenberger . . . . .	14
The Contribution of Gregory Bateson . . . . .	14
The Most Recent Contribution of Jeffrey I. Magnavita . . . . .	14
The Contribution of Vittorio Cigoli and Eugenia Scabini . . . . .	15
The Contribution of Mark Stanton and Robert Welsh . . . . .	15
Conclusion: When does a Construct become a Model? . . . . .	16
<b>2 The Decline and Possible Demise of Family Psychology:</b>	
<b>Families Without Personalities.</b> . . . . .	17
The Relational Nature of Human Relationships . . . . .	21
Intimacy as the New Kid on the Family Psychology Block . . . . .	22
Is an Intimacy Model an Improvement Over a Family Construct? . . . . .	24
Conclusion. . . . .	24

<b>3 The Decline and Possible Demise of Personality</b>	
<b>Psychology: Personalities Without Families</b> . . . . .	27
The Scope of Social Psychology: Theory and Applications . . . . .	28
The Self as a Substitute or Synonymous Construct for Personality . . . . .	30
How Many Agentic and Non-Agentic Selves are Possible? . . . . .	31
Self and Relationships: Connecting Intrapersonal with Interpersonal Processes . . . . .	34
The (Slow) Rise of Context in Personality Psychology . . . . .	37
The New Kid on the Personality Psychology Block: Identity . . . . .	39
Why is Identity as a Construct an Improvement Over Personality? . . . . .	40
Conclusion . . . . .	41
<b>4 The (Slow but Sure) Rise of Attachment Theory, Communication, and Relationship Science</b> . . . . .	43
Attachment in Adulthood: Structure, Dynamics, and Change . . . . .	43
The Structure of the Book . . . . .	44
Methodology . . . . .	45
Theoretical Connections . . . . .	45
Critique . . . . .	45
Possible Commissions . . . . .	46
Unintended Omissions . . . . .	48
Conclusion . . . . .	48
Communication Science: We Cannot Not Communicate . . . . .	49
An Abundance of Models and a Paucity of Theories: Is there an Overarching Theory of Family Communication? . . . . .	51
Issues of Reductionism . . . . .	52
Conclusion . . . . .	53
Relationship Science . . . . .	54
How Does Relationship Science Account for Intimacy and Identity? . . . . .	55
Conclusion . . . . .	55
<b>5 Relational Competence Theory: Toward a Comprehensive Classification of Human Relationships</b> . . . . .	57
The Importance of Hierarchy in Theory Building . . . . .	58
Requirements of Relational Competence Theory . . . . .	58
Verifiability . . . . .	60
Applicability . . . . .	60
Redundancy . . . . .	60
Fruitfulness . . . . .	61
Longevity . . . . .	61
Meta-Theoretical Assumptions . . . . .	61
Meta-Theoretical Assumptions (Models 1–3) . . . . .	61
Theoretical Assumptions Proper (Models 4–7) . . . . .	63
Developmental and Normative Models (8–12) . . . . .	66

Contents	xix
Clinically Relevant Models (Models 13–15) . . . . .	74
Concluding Model (16) . . . . .	75
Discussion . . . . .	75
Workbooks Derived from Models of RCT . . . . .	75
Conclusion. . . . .	78
<b>6 Conclusion: Identity as an Overarching Construct in Relational Competence Theory . . . . .</b>	<b>79</b>
Social Support for Communal Presence or Being. . . . .	81
Support for Agentic Power . . . . .	81
Combining Communal Presence with Agentic Power . . . . .	83
Relationship Between Identity and Functionality . . . . .	84
Conclusion. . . . .	85
<b>References . . . . .</b>	<b>87</b>