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# The Construction of the Self, Second Edition

## Developmental and Sociocultural Foundations

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Foreword by William M. Bukowski, PhD, Concordia University Research Chair in Psychology and Director, Center for Research in Human Development, Concordia University, Canada

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### CRITICAL ACCLAIM

"Like the prior edition, this volume provides the most comprehensive and forward-looking overview of scholarship and theory on the construction of the self. The second edition is a major step forward—much exciting new work has been done in this area in the last 10 years. Harter offers a masterful summary and critique of this work; even more important, she gives us strong and insightful guidance for the future. Everyone interested in the construction of the self should read this book. It is an outstanding resource for seasoned researchers as well as an essential guide for young scholars entering the field and launching their research careers."—Jacquelynne S. Eccles, PhD, McKeachie–Pintrich Distinguished University Professor of Psychology and Education, University of Michigan

"In *Construction of the Self, Second Edition*, Harter shows again why she has been the preeminent scholar in child and adolescent development for over four decades. Weaving together new theoretical insights with a far-ranging review of diverse research literatures, Harter provides a masterful look at the processes through which cognitive changes and personal experiences combine to influence self-views, which in turn underlie broader patterns of social and psychological development. Harter's perspectives on adaptive and maladaptive trajectories of self development provide an important framework for promoting self-views that buttress positive relationships and psychological well-being."—Mark R. Leary, PhD, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Duke University

"Harter surveys the struggle for a sense of identity and worth that individuals face from youth to old age. She offers an in-depth description of how families and cultures shape our self-concepts, and how so many of these adopted identities hamper personal growth and connectedness. On topics from motivation to mindfulness, this second edition offers both solid wisdom and new insights. Harter is truly one of developmental psychology's luminaries."—Richard M. Ryan, PhD, Department of Clinical and Social Sciences in Psychology, University of Rochester

"The development of the self is a complex—sometimes difficult to comprehend—process, not easily explained by simplistic models. This book has a sophistication, empirical grounding, and clinical savvy that make it an essential book for therapists interested in individual construction of the self."—*Journal of Cognitive Psychotherapy* (review by Robert L. Leahy, PhD)

### DESCRIPTION

An important work from a leading scholar, this book explores self-development from early childhood to adulthood. Susan Harter traces the normative stages that define the emergence of many self-processes, including self-esteem. She also addresses individual differences and societal influences on self-development. Presenting pioneering empirical research, Harter shows that increasingly mature features of the self have both benefits and liabilities for psychological adjustment. The book highlights the causes and consequences of different types of self-representations, including those that are unrealistically negative or positive.

### New to This Edition

\*Reflects over a decade of conceptual, empirical, and methodological advances.

\*Provides a broader sociocultural framework for understanding self development.

\*Chapters on emerging adulthood, self-esteem and physical appearance, self-processes in the classroom, motivation, cross-cultural issues, and the quest for authenticity.

\*Expanded chapters on childhood; adolescence; and the self-conscious emotions, including humiliation.

\*Increased attention to the liabilities of our contemporary preoccupation with the self.

## **KEY POINTS**

> Reflecting over a decade of advances, this edition is significantly revised with 60% new material, including six new chapters.

> Increased attention to sociocultural influences and clinical and educational applications.

> A magnum opus: synthesizes decades of research by a leading scholar of the self.

> Examines both normative development and individual differences.

## **AUDIENCE**

Developmental, personality/social, and educational psychologists; child clinical psychologists and other clinicians.

## **COURSE USE**

Serves as a text in graduate-level courses.

## **CONTENTS**

Foreword, *William M. Bukowski*

1. Introduction: A Contemporary Approach to Self-Development

2. Developmental Differences in Self-Representations during Childhood

3. Developmental Differences in Self-Representations during Adolescence

4. Self-Processes during Emerging Adulthood

5. The Inextricable Link between Perceived Physical Appearance and Self-Esteem

6. Self-Conscious Emotions

7. Self-Processes and Motivation in the Classroom

8. Cross-Cultural and Multicultural Considerations

9. Reconsidering the Self: In Search of Authenticity

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