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The paper is approved by the International Communication Association (ICA). It is published jointly by Blackwell and ICA. The 12 volumes, summarizing 6128 pages, consist of 1339 articles. These include notions, concepts and theories, distributed in 29 sections, such as: interpersonal communication, intercultural and intergroup communication, media communication, communication theory and philosophy, communication and technology, general communication & media studies etc.

The 29 pillars include both pure communication areas, and fields that have communicational “issues”. Thus, the work becomes interdisciplinary.

Beyond the huge volume of work and information, the book shows the conceptual and guild convergence of an important part of the elite of academic community of communication. Moreover, Wolfgang Donsbach considers “The International Encyclopedia – A Team Product”. Formally, the encyclopedia appears both in print and electronic format.


C. Although coming from different parts of the world and have various communication specialties, the contributors think convergent on the overall path of communication. They belong generally to a single communication paradigm, by us named the Variable Geometry-Constructive-Transactional Paradigm, P3: they use a mostly cohesive ontology, they are concerned with a similar issue, and they reason within related methodologies, have a clear conscience of belonging to the scientific community of communication as academic discipline.

D. The encyclopedia coordinated by Wolfgang Donsbach is an event with double significance: of convergent theoretical thinking and of team spirit, of belonging to a single community of communication practitioners. The book is undoubtedly useful for undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral and specialists in the academic areas of basic communication, media, communication sociology, communication psychology etc.

II. Stephen W. Littlejohn & Karen A. Foss (Eds.) (2009). Encyclopedia of Communication Theory or communication on the verge of maturity

A. It was inevitable that after 9 editions of “Theories of Human Communication” (2008), Stephen W. Littlejohn and Karen A. Foss will not be recognized as fixed stars of world of communication theories analysis.
As international personalities of specialty, S.W. Littlejohn and K.A. Foss coordinate “Encyclopedia of Communication Theory. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage” (2009). Together with some 200 experts from 10 countries contributors (Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, India, Italy, Japan, Spain, United Kingdom and United States) draw up a two-volume encyclopedia set and summing over 1,000 pages. The set contains over 300 articles.

The paper, it is argued, “provides a one-stop source for theories and theoretical concepts and a relatively comprehensive overview of the entire field of communication theory” (Littlejohn S. W., Foss K. A., 2009, p. li). Unlike other encyclopedias focusing on one theory, programmed, this one offers “current descriptions of the theories that explain numerous aspects and present the background issues and concepts that comprise these theories” (Littlejohn S. W., Foss K. A., 2009, p. li).

B. The reinforcement of the paper is solid.

b1) The encyclopedia opens with the “List of Entries” in which are listed alphabetically the article headlines of each volume.


b3) Then in a revealing table “Theorists” is marked alphabetically with “Entry titles”. In the chapter “About the Editors and Editorial Board” is provided information about the two editors (SW Littlejohn, KA Foss) and the professionals that make up the editorial board.

b4) Then the nearly 200 contributors are listed. Among the contributors J. K. Burgoon, R. T. Craig, S. A. Deetz, B. Dervin, J. O. Greene, D. L. Kincaid, C. Kramarae, K. Krippendorff, T. R. Lindlof are noted.

b5) In “Introduction”, the authors, beyond the recommendations, show their attachment to the title “communication theory” and perform “A Brief History” of the communication theories.


b7) Then, in alphabetical order “entries” are listed. They are written “for the introductory reader-students” and include: feature elements, concepts, dimensions, and traditions of theory, feature individual theories. Each article is presented with “See also” and “Further Readings” (titles of key bibliographic sources).

b8) The first Volume includes letters from A to I, and the second one includes J-Y.

b9) In the end are inserted, selected “Bibliography of Major Topics” and then an “Index”.


C. Encyclopedia is a cardinal achievement of communication as a discipline. Stephen W. Littlejohn and Karen A. Foss work, as well as of those about 200 contributors, is salutary. The paper shows 1) that the communication has become a discipline on the verge of maturity and 2) that the scientific community of communication has a conscience of guild unity that allows large, thorough studies, with an instructive impact. The paper is mostly addressed to undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students. It is no less useful to those who have taken the step to proficiency.