

Two Major Books of Communication: Wolfgang Donsbach (Ed.) (2008). The International Encyclopedia of Communication. Stephen W. Littlejohn & Karen A. Foss (Eds.) (2009). Encyclopedia of Communication Theory

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I. Wolfgang Donsbach (Ed.) (2008). The International Encyclopedia of Communication like “A Team Product”

A. Encyclopedias are indicators of maturity in the fields of belonging. Idea is illustrated undoubtedly by the exceptional construction: Donsbach, W. (2008)(Ed.), “The International Encyclopedia of Communication”. 12 vols. Oxford, UK, and Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell .

The paper is approved by the International Communication Association (ICA). It is published jointly by Blackwell and ICA. The 12 volumes, summarizing 6128 pages, consist of 1339 articles. These include notions, concepts and theories, distributed in 29 sections, such as: interpersonal communication, intercultural and intergroup communication, media communication, communication theory and philosophy, communication and technology, general communication & media studies etc.

The 29 pillars include both pure communication areas, and fields that have communicational “issues”. Thus, the work becomes interdisciplinary.

Beyond the huge volume of work and information, the book shows the conceptual and guild convergence of an important part of the elite of academic community of communication. Moreover, Wolfgang Donsbach considers “The International Encyclopedia – A Team Product”. Formally, the encyclopedia appears both in print and electronic format.

B. The editors of the articles are well-known experts in the world: C. R. Berger, J. K. Burgoon, B. R. Burlison, R. T. Craig, J. P. Dillard, W. F. Eadie, J. O. Greene, M. E. Roloff, D. McQuail, L. K. Guerrero, C. Pavitt, K. Krippendorf, J. A. Anderson, Noemi Marin, D. J. O’Keefe, R. L. Lanigan Jr., M. L. Knapp, B. Scheufele, A. Scholl, T. A. Lindlof, T. Quandt, P. V. Miller, M. Morgan, K. B. Jensen, E. J. Kim, H. Z. Li, C. G. Christians, J. D. Peters, C. Wunsch etc.

One of the articles Wolfgang Donsbach confesses to be attached to is that of R.T. Craig, “Communication as a Field and Discipline”. At least as relevant are the articles such as “Interpersonal Communication” (C. R. Berger), “Interaction Adaptation Theory” (J. K. Burgoon), “Constructivism and Interpersonal Processes” (B. R. Burlison & G. D. Bodie), “Social Aspects of Goals” (J. P. Dillard), “Journalists Role Perception” (W. Donsbach), “Communication as an Academic Field: U.S.A. and Canada” (W. F. Eadie), “Information Processing” (J. O. Greene), “Rhetoric in Eastern Europe” (Noemi Marin), “Models of Communication” (D. McQuail), “Negotiation and Bargaining” (M. E. Roloff), “Transactional Models” (C. Wunsch), “Explanatory Statistics” (B. Scheufele), “Remediation” (J. D. Bolter), “Message Design Logics” (M. Morgan), “Nonverbal Communication and Culture” (H. Z. Li).

C. Although coming from different parts of the world and have various communication specialties, the contributors think convergent on the overall path of communication. They belong generally to a single communication paradigm, by us named the Variable Geometry-Constructive-Transactional Paradigm, P3: they use a mostly cohesive ontology, they are concerned with a similar issue, and they reason within related methodologies, have a clear conscience of belonging to the scientific community of communication as academic discipline.

D. The encyclopedia coordinated by Wolfgang Donsbach is an event with double significance: of convergent theoretical thinking and of team spirit, of belonging to a single community of communication practitioners. The book is undoubtedly useful for undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral and specialists in the academic areas of basic communication, media, communication sociology, communication psychology etc.

II. Stephen W. Littlejohn & Karen A. Foss (Eds.) (2009). Encyclopedia of Communication Theory or communication on the verge of maturity

A. It was inevitable that after 9 editions of “Theories of Human Communication” (2008), Stephen W. Littlejohn and Karen A. Foss will not be recognized as fixed stars of world of communication theories analysis.

As international personalities of specialty, S.W. Littlejohn and K.A. Foss coordinate "Encyclopedia of Communication Theory. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage "(2009). Together with some 200 experts from 10 countries contributors (Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, India, Italy, Japan, Spain, United Kingdom and United States) draw up a two-volume encyclopedia set and summing over 1,000 pages. The set contains over 300 articles.

The paper, it is argued, "provides a one-stop source for theories and theoretical concepts and a relatively comprehensive overview of the entire field of communication theory" (Littlejohn S. W., Foss K. A., 2009, p. li). Unlike other encyclopedias focusing on one theory, programmed, this one offers "current descriptions of the theories that explain numerous aspects and present the background issues and concepts that comprise these theories" (Littlejohn S. W., Foss K. A., 2009, p. li).

B. The reinforcement of the paper is solid.

b1) The encyclopedia opens with the "List of Entries" in which are listed alphabetically the article headlines of each volume.

b2) A "Reader's Guide" is next, which includes a list of topics rated in 17 general topical categories: 1. Application and Contexts, 2. Critical Orientations, 3. Cultural Orientations, 4. Cybernetic and Systems Orientations, 5. Feminist Orientations, 6. Group and Organizational Concepts, 7. Information Media, and Communication Technology, 8. International and Global Concepts, 9. Interpersonal Concepts, 10. Non-Western Orientations, 11. Paradigms, Traditions, and Schools, 12. Philosophical Orientations, 13. Psycho-Cognitive Orientations, 14. Rhetorical Orientations, 15. Semiotic, Linguistic, and Discursive Orientations, 16. Social-Interactional Orientations, 17. Theory, Metatheory, Methodology, and Inquiry.

In S. W. Littlejohn și K. A. Foss's book (2008) ("Theories of Human Communication") 7 "traditions of communication theory" are listed (according to a taxonomy set by R. T. Craig). 10 "orientations" are taken into account now, at 2 sets of "concepts" etc. In our book, "Vlăduțescu Ș. (2013). *Ontology of Human Communication: A Cognitive-Cognitive-Constructive Approach in Paradigm 3*. Saarbrücken: LAP Academic Publishing. Germany" we claim the explanation and understanding of the subject on 15 organizing axes of the communication field: communication ontology axis, communication epistemology axis, communication methodology axis, communication axiology axis, communication history, communication psychology axis, communication sociology axis, communication anthropology axis, communication hermeneutics axis, communication praxeology, communication ethics, communication ecology axis, communication logics axis, communication philosophy axis, communication law axis.

b3) Then in a revealing table "Theorists" is marked alphabetically with "Entry titles". In the chapter "About the Editors and Editorial Board" is provided information about the two editors (SW Littlejohn, KA Foss) and the professionals that make up the editorial board.

b4) Then the nearly 200 contributors are listed. Among the contributors J. K. Burgoon, R. T. Craig, S. A. Deetz, B. Dervin, J. O. Greene, D. L. Kincaid, C. Kramarae, K. Krippendorf, T. R. Lindloff are noted.

b5) In "Introduction", the authors, beyond the recommendations, show their attachment to the title "communication theory" and perform "A Brief History" of the communication theories.

b6) A "Chronology" is next, in which are listed briefly "themes and developments" in different periods of communication evolution. Are noted periods like: "Classical Period", "1600 to 1700", "1800", "1900 to 1910", "1910 to 1920", "1920 to 1930", "1930 to 1940", "1940 to 1950", "1950 to 1954", "1955 to 1959", "1960 to 1964", "1965 to 1969", "1970 to 1974" etc., after 5 years evolutions we have "2000 to 2008".

b7) Then, in alphabetical order "entries" are listed. They are written "for the introductory reader-students" and include: feature elements, concepts, dimensions, and traditions of theory, feature individual theories. Each article is presented with "See also" and "Further Readings" (titles of key bibliographic sources).

b8) The first Volume includes letters from A to I, and the second one includes J- Y.

b9) In the end are inserted, selected "Bibliography of Major Topics" and then an "Index".

b10) The most relevant contributions are: Greene, J. O. (2009) „Cognitive Theories” (pp 112-116); Greene, J. O. (2009). „Action Assembly Theory” (pp. 4-10); Greene, J. O. (2009). „Communication Skills Theories” (pp 135-139); Burgoon, J. K. (2009). „Interpersonal Deception Theory” (pp 551-554); Littlejohn, S. W. (2009). “Evaluating Communication Theory” (pp. 363-366); Littlejohn S. W. (2009). “Coordinated Management of Meaning” (pp 200-203); Lindloff, T. R. (2009). “Interpretive communities” (pp. 555-557); Tracy, H. (2009). “Community” (pp. 145-147); Nicotera, A. M. (2009). “Constitutive View of Communication” (pp. 175-179); Campos, M. N. (2009). “Constructivism” (pp. 179-183); Padula, A. (2009). “Frankfurt School” (pp. 409-412).

C. Encyclopedia is a cardinal achievement of communication as a discipline. Stephen W. Littlejohn and Karen A. Foss work, as well as of those about 200 contributors, is salutary. The paper shows 1) that the communication has become a discipline on the verge of maturity and 2) that the scientific community of communication has a conscience of guild unity that allows large, thorough studies, with an instructive impact. The paper is mostly addressed to undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students. It is no less useful to those who have taken the step to proficiency.