Building on pioneering animal studies, and making use of new, noninvasive techniques for studying the human brain, research on the human amygdala has blossomed in recent years. This comprehensive volume brings together leading authorities to synthesize current knowledge on the amygdala and its role in psychological function and dysfunction. Initial chapters discuss how animal models have paved the way for work with human subjects. Next, the book examines the amygdalas involvement in emotional processing, learning, memory, and social interaction. The final section presents key advances in understanding specific clinical disorders: anxiety disorders, depression, schizophrenia, autism, and Alzheimers disease. Illustrations include 39 color plates.

"The Human Amygdala" edited by Paul J. Whalen, and Elizabeth A. Phelps is the most up to date book (2009) that brings together the previous years of scientific research and study on the structure and function of the human amygdala.

Brain imaging, and work with non-human primates elucidate aspects of mechanisms of the amygdala in the detection of fear, the role of the ventromedial prefrontal cortex in modulating the amygdala, memory, the interplay of social interactions, and in neuropsychiatric disorders especially in autism and schizophrenia.

The chapters are clear and lucid. The chapters offer an overlapping perspective that makes the wealth of knowledge easier to grasp. At the end of each chapter there is a section called "What I Think" that gives a concise integrated summary of the chapter by the authors. The illustrations and images are clear, heuristic and the ones in color add to the overall understanding of the concepts.

This book has some 40 contributors.

This highly readable book on the amygdala is right up there in scientific rigor, in the brain/behavior insights it provides, and the effort that must have brought it to fruition. This gem of a book is in league with the best books of recent Brain/Behavior such as:

The chapters:

Part I. From Animal Models to Human Amygdala Function

Chapter 1. Neuroanatomy of the Primate Amygdala
Chapter 2. The Human Amygdala: Insights from Other Animals
Chapter 3. Measurement of Fear Inhibition in Rats, Monkeys, and Humans with and without Posttraumatic stress Disorder, Using the AX+, BX-Paradigm
Chapter 4. Amygdala Function in Positive Reinforcement: Contributions from Studies of Nonhuman Primates

Part II. Human Amygdala Function

Chapter 5. A Developmental Perspective on Human Amygdala Function
Chapter 6. Human Fear Conditioning and the Amygdala
Chapter 7. Methodological Approaches to Studying Human Amygdala
Chapter 8. The Human Amygdala and memory
Chapter 9. The Human Amygdala and the Control of Fear
Chapter 10. The Role of the Human Amygdala in Perception and attention
Chapter 11. Individual Differences in Human Amygdala Function
Chapter 12. HumanAmygdala Responses to Facial Expressions and Emotion
Chapter 13. The human Amygdala in Social Function

Part III. Human Amygdala Dysfunction

Chapter 14. The Human amygdala an Anxiety Disorders
Chapter 15. The Human Amygdala in Schizophrenia
Chapter 16. The Human Amygdala in Autism
Chapter 17. The Human Amygdala in Normal Aging and Alzheimer's Disease
Chapter 18. The genetic Basis of Amygdala Reactivity