



Human Behavior and Social Environments: A Biopsychosocial Approach

By Dennis Saleebey



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Human behavior is a subject so vast that it would seem to defy one's ability to comfortably and confidently grasp its varieties, nuances, shapes, and dynamics. But in this wide-ranging and comprehensive survey of the contexts of human behavior, Dennis Saleebey examines the different social science approaches to understanding the way humans react to and are affected by their environment.

Using a biopsychosocial perspective, this book demonstrates that there are many paths of knowledge, many methods of inquiry, and many perspectives that can guide one's understanding of human behavior. Resilience (how we cope with trauma) and meaning-making (how we see and make sense of the world around us) provide the conceptual framework of the book. Saleebey examines a number of specific theories relevant to the biopsychosocial approach: part/whole analysis, psychodynamic theory, ecological theory, cognitive theory, and radical/critical theory. Human development is presented as a continuing interaction between individual, family, community, social institutions, and culture. Pedagogical devices to aid the student include chapter overviews, case studies, and meaning-making dialogues at the end of each chapter that pose questions for further thought.

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Human Behavior and Social Environments: A Biopsychosocial Approach By Dennis Saleebey Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2419963 in Books
- Published on: 2001-09-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.32" h x 1.28" w x 6.36" l, 1.83 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 459 pages



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Editorial Review

Review

Saleebey is telling an evocative story of how we "become human" through the lifecycle.

(Michael Hayes *Clinical Social Work Journal*)

About the Author

Dennis Saleebey is a professor at the School of Social Welfare and chair of the Ph.D. program at the University of Kansas. He is the author of *The Strengths Perspective in Social Work Practice, Third Edition*.

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