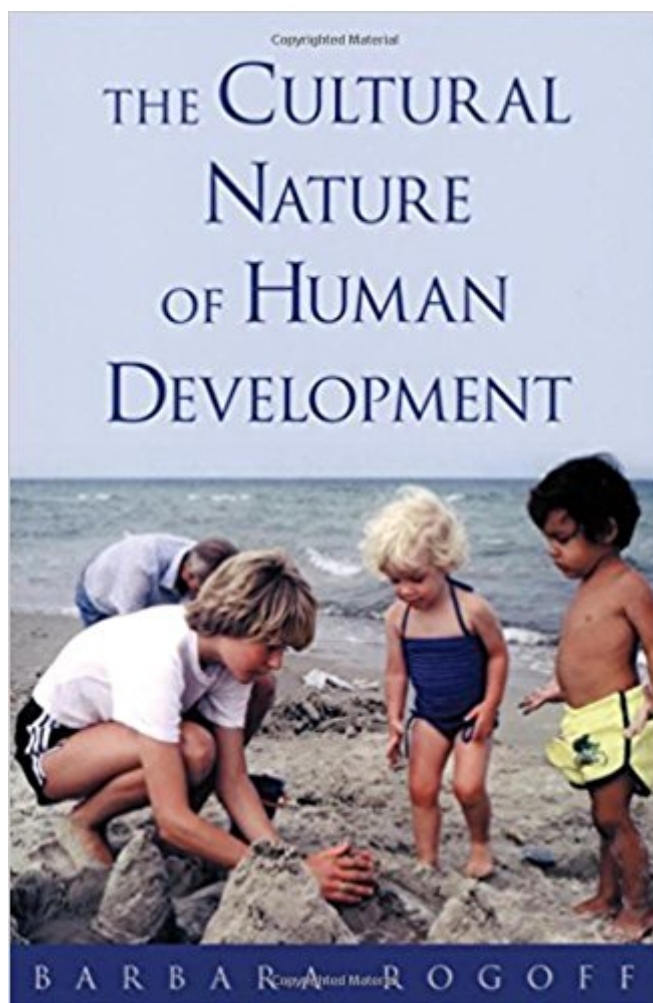


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The Cultural Nature Of Human Development



Synopsis

Three-year-old Kwara'ae children in Oceania act as caregivers of their younger siblings, but in the UK, it is an offense to leave a child under age 14 years without adult supervision. In the Efe community in Zaire, infants routinely use machetes with safety and some skill, although U.S. middle-class adults often do not trust young children with knives. What explains these marked differences in the capabilities of these children? Until recently, traditional understandings of human development held that a child's development is universal and that children have characteristics and skills that develop independently of cultural processes. Barbara Rogoff argues, however, that human development must be understood as a cultural process, not simply a biological or psychological one. Individuals develop as members of a community, and their development can only be fully understood by examining the practices and circumstances of their communities.

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Customer Reviews

" Barbara Rogoff's new book is an excellent compilation of the last three or four decades of work by anthropologists and human developmentalists who study the cultural processes inherent in human development. ... highly recommended for scholars of human development and their advanced students." --Anthropology & Education Quarterly

"This book is absolutely refreshing and revolutionary. I applaud the breadth of human experiences that Barbara Rogoff draws on to document the range of variation as well as the limits of

human developmental trajectories. "I know of no other work that has accomplished what Rogoff has in this book. I have underlined so much that the book reeks of magic marker colors. It is a brave effort on her part and one that is sorely needed in the field. Rogoff clearly breaks new ground here."--Carol D. Lee, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University

"This book convincingly demonstrates for the first time how developmental studies can go beyond an ethnocentric view of human beings. Drawing on impressive examples from Asia and Africa, as well as from minorities in the U.S., Rogoff offers a number of advanced theoretical concepts regarding the cultural nature of human development. The carefully chosen and arranged photos make this book as appealing to look at as it is enjoyable to read."--Giyoo Hatano, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology and Cognitive Science, University of the Air, Japan

"The Cultural Nature of Human Development is a significant contribution. It encourages us to think in fresh ways about both regularity and variation in individuals and the cultural groups of which they are a part. By focusing on the way people participate in the cultural practices of their communities, this work moves us beyond the tendency to conflate culture with racial or ethnic identity. It provides a more productive way to understand how issues of ethnicity, nationality, and language are necessarily involved in the histories of individuals and the cultural practices of their communities. These are conversations that should be part of scholarly work and study across disciplines, including education."--Kris D. Gutierrez, Ph.D., Professor, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles

"Barbara Rogoff's book is fresh, engaging, and challenging: a must-see material for all interested in the way development unfolds in social contexts."--Jacqueline J. Goodnow, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Macquarie University, Australia

"This book is essential reading for any psychologist, but particularly for anyone concerned with the role of culture in the process of human development. Barbara Rogoff has done the field a great service by writing an account of the role of culture in development that will be of equal interest to undergraduates, graduate students, and professional in the field."--Michael Cole, Ph.D., University Professor of Communication and Psychology, Laboratory of Comparative Human Cognition, University of California, San Diego

We cannot understand the structure and organization of an adult human brain if we cannot account for how it developed. This beautifully written summary of a vast amount of developmental ethnography demonstrates the great diversity of human development, embedded as it is in specific cultural practices. This book should be the springboard for a host of human cognitive and neuroanthropological studies.

Interesting and revealing.

I used this book during my graduate program and still use this book today! I found it VERY helpful in the study of human development and would recommend this book to anyone studying child development!

Received book fairly quickly. The book was required for my class so I it was not a novel of my choice. Although the book was not interesting to me, the book is written well.

significant correction to narrow biological thinking about human behavior, psychology and psychiatry

Great book! Very interesting and full of rich information. We read this for homework every week and it has always kept me interested. The author has rich descriptive example of what she is talking about which is extremely helpful! It is also easy to read and understand.

Purchased this book for school but was not the most interesting read.

A+

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