Book Review

Reviewed by Denis A. Coelho* and João N.O. Filipe

Email: denis@ubi.pt
Email: johnnyfilipe@gmail.com
*Corresponding author

Encompassing and authoritative, while the main focus is on human factors, it still manages to include the fundamentals of ergonomics articulating them with the former and seemly integrate the cognitive, organisational and the physical domains of human factors and ergonomics, doing so in a concise and easy flowing style. Relying to a great extent, although not exclusively, on the author's broad experience and long research production history, some aspects are not dealt with separately but are instead dispersed throughout several chapters of the book (e.g., driving), others are somewhat short (learning and training), and very few are absent. Neuroergonomics and affective human factors are the few topics that are notoriously missing, the first one understandably as it is still very much in flux, while the second one would probably deserve a textbook of its own. The scope of the book is the psychology of human-machine interaction, and it is intended, according to the author's preface to the 1st edition, to help engineers think more like psychologists, and to help psychologists think more like engineers. Hence, whoever is already sitting on the fence will most likely receive this book well, as it is clearly the offspring of a well-matured engineering psychology perspective, that is as much encompassing as it is hands-on. The book, in its 2nd edition, revised and enlarged, keeps very nicely on par with the latest technological developments, while emphasising concepts and systems thinking. From its treatment of cognition and psychological aspects of the senses of vision and audition to the more focused aspects of human-machine interaction presented from a systems perspective, it remains an invaluable manual to help designers in developing more effective and efficient systems.