

NUTTIN, J. (with the coll. of W. LENS). (1985). *Future time perspective and motivation. Theory and research method*. Leuven: Leuven University Press/Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum, 235 p., ISBN 90-6186-172-1, 935,- BF.

The present study is the result of more than two decades of extensive work on a theory of time perspective and methods for the measurement of this elaborated concept. Nuttin's concept of time perspective is integrated in a general cognitive-motivational theory of behavior. Behavior is understood as goal-directed activity which is structured according to behavioral plans or projects. The objects of these goals and plans are located on a time dimension in the near or far future. The construction of such goals and plans is seen as related to the cognitive structuring of how to achieve these goals. Here, motivation and cognitive approaches meet: The transformation of human needs into goals and plans activate cognitive processes which give rise to future time perspective and which are related to other aspects of time perspective. The individual's action radius thus includes a time orientation directed to present, past and future. The authors' main implication of this theses is that time perspective constitutes one main determinant of behavior. This is in line with modern expectancy-value approaches or with action theories.

The present book gives insight in the theoretical foundations of Nuttin's concept of time perspective but does not extensively elaborate on the theoretical background: also, this book does not include the various recent research findings of the Louvain group which deal with relationships between time perspective and behavior such as achievement motivated action.

Instead, the present volume mainly deals with the research methods developed by Nuttin and his coworkers for the measurement of time perspective. These include the elaboration of Nuttin's «Motivation Induction Method MIM» (measuring verbal expression of motives), the measurement of the temporal code of time perspective, the extension of future time perspective, and attitudes towards the present, the past and the future. Also, several manuals for practical use are presented. They serve to locate the person's «motivational objects» (MIM) and to analyse the content of the motives. The Appendix includes valuable instructions for the use of the MIM and inventories for the categorization of motivational objects.

Altogether, the present work presents an innovative and fruitful theoretical approach with respect to a much neglected aspect of human action and behavior. For the student interested in time perspective, the extensively elaborated methods of the Louvain research group are especially appealing; the detailed descriptions allow for application of these methods in own empirical studies.

However, the interested reader also remains unsatisfied since his appetite for the empirical studies on time perspective and behavior which have been carried out by Joseph Nuttin and his group grows when studying the present work. Hopefully this may stimulate Nuttin and his group to produce the next volume on theory and empirical research on future time perspective. — G. TROMMSDORFF, Institut für Erziehungswissenschaft, Eilfschornsteinstrasse 7, D-5100 Aachen.