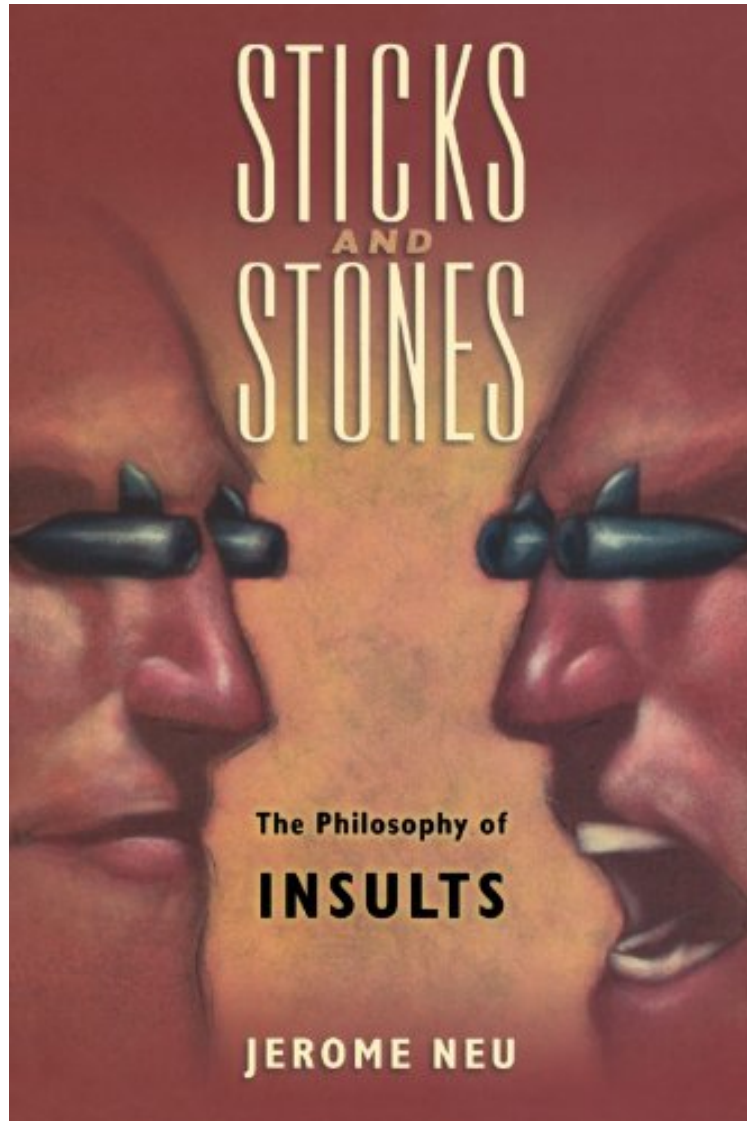


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## Sticks and Stones: The Philosophy of Insults

*Jerome Neu*

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#3431189 in Books Jerome Neu 2009-11-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 5.50 x .90 x 8.10l, .78 #File Name: 0195388240304 pages Sticks and Stones The Philosophy of Insults | File size: 79.Mb

**Jerome Neu : Sticks and Stones: The Philosophy of Insults** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sticks and Stones: The Philosophy of Insults:

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Sticks and Stones By Frankly Anonymous Sticks and Stones is spectacular even in the context of Professor Neu's previous fascinating explorations of the emotions. In focusing upon insults, he has chosen a highly topical subject whose complexities of interaction are well-suited to his sharp analytical approach. He attains depth of insight without ever being unexciting; his work often provides the aesthetic pleasure one gets from a novelist plumbing the depths of a character. For me, the chapters on forgiveness and on insult humor

happen to be particular favorites, but that in no way diminished my enjoyment of the discussions of dueling, rap battles and defamation law (including the controversial topic of hate speech). Finally, *Sticks and Stones* also satisfies an important criterion for books on this topic: it provides many new insults to add to the reader's own repertoire. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great book By GINA MILLIEN JOSEPHI received the information about this book online and decided to read it. I am very happy and it was the greatest choice for me. Patrick 2 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Thorough analysis plagued by Sigmund the Fraud By MS This book is a very thorough analysis of the cultural, historical and legal aspects of insults, with a huge amount of citations. Very troubling is the authors deference to Sigmund Freuds work. Sadly the author fell for his quackery and wholeheartedly believes in it. Freud has been exposed as a fraud and con-man by modern science. This book is plagued in large parts by reference to Freuds insane theories. This book could have been a masterpiece if it excluded the references to the proven fraud Freud. If you know how decieving and wrong Freud was, you may be able to steer clear of the sections refering to Freud and find a lot of other credible information in the remaining part of this book. If you are not aware what a dangerous unscientific liar Freud was than stay clear of this book.

"Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." This schoolyard rhyme projects an invulnerability to verbal insults that sounds good but rings false. Indeed, the need for such a verse belies its own claims. For most of us, feeling insulted is a distressing-and distressingly common-experience. In *Sticks and Stones*, philosopher Jerome Neu probes the nature, purpose, and effects of insults, exploring how and why they humiliate, embarrass, infuriate, and wound us so deeply. What kind of injury is an insult? Is it determined by the insulter or the insulted? What does it reveal about the character of both parties as well as the character of society and its conventions? What role does insult play in social and legal life? When is telling the truth an insult? Neu draws upon a wealth of examples and anecdotes-as well as a range of views from Aristotle and Oliver Wendell Holmes to Oscar Wilde, John Wayne, Katherine Hepburn, and many others-to provide surprising answers to these questions. He shows that what we find insulting can reveal much about our ideas of character, honor, gender, the nature of speech acts, and social and legal conventions. He considers how insults, both intentional and unintentional, make themselves felt-in play, Freudian slips, insult humor, rituals, blasphemy, libel, slander, and hate speech. And he investigates the insult's extraordinary power, why it can so quickly destabilize our sense of self and threaten our moral identity, the very center of our self-respect and self-esteem. Entertaining, humorous, and deeply insightful, *Sticks and Stones* unpacks the fascinating dynamics of a phenomenon more often painfully experienced than clearly understood.

"Mr. Neu leads his readers into many a satisfying alleyway of mortifying wit."--Andrew Stark, *Wall Street Journal* "[T]he book roams enjoyably over its terrain with a philosopher's eye for distinctions, offering philosophical and practical insights into insults with support from law, psychology, sociology, anthropology, ethology, and Freud. It is engagingly and fluidly written, with nuance and wit.... original and illuminating."--Margaret Urban Walker, *Mind* "This is a fascinating exploration of that most human of activities: insulting one another."--Simon Blackburn, *Times Higher Education* "Neu gives us a wide-ranging, thought-provoking, and incredibly readable-if demanding-study of a subject that will be of interest to anyone who has ever been insulted-and who among us hasn't been?.... A delightful, important study for readers of all levels; highly recommended."--Library Journal About the Author Jerome Neu is Professor of Humanities at the University of California, Santa Cruz.