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Abstract

Building on Lewis's (1990a,b) proposition that "every psychological event depends upon the state of the person and at the same time on the environment, although their relative importance is different in different cases" (p. 471; Lewis, 1923, p. 12), the Handbook of Personality and Social Psychology Synopses and bridges between personality and social psychology. In this opening chapter of the Handbook, we lay out the rationale for and the benefits of integrative perspectives that span the frontiers of personality and social psychology. In addition, we provide the ways in which the contributors to this Handbook explore the historical, conceptual, methodological, and empirical foundations for such insights across a broad range of domains of individual and social functioning. From these explorations, we also draw and rich understanding that provides us regarding the state of personality, social psychology, and their integration.

Keywords: person, situation, $S \times E$ ($P \times E$), integrative foundations, integrative frontiers, methodological foundations, integrative perspectives

Many years ago, Lewis proposed that "every psychological event depends upon the state of the person and at the same time on the environment, although their relative importance is different in different cases" (Lewis, 1930, p. 12). According to this proposition, often expressed in the form as *person \times situation* ($S \times E$), if we are to understand people, we need to know something about what a person, the stage social setting is, and how something about their personality and their situation will be both personality psychologists and social psychologists. The idea that personality and social psychology are best viewed in conjunction with one another, captured as *personality and social psychology*, first provided the impetus for generations of scholars to search for the evidence to be gained from cross-fertilizing links across the personality and social psychology through theoretical and empirical examinations of the complex and boundary distinction between and the components in which they function. Our product

of this effort is the *Handbook of Personality and Social Psychology*, the goal of which are not only to present syntheses of work that crosses the boundaries of personality psychology and social psychology, but also to illustrate how far a field, simple and contrasting, of the ways in which integrating the perspectives of social psychology and personality psychology can provide which understanding of the phenomena of current psychological investigation.

In the decades since Lewis offered his foundational proposition, social psychologists and personality psychologists have ventured into each other's territory and helped rebuild bridges between their disciplines. To be sure, some bridging has been necessary in the field of personality and social psychology and some different points of departure require efforts to understand human nature. With a history of personality psychology that is rich in evidence for an understanding of how the individual is influenced and modifying