

The Handbook of Group Research and Practice

Edited by Susan A. Wheelan

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While experts in many fields conduct group research and practice, these very experts seldom manage to collaborate or work cohesively as a group. Wheelan seeks to change this odd situation with her collection of 29 writings by scholars and practitioners from various disciplines, including psychology, social work, sociology, communication, and business. An organizational consultant who writes extensively on group dynamics and team building, Wheelan makes a strong case for multidisciplinary collaboration among scholars and practitioners in overlapping fields. The book's focus flows from counseling groups to executive training to virtual teams (in which members never meet face-to-face), while remaining organized and consistent. The history and current status of group studies are covered, along with the dominant theories of group dynamics ranging from the rather outmoded psychoanalytic approach to trendy new perspectives such as nonlinear dynamics. Methods of research and practice in group work, such as observational field studies and the creation of artificial societies, are also explored. This comprehensive work may appeal to students and faculty in both the social sciences and business, making it a valuable supplementary reading resource for a wide variety of courses.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. All academic levels/libraries.

- Reviewer: J. K. Downey, California State University, San Bernardino
- Recommendation: Highly recommended
- Readership Level: Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Professionals/Practitioners
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