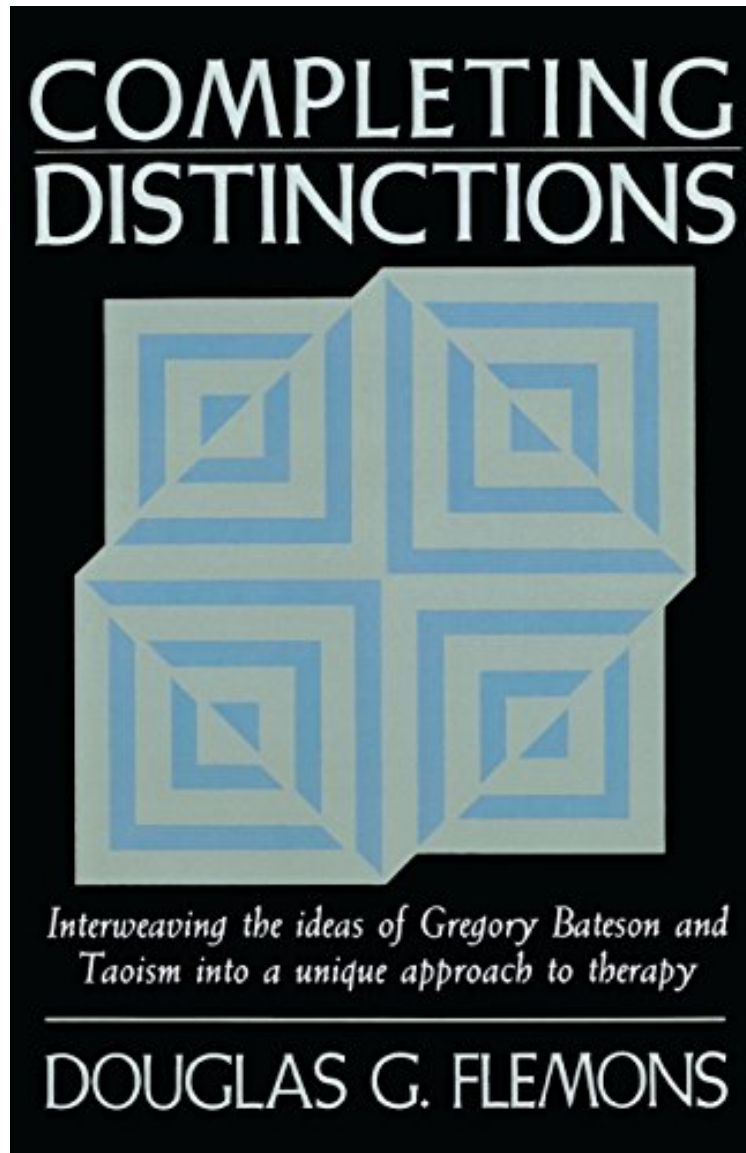


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Douglas G. Flemons
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(Read now) **Completing Distinctions: Interweaving the Ideas of Gregory Bateson and Taoism into a unique approach to therapy**

Completing Distinctions: Interweaving the Ideas of Gregory Bateson and Taoism into a unique approach to therapy

Douglas G. Flemons : Completing Distinctions: Interweaving the Ideas of Gregory Bateson and Taoism into a unique approach to therapy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised **Completing Distinctions: Interweaving the Ideas of Gregory Bateson and Taoism into a unique approach to therapy:**

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. higher order connections
By Morris Crichlow I read this book a few years ago, and it's amazing. It's not a text to read and understand but one which will change how you understand, so I can only speak to how my understanding was changed. The basic theme I received is how distinctions unify, for instance how a person who strongly believes there is no god and a person who strongly believes there is a God are alike in that both have strong beliefs about whether or not a God exists. This allowed me to see connections where others see only separations, and to see through false separations (for example, how people speak of nature as separated out from things like chemicals). There is a definite tone of how understanding requires distinctions (red is red b/c it's not blue, green, etc.), so unifying wisdom is to be found not simply in deconstruction of what appear to be flawed or incomplete traditional ideas but in studying other ideas enough to see common values where they exist, and accepting that when they can't be seen, it may be an inevitable result of a different perspective which in its distinctness gives rather than takes away its own natural significance.

1 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Didn't understand it
By Bob This seemed like the kind of thing I would like from the title, but I could not understand it. If I could understand it I might give a better review. I don't think my lack of understanding is entirely my fault. I'm capable of understanding much - college graduate and all that. Perhaps this one of those things that can be understood, but for which I am not prepared to understand. Perhaps you would like to have a go. Good luck.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A bold creative approach
By Kevin Lay I saw the only review so far was a poor one and this prompted me to speak up for an interesting and thoughtful book - not to balance out the other reviewer, but simply add another plain opinion. Not often have I read such a rich confluence of ideas as in Flemons' book. I found myself constantly being engaged with the text, scribbling notes, ideas, and disagreements in the margins. It's like taking Goethe/Goodwin's worldviews and growing them with gestalt, taoism, Gregory Bateson, Laws of Form (G. Spencer-Brown) and poetry. The ideas are liquid and though there are many tributaries and turbulent flows, I found it to be clear. Definitely outside the box, as it were!

Completing Distinctions develops a new way of thinking about the connection between problems and solutions for family and systems therapists. The author suggests that addiction and other social and ecological dilemmas stem from the belief that distinctions such as hate and love, sickness and health, or problem and solution are irreconcilable oppositions. Flemons shows how much separations can be completed so that genuine healing can occur in individuals, families, organizations, and ecologies. Written in a playful style, the book includes short client-therapist dialogues that illustrate the author's approach.

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About the Author Douglas Flemons, Ph.D. is Professor of Family Therapy at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.