



Ecological Psychology in Context: James Gibson, Roger Barker, and the Legacy of William James's Radical Empiricism

By Harry Heft

Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 476 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 5.9in. x 1.1in. In this book Harry Heft examines the historical and theoretical foundations of James J. Gibson's ecological psychology in 20th century thought, and in turn, integrates ecological psychology and analyses of sociocultural processes. A thesis of the book is that knowing is rooted in the direct experience of meaningful environmental objects and events present in individual-environment processes and at the level of collective, social settings. *Ecological Psychology in Context* traces the primary lineage of Gibson's ecological approach to William James's philosophy of radical empiricism; illuminates how the work of James's student and Gibson's mentor, E. B. Holt, served as a catalyst for the development of Gibson's framework and as a bridge to James's work; reveals how ecological psychology reciprocally can advance Jamesian studies by resolving some of the theoretical difficulties that kept James from fully realizing a realist philosophy; broadens the scope of Gibson's framework by proposing a synthesis between it and the ecological program of Roger Barker, who discovered complex systems operating at the level of collective, social processes; demonstrates ways in which the psychological domain can be extended to properties of the environment rendering...



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