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Formative Experiences

The Interaction of Caregiving, Culture, and Developmental Psychobiology

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The authors offer a unique exploration of the formative effects of children's early life experiences, with an emphasis on interactions among neurodevelopmental, behavioural and cultural dynamics. Multidisciplinary case studies focus on specific periods of development, or windows of susceptibility, during which care giving and other cultural practices potentially have a long-lasting impact on brain and behaviour. Chapters describe in detail: how social experience interacts with neurodevelopmental disorders; how epigenetic mechanisms mediate the effects of early environment; the interaction of temperament and environmental influences; the implications of early life stress or trauma for mental health and well-being; and the cultural shaping of sexual development and gender identity. The final section translates insights from this work into a fresh appraisal of child-rearing practices, clinical interventions and global public health policy that affect the mental health and well-being of children around the world.

Contents

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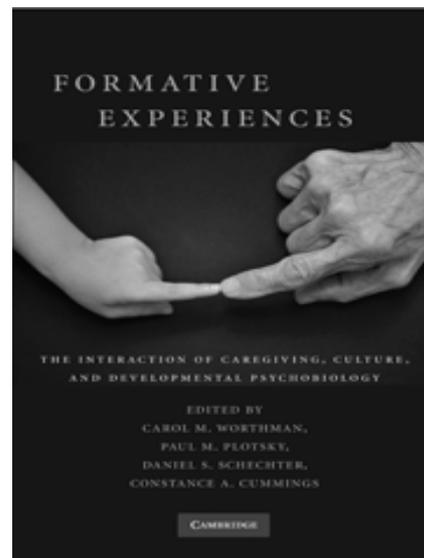
- **Interdisciplinarity:** the book presents developmental psychobiological, clinical and cultural perspectives, allowing readers to sample cutting edge research and scholarship being conducted within and outside their own disciplines
- **Multi-level analysis:** the book focuses on formative experiences in the child in different social and cultural contexts and at many different levels, including genetic and epigenetic, neurobiological, behavioral, clinical, cultural, political, historical and social dimensions
- **International in scope:** chapters and case studies cover development in Indonesia, central Africa, South Africa and the Arctic Circle, as well as North America

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