Peer Relationships in Cultural Context

This edited volume responds to the absence of a comprehensive consideration of the implications of culture for children’s peer relationships. Although research in this field has burgeoned in recent years, cultural issues have often been overlooked. The chapters in this book tap such issues as the impact of social circumstances and cultural values on peer relationships, culturally prescribed socialization patterns and processes, emotional experience and regulation in peer interactions, children’s social behaviors, cultural aspects of friendships, and peer influences on social and school adjustment in cultural context. The role of culture and development is particularly emphasized in the chapters. The authors incorporate into their discussions findings from research programs using multiple methodologies, including both qualitative (e.g., interviewing, ethnographic, and observational) and quantitative (e.g., large-scale survey, standardized questionnaire) approaches, based on a wide range of ages (from early childhood to youth) of children in cultures from East to West and from South to North (Asia, South America, the Mid East, Southern Europe, and ethnic groups in the United States).

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Contents

List of Contributors  xi

Introduction  3

1. Culture and Peer Relationships
   Xinyin Chen, Doran C. French, and Barry H. Schneider

Part I Culture and Peer Relationships: Theoretical
and Methodological Issues

2. Children’s Social Behaviors and Peer Interactions
   in Diverse Cultures
   Carolyn Pope Edwards, Maria Rosario Tretasco de Guzman,
   Jill Brown, and Asiye Kumru  23

3. Cultural Influences on Peer Relations: An Ecological
   Perspective
   Anne Marie Tietjen  52

4. Analytic Considerations in Cross-Cultural Research
   on Peer Relations
   Noel A. Card and Todd D. Little  75

5. Qualitative Research on Children’s Peer Relations
   in Cultural Context
   William A. Corsaro  96

Part II Temperamental and Emotional Influences
on Peer Relationships

6. Temperament, Socioemotional Functioning, and Peer
   Relationships in Chinese and North American Children
   Xinyin Chen, Li Wang, and Amanda DeSouza  123
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Emotional Aspects of Peer Relations Among Children in Rural Nepal</td>
<td>Pamela M. Cole, Alisha R. Walker, and Mukta Sing Lama-Tamang</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Emotion, Emotion-Related Regulation, and Social Functioning</td>
<td>Nancy Eisenberg, Qing Zhou, Jeffrey Liew, Claire Champion, and Sri Untari Pidada</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Commentary I</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Temperamental and Emotional Influences on Peer Relationships</td>
<td>Joan Stevenson-Hinde</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Part III Peers and Parents</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Culture, Family Contexts, and Children’s Coping Strategies in Peer Interactions</td>
<td>Yiyuan Xu, Jo Ann M. Farver, Lei Chang, Lidong Yu, and Zengxiu Zhang</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Part IV Peer Interactions and Social Behaviors</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>The Cultural Organization of Yucatec Mayan Children’s Social Interactions</td>
<td>Suzanne Gaskins</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Cross-Cultural Differences in Competition Among Children and Adolescents</td>
<td>Barry H. Schneider, Maria del Pilar Soteras de Toro, Sharon Woodburn, Marta Fulop, Consuelo Cervino, Seth Bernstein, and Monica Sandor</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ethnic Peer Victimization and Psychological Well-Being Among Early Adolescents</td>
<td>Maykel Verkuyten</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Contents

### Commentary II

   *Kenneth H. Rubin*
   
#### Part V Friendships

17. Friendships of Indonesian, South Korean, and U.S. Youth: Exclusivity, Intimacy, Enhancement of Worth, and Conflict  
   *Doran C. French, Okhwa Lee, and Sri Untari Pidada*

18. The Cultural Practice of Close Friendships Among Urban Adolescents in the United States  
   *Niobe Way*

19. Latino-Heritage Adolescents’ Friendships  
   *Margarita Azmitia, Angela Ittel, and Charlotte Brenk*

20. The Cultural Context of Children and Adolescents: Peer Relationships and Intimate Friendships Among Arab and Jewish Children in Israel  
   *Ruth Sharabany*

### Commentary III

21. Peers and Culture: Details, Local Knowledge, and Essentials  
   *William M. Bukowski and Ryan Adams*

### Conclusion

22. Peer Relationships in Cultural Perspective: Methodological Reflections  
   *Barry H. Schneider, Doran C. French, and Xinyin Chen*

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**Author Index**

**Subject Index**
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