interactions with the world. It is through our bodies that we undertake our daily activities, pursue our goals, and interact with each other. However, the body is not a mere vessel that houses the true self, but is constitutive of that self. Our physical bodies are crucial to how we see ourselves and how others see us. They are fundamental to our identities, where our bodies serve as a locus for classification and separation, but also for inclusion and kinship. How do people identify each other? What features are unique to each person? And how does the biological body shape a person’s social body and vice versa? Rebecca Gowland and Tim Thompson explore these and other questions as they discuss the many features that constitute people’s biological and social identities and how these features are used in identification.

In the opening chapter, Gowland and Thompson set out to merge the literature concerning the physical identifiers of the body with scholarship that examines how the social environment shapes the biological body. They give an overview of the history of human identification and disciplines that rely on identifying the physical body, such as forensics and archaeology, and touch upon some early examples of the intersections between social thought and the body. The second chapter discusses various social categories, including gender, age, race, and socioeconomic status, and their relationship to the body. These categories reflect ideas of sameness and difference but have fluid, overlapping boundaries that intersect with each other at political, biological, and personal levels. The subsequent chapters divide the body into various systems, working their way from the visible outer layer to the inner molecular mechanisms. Each of these chapters discusses the physiological features of the systems, giving general overviews of some of their functions and mechanisms. They then delve into how various components of these systems have been used for identification purposes, explaining the features that are unique to each person. They examine the ways in which the social categories introduced in Chapter 2 shape the physical body and vice versa, affecting how we see and interpret ourselves as well as each other.

This book aims to move the field of human identification sciences toward a more holistic and nuanced perspective by incorporating social dimensions of identity and their effects on the body and the person into anatomical and physiological discussions of human identification. In this attempt, the authors are largely successful, merging disciplines that have distinct perspectives. However, because their scope is so large, they do not delve into either the physiological or social dimensions of identity and identification in great detail, giving instead general overviews. Thus, those already familiar with either area may wish for more specificity and detail but will find novel perspectives and additional points to consider in the less familiar areas. The book is quite readable even for those unfamiliar with any of the areas and can serve as a helpful introductory text.

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**Basics of Quantum Electrodynamics.**
By Ioan Merches, Dorian Tatomir, and Roxana E. Lupu. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press; 2013. 338 p. US $129.95 (Hardcover). ISBN: 978-1466580374.

Quantum electrodynamics (QED) is the relativistic quantum field theory of electrodynamics and describes the interactions of charged particles. It can similarly be viewed as a perturbation theory of the electromagnetic quantum vacuum. The emergence of QED allowed physicists to explain phenomena such as the magnetic moment of the electron and the Lamb shift, as well as general interactions of light and matter. Currently, QED theory is an effective tool for many physics problems involving elementary particles, atomic nucleus, and solid state. The opening chapters deal with the general theory of free fields and establish a method to derive the fundamental quantization laws valid for any field. The theory developed is then ap-
plied to scalar, electromagnetic, and spinorial fields in order to prepare the reader for understanding field interactions. The authors introduce the scattering matrix, Feynman-Dyson diagrams, and the effective scattering cross section as general problems of field interactions. They examine divergence-free second order processes, using Compton scattering and Møller scattering as examples, and calculate the effective cross sections and transition probabilities. The final chapter delves into divergent second-order processes, and the authors discuss vacuum polarization as well as mass and charge renormalization.

Basic of Quantum Electrodynamics is a useful guide for advanced undergraduate and graduate students studying physics. A final section that includes an appendix containing several functions used in quantum field theory, as well as problems along with solutions, helps facilitate the application of the theory. This text provides a detailed connection between quantum mechanics and QED through the quantization of free fields followed by their interactions. The detailed stepwise progression used by the authors provides a clear demonstration of the important theories and aspects of quantum electrodynamics that makes this text a valuable resource for both the student and instructor.

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Genetic Explanations: Sense and Nonsense. Edited by Sheldon Krimsky and Jeremy Gruber. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press; 2013. 368 p. US $45.00 (Hardcover). ISBN: 978-0674064461.

With roots in Gregor Mendel's pea plant experiments from the mid-19th century, the field of genetics today is sometimes held as a shining example of science's ability to explain the inner workings of the natural world. While the mid-20th century revolution in molecular biology gave rise to feats such as delineating the structure of DNA, discovering DNA as housing the genetic code, formulating the central dogma of biology, and developing recombinant DNA techniques, the picture of DNA's role in the hierarchy of the cell that emerged placed DNA firmly at the top. That is, DNA assumed a type of "master status" where DNA was framed as the primary factor for an organism's development, an idea further reinforced with the nearly $3 billion dollars spent on the Human Genome Project. DNA was presented as static and unchangeable from conception, responsible for the organism's susceptibility to particular diseases, its size and shape, and in the case of people, sometimes even their temperament, preferences, proclivities, behaviors, and attitudes. It is against this genetic determinism that this collection of essays edited by Sheldon Krimsky and Jeremy Gruber works to dismantle. Divided into three sections, the first tackles the frameworks that ground how DNA is presented and the roles it is thought to fulfill. These articles discuss DNA as both a material and ideological entity. They question the portrayal of DNA as directing the function and organization of the cell (and subsequently the direction of the developing organism), while also deconstructing language that describes organisms as machines and popular ideas about genes and genetic disease. The second section focuses on the role of genes as the predictors of disease, specifically discussing disease causation, psychiatry, autism, cancer, and personalized medicine. Each one of these chapters challenges the idea of one's DNA as the primary cause for particular diseases. The third section grapples with the intersections between genetics and society, focusing on how the portrayal of genetics has influenced popular conceptions of DNA's role in human behavior. The chapters in this section examine how genetics as an ideology unfolds within theories of behavioral genetics, direct-to-consumer marketing of genetic tests, contemporary reproductive practices, and forensic DNA evidence.

Although the book deals with a complex branch of science, it does not focus on the many technical details of genetics, but instead provides overarching concepts with some details. This makes the book accessi-