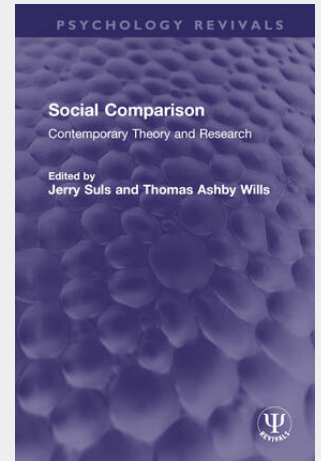


Social Comparison

Contemporary Theory and Research

Assessment of abilities, opinions, and overall feelings of self-worth, are commonly acknowledged to be influenced by how ones' attributes compare with those of other people. In contemporary social psychology, this process is known as social comparison or interpersonal comparison. Originally published in 1991, this volume presents the most recent developments in this field of study at the time. As described in the chapters the theory has gone through several iterations, taken on new problems and research paradigms, and reached out to other social-psychological areas of study. Some of this research addresses questions that are logical extensions of Festinger's theory; some consider questions that derive from entirely different ways of construing the comparison process from Festinger's original approach. Although all questions are not settled, the work presented here shows how far the original social comparison theory has evolved and suggests where the next insights are likely to be found. Today it can be read in its historical context



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