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0521858801 - Change Processes in Relationships: A Relational-Historical Research Approach

Alan Fogel, Andrea Garvey, Hui-Chin Hsu, and Delisa West-Stroming

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Change Processes in Relationships

Just as each person develops from infancy to adulthood, all interpersonal relationships have a life history that encompasses the changes in how people communicate with each other. This book is about how a relationship transforms itself from one pattern of communication to another. The authors present a unique research method called “relational-historical research”, based on advances in dynamic systems theory in developmental psychology, and qualitative methods in life history research. It rests on three premises: that the developing relationship (not the individual) is the unit of analysis; that change emerges from, but is not entirely constrained by, the patterns of the past; and that the developmental process is best revealed by making frequent observations within a particular case before, during, and after a key developmental transition. Looking specifically at the mother-infant relationship, this is a compelling piece of research that will appeal to an international audience of intellectuals and practitioners.

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We dedicate this work to Alexandra Lynn Marie
Stroming and to Delno C. West

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Acknowledgments

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