

EXAMPLES OF ACTUAL BOOK ANNOTATIONS

Example 1 By: Judy Bullock, Ph.D.

Briggs, Daniel (2012). *The Origins of Morality*. 2nd Edition. Oxford, Florida: Olive Press Books

The Origins of Morality juxtaposes nature and divinity, theory and faith, and science and theology, provoking intense curiosity about threads woven into the fabric of ethics and belief systems by humankind over the ages. Daniel Briggs critically analyzes classic and contemporary theories in science, biology, philosophy, psychology, sociology, and theology to present fresh insight into the derivation of value systems and mores from the beginning of recorded time to the present day. Tempered by the writings of renowned theorists such as Einstein, Hawking, Darwin, Freud, and Adler against a backdrop of writings attributed to the Divine, Briggs helps the reader traverse a web of complex concepts ranging from the big bang theory and the cosmological constant to Darwinism and intelligent design, iron logic and faith to formulate a cogent view of morality.

Briggs balances secular and spiritual elements, examining contentious and divergent views on the foundations underlying humanity and morality to present objective information that allows readers to formulate their own conclusions. Although written in scholarly fashion, *The Origins of Morality* includes references and a glossary making it suitable for a wide audience of readers. The book will be of particular interest to academicians, psychologists, scientists, sociologists, theologians, students and those individuals seeking answers to fundamental questions about the origins of human belief systems. Rather than repeating content from works, Briggs refers readers interested in exploring certain areas in more detail to other books he has published on related or tangential topics.

Briggs has written an intellectually stimulating and thought provoking book that challenges readers to question answers proffered by scientific theory and religion, to draw their own conclusions. *The Origins of Morality* is highly recommended for those who want to get past philosophical rhetoric and confusing scientific theories to formulate their own answer to the question, "What is morality?" How will you answer this question after reading *The Origins of Morality*?

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Example 2 By: Diana Murray, Ph.D. Cand.

Smith, J. A. And Osborn, M. (2008). *Qualitative Psychology: A Practical Guide to Research Methods* (2nd Ed.). London: Sage Publications, 53-110 (4-5).

Smith and Osborn devote chapter 4 to an Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) approach to doing research, using the interview as the main data collection instrument. The aim of IPA is to explore in detail how participants make sense of their personal and social world with the emphasis on the role that the researcher has in the process of interpreting the meanings that particular experiences, or events hold for the participants. The authors provide the researcher with a detailed presentation of the stages involved in doing interpretive phenomenological analysis and offer suggestions to the researcher based upon what methods worked for them.

Because questions in IPA projects are usually framed broadly and openly, it therefore, requires a flexible data collection instrument. Even though the necessary data could be collected in a number of ways, such as personal accounts, and diaries, the best way is usually through semi-structured interviews. The authors, therefore, contrast the primary features of a semi-structured interview with those of a structured interview. The interviewer's role is discussed as well as the process of constructing appropriate questions. The authors introduce an interview technique known as *funneling*, which allows the researcher to elicit both the respondent's general views and their response to more specific concerns. The interviewer starts with a broad question and in subsequent questions, narrow the focus for more specific issues. The authors' concern was that in conducting the interview in the reverse order could produce data biased in the direction of the researcher's prior and specific concerns. This information is quite helpful to any researcher performing a single case study or doing an interview study using many participants.

In the subsequent chapter, the authors outline the basic premise of grounded theory, the strategies it includes, and its history within qualitative research. They introduce data collection strategies for generating useful data as well as describing the method of coding qualitative data, making comparisons with other data, and providing short-hand labels for segments of data. They explain how early data analysis shapes subsequent data collection. They also describe memo writing, and they outline criteria for evaluating studies conducted with grounded theory.

This researcher specifically linked these two chapters together to demonstrate that research methods and data analysis can be used in multiple types of research projects, more specifically grounded theory and an interview study. From the authors' perspective, interviews are the main source of data collection in both an IPA study and in grounded theory research. However, grounded theory can be used as an analytical tool in an interview study or perhaps a multiple case study. This would, of course, depend upon what questions the researcher wishes to answer or what puzzle the researcher wants to solve, i.e. mechanical, causal or developmental, or what concepts or theories the researcher wants to develop.

Example 3 By: Asa Don Brown, Ph.D.

Briggs, Daniel (2012). *The Origins of Morality. 2nd Edition*. Olive Press Books: Oxford, Florida

As a reader, I have had immense pleasure in reviewing Dr. Daniel Briggs' latest book, *The Origins of Morality*. Dr. Briggs' work will cause some to feel exasperated, while without a doubt have others comfortable with his perspective on life.

The perspectives in this book will have you intellectually chomping at the bit. Having been academically trained in theology, religion, counseling, as well as, psychology; there were many moments in my review that I either wholeheartedly agreed, respectfully disagreed, or desired to have a lively discussion with Dr. Briggs. It is without a doubt that Dr. Briggs offers many compelling arguments throughout the breadth of his work.

Whether you interpret the earth's origination to be from a scripted *Big Bang*, an *Intelligent Design*, a *Theist Evolution*, or some *Spiritually Cosmic* event; the causation of the human race or the evolution of the human race, is complex indeed.

The teaching herein is fortified by a wealth of Biblical Scriptures and references, scientific arguments and laws, humanistic quandaries and perspectives, and a string of academic conundrums. As a *spiritual thinker and believer*, as well as, an academically trained professional; I flip a cognitive coin while reading Dr. Briggs' take on life, theology, science, and the conception of human life.

I have no doubt that you will find yourself on the edge of your chair debating many of the arguments herein. It is a prolific take on life, the scientific community, and the spiritual journey.

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Author for the Canadian Counseling and Psychotherapy Association
Author of the recently published *Waiting to Live*

Example 4 By: Dr. Richard Rodriguez, DM

Briggs, Daniel (2012). *The Origins of Morality. 2nd Edition*. Olive Press Books: Oxford, Florida

The Origins of Morality engenders a unique approach to human consciousness; its holistic viewpoint about morality conceptualized the origins of the universe, man's creation and cognitive development, and induces complex dialogue among readers. Dr. Briggs has executed impeccable panoptic research on the theme of morality that briefly should be pondered by most people. The methods used for the materials' presentation are spot on and convincing. His comparative approach to other researchers and philosophers displays the thoroughness of his exploration that supports the books' direction and core contents.

No matter if the reader is an atheist or theist, the storyline will provide numerous "stop and ponder" moments that compel the reader to dig deeper into their consciousness, to self assess the reflections of life, and attempt to comprehend the complexities of the universe. In the book's constructs, Dr. Briggs asked the tough questions of current and previous theorists. He convincingly guides the reader through a logical path from the inception of the universe, biological life, socio-biological, teleology of laws and rules, and divinity. I highly recommend this book for individuals who would espouse a paradigm shift that will test their core beliefs about agape, spirituality, and morality.

Dr. Richard Rodriguez, DM