Advances In Flow Research

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the concept of flow was first explained by csikszentmihalyi 1975 described as an optimal experience he noted that artists were entirely caught up in their projects working feverishly to finish them and then lose all interest in their work after completion the incentive lies in the act of creativity itself the person feels optimally challenged while totally immersed in the activity at the heart of flow research is the motivational aspect of this experience flow motivates people to carry out certain activities repeatedly seeking a challenge in the act and looking to improve their skills and abilities in this book this motivational aspect will be imbedded in and related to other theories of intrinsic motivation and empirical work on flow and performance the book provides a review of the current flow research with a focus on rigorous analysis on methodology the author takes the time to present methodological aspects in flow research to qualify empirical work in addition this volume presents neuropsychological considerations and empirical correlates of flow experiences the work

also describes various theoretical integrations of the different paths being taken within the field of flow research it presents what has been learned since the beginning of flow research what is still open and how the mission to understand and foster flow experience research should continue

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this second edition provides a review of the current flow research the first thoroughly revised and extended part of the book addresses basic concepts correlates conditions and consequences of flow experience this includes the developments of the flow model methods to measure flow its physiological correlates personality factors involved in the emergence of flow social flow the relationship of flow with performance and wellbeing but also possible negative consequences of flow the second completely new part of the book addresses flow in diverse contexts in particular work development sports music and arts and human computer interaction as such the book provides a broad overview on the current state of flow research from the basics to specific contexts of application it presents what has been learned since the beginning of flow research what is still open and how the mission to understand and foster flow should continue the book addresses researchers and students who are interested in flow as well as practitioners who seek for sound research on flow in their field of expertise

this book breaks down barriers between disciplines engaging with flow by speaking from geography into psychology to establish geographical foundations for this psychological phenomenon it frames and works with the multiple contradictions within the extant literature as productive rather than prohibitive thereby encouraging collaboration across discrepancies as well as across disciplines it incorporates new materials and perspectives to research on flow including aesthetic theory new materialism more than human geographies

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and critical development geographies to broaden the theoretical and empirical landscape of future flow scholarship it also digs more deeply into pre existing areas of interest within flow research than has been done before for example with respect to dark flow flowability and tele presence to facilitate more nuanced engagement with such terms it takes a step back from the detailed empirical work that characterizes most current flow research to pose questions as to how such divergent even contradictory findings can emerge from scholarship on a supposedly universal experience that is purportedly robustly constructed and whether this contrariness is necessarily problematic or emblematic of flow itself and therefore worthy of conceptual elaboration finally it evokes global scale and long term critical perspectives on the future evolution of flow to counteract the presentism within existing work that emphasizes immediate gains e g performance wellbeing profit in an attempt to pre empt the worst ramifications of the progressive commodification and strategization of flow this innovative book is of interest to scholars from a range of fields from psychology to business and human resource management leisure studies and critical human geography

this volume provides updates and informs the reader about the development of the current empirical research on the flow experience it opens up some new research questions at the frontiers of the field the book offers an overview on the latest findings in flow research in several fields such as social psychology neuropsychology performing arts and sport education work and everyday experiences it integrates the latest knowledge on experimental studies of optimal experience with the theoretical foundation of psychological flow that was laid down in the last decades

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