

## BOOK REVIEW

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### *A Review of Road Users Behaviour: Theory and Research*

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**REFERENCE:** Rothengatter, J. A. and de Bruin, R. A., Eds., *Road Users Behaviour: Theory and Research*, Van Gorcum, Wolfeboro, NH 03894, 1988.

*Road User Behavior: Theory and Research* is a compilation in English of papers that were initially presented at the Second International Conference of Road Safety held in Groningen, the Netherlands, in August 1987. The book is divided into 15 sections covering topics that include accident analysis, risk models, driver stress, alcohol and drugs, and road safety in developing countries among other pertinent topic areas.

As the editors acknowledge, English is not the primary language for most of the authors included in this volume, but this proves no hindrance as universally the articles are clearly and concisely written. There are rare typographical errors, and a few terms may not be readily familiar to American readers, as for example "woonerven" which from context is some type of road in the Netherlands. These small points are not a barrier to the general understanding of the articles. The volume contains a wealth of tables, graphs, and diagrams that augment the text and are of good quality.

As the title indicates, the articles contained in this book are general original research results and theoretical constructs from researchers from literally around the globe. The articles encompass not only motor vehicle operators, but other road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. References are generally of recent works and include both English and foreign language articles. Many of the papers deal with aspects of social psychology, behavioral theory, and cognitive theory. As is to be expected when analyzing a diverse group such as is represented by human beings behaving in the "real world," many of the researchers depend on extensive statistical analyses, therefore, for proper appreciation, the reader needs to be comfortable with the appropriate statistical approaches.

*Road User Behavior: Theory and Research* makes available to anyone interested in the research aspects of human behavior as it influences traffic safety a wealth of current material which may not have been otherwise available. While none of the articles definitively answers the questions of how to make humans safer on the highways they do provide insightful approaches and research designs to investigate just how people interact with the road environment. As many of the included authors attest repeatedly, highway engineering and vehicle design have advanced safety greatly, but we are now reaching a point at which it will be necessary to modify the behavior of those using the roadways if increased safety is to be attained. This volume provides much new data concerning this complex problem.

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