for TV logs, reading Sotiron's descriptions evoked fairly vivid images of the articles' contents.

The anomaly of including entries dated after 1983, the cutoff year, and excluding couple key books published before or in 1983 reflects some need to rethink the entries or the title. One finds Canadian Politics Through Press Reports, copyrighted in 1984, but will search in vain for Arthur Siegel's Mass Media in Canada (1983) with its extensive daily newspaper discussion or Edwin Black's Politics and the News (1982) that includes an agenda-setting section involving three Ontario dailies. Further, one could quibble about Sotiron's meaning of "works" in the title, depending on whether one is a strict constructionist or latitudinarian. Taken literally, would accounts of the Canadian press be "works on daily newspapers"? Should the news of annual meetings, appointments and advertising lineage qualify as "works," no matter how trivial they may strike most readers? And, if perchance Siegel was excluded because his title referred to "mass media" rather than daily newspaper, why would an article about the old Mary Tyler Moore TV sit-com as depicting verisimilitude in news-making decisions show up in the bibliography?

Sotiron is the first to acknowledge oversights, and the preceding is not intended to discredit the entire work because of random checks. Ultimately, the test is in the using. If users find the compilation helpful, the complaints raised here are minor; if not, no amount of praise will engender widespread use of this reference tool. This is a beginning that could spur others to fill the gaps it inevitably highlights. With some luck, the social Sciences and Humanities Research Council which got Sotiron started with a grant might encourage him to attempt an expanded and revised edition.

Reviewed by: A. Ichikawa
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Communication, Gender and Sex Roles in Diverse Interaction Contexts
Lea P. Stewart and Stella Ting-Toomey (eds.)
Ablex Publishing Corporation, 1987
Norwood, New Jersey

To those interested in communication and the sexes, the title of this book is exciting. It studies the complex interplay of language, non-verbal behaviour, gender and sex roles, and in so doing, contains the promise of being at the "leading edge" of scholarly work in the area. Equally as enticing are the editors' goals for the volume which are to assemble a representative array of conceptual and methodological approaches used in the study of communications, gender, and sex roles and to display the wide range of scholarship pertaining to these issues. Fuelling this initial interest and excitement is a brief but good introduction to the pragmatics of gender-related communication by one of the editors. In her description of the status of research in this area, Ting-Toomey raises some important issues such as the need for good
descriptive studies, for the study of the same phenomenon across settings, and for sound conceptual frameworks and theories to understanding current research and guide future investigations.

Unfortunately, this is where the excitement ends. In short, this book is disappointing for several reasons. First, those researchers interested in exposure to an array of methodological approaches will not find it here. For the most part, the chapters are either based on data derived from questionnaires, surveys, and/or interviews, or are descriptive essays. Second, and related to the first reason, there are very few direct measures of communicative behaviour. Those studies that are empirically-based have predominantly measured perceptions of communicative behaviour rather than the behaviour itself. Third, many of the studies do not have strong conceptual or theoretical bases and are seriously flawed methodologically. Fourth, there is simply not much that is new for people who are familiar with the area.

The book is comprised of nineteen papers that are an outgrowth of the Sixth Annual Communication, Language, and Gender Conference held at Rutgers University in 1983. The papers are divided into four parts, each representing a different interactional context (interpersonal, organizational, cultural, and applied). The content ranges widely and includes topics such as gender differences in trait argumentativeness, in the management of conflicts, in intraorganizational negotiation ability, and in forensic participation and leadership; sex role portrayal in speech events, children's literature, comic strips, and song; perceptions of women as managers and as whistle blowers; and ethical considerations in divorce mediation, in the evaluation of women's communication, and in organizational research.

In each of the four parts, there are empirical studies and descriptive studies or descriptive essays. Generally, the empirical studies are the weakest. Some are based on simplistic notions and out-dated concepts; many suffer from a number of methodological problems (such as, small sample sizes, use of intact groups, lack of independence in the data, use of multiple statistical tests) that make their results uninterpretable; and, in others, the presentation of the results is so confusing and the discussion so inadequate that the reader is left frustrated, disappointed, or both. The descriptive studies fare somewhat better than the empirical ones. Their topics are often intrinsically interesting (e.g., sex role portrayal in song and literature), and some accounts are particularly detailed and perceptive (e.g., G.B. Ray's analysis of sex roles in the speech events in an Appalachian community). Unfortunately, others are quite limited in scope and not very complete or sophisticated in their analysis. When nominal data are reported in these studies, they usually lack statistical treatment and coding systems are often quite simplistic. In general, the descriptive essays are concise and well-written. However, because of their brevity (an average of ten pages including references), they offer little more than an introduction to their specific topics.
Putting together a book from conference presentations is a tricky business. Often, papers given at conference are necessarily brief and insufficiently detailed due to the time constraints of oral presentations. Perhaps more often than is desirable, work is presented in a less-than-final stage—empirical studies may still be in progress and conceptual papers may not be fully formulated. In addition, many conferences are forums for presentations by graduate students and junior faculty—people who are beginning their careers and who may not have published much. For a book of this sort to have merit, selected papers should be complete and make significant contributions to the field. The majority of papers in this volume fail on both counts.

All of this raises the question of a suitable audience for the book. The editors' intention is to provide professionals and students in the discipline of communication with a handy source of recent work in the area. However, researchers expecting an exposure to a wide range of methodological and conceptual approaches will be disappointed by the narrowness of the range and the generally poor quality of the studies, and professionals anticipating material of practical value for use in education, industry, or organizations will find little more than cursory coverage of issues and approaches. If the book has any value it may be that it can provide students who are new to the field with a sampling of research topics. However, they might be well advised to terminate their reading after the Introduction and pursue study elsewhere.

Reviewed by: Linda McMullen
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*Behind the Telephone Debates*
Carol L. Weinhaus and Anthony G. Oettinger

Does "post-divestiture" ring a Bell?

By now many communication theorists are familiar with the rush of academic analysis and industry reports that followed the breakup of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) in 1982. Although the initial excitement may have subsided to some degree, this new book nonetheless proves to be a welcome addition. It should appeal to expert and curious novice alike as a concise book that seldom wanders from its path. Not only does it provide a detailed, informative examination of the operations of the telephone industry, but in so doing it seeks both to articulate and to place the important policy issues in context. Perhaps its greatest accomplishment is the neutrality it largely succeeds in achieving.

In tracing the historical roots of the telecommunications industry, the authors focus on the swing between monopoly and competition for both equipment and services. The first hints of competition appeared after World War II in the area of such user-related equipment and the Hush-A-Phone, a device attached to the receiver.