

PARENTING CULTURE STUDIES

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FOREWORD BY
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CONTENTS

Introduction; Ellie Lee

PART I: PARENTING CULTURE

1. Intensive Parenting and the Expansion of Parenting; Charlotte Faircloth
2. Experts and Parenting Culture; Ellie Lee
3. The Politics of Parenting; Jan Macvarish
4. Who Cares for Children? The Problem of Intergenerational Contact; Jennie Bristow

PART II: ESSAYS ON PARENTAL DETERMINISM

1. Policing Pregnancy: The Pregnant Woman who Drinks; Ellie Lee
 2. The Problem of 'Attachment': The 'Detached' Parent; Charlotte Faircloth
 3. Babies' Brains and Parenting Policy: The 'Insensitive' Mother; Jan Macvarish
 4. Intensive Fatherhood? The (Un)involved Dad; Charlotte Faircloth
 5. The Double Bind of Parenting Culture: Helicopter Parents and Cotton Wool Kids; Jennie Bristow
- Conclusion; Ellie Lee

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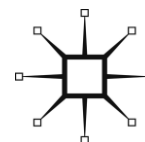
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Parenting Culture Studies

Ellie Lee, Jennie Bristow, Charlotte Faircloth and Jan Macvarish

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About the book

Why have the minutiae of child-rearing – how parents feed their children, talk to them, play with them, or discipline them – become routine sources of public debate and policymaking? Why are there now so-called 'parenting experts' and movements like Attachment Parenting, telling us that 'science says' that what parents do is the cause of, and solution to, social problems?

Parenting Culture Studies provides in-depth answers to these questions about contemporary social life, drawing on a wide range of sources from sociology, history, anthropology, psychology, and policy studies, covering developments in both Britain and North America. Key chapters cover the 'intensification of parenting', the rise of the 'parenting expert', the politicizing of parent-child relationships, and the weakening of bonds between generations.

Five essays detail contemporary examples of the obsession with parenting: drinking and pregnancy, attachment theory, neuroscience and family policy, fathering, and 'helicopter parenting'. The Introduction situates parental determinism within the wider context of risk consciousness and the demise of social confidence about how to approach the future. Comprehensive in scope and accessibly written, this book will be an indispensable resource for students, researchers, policymakers, and parents seeking a deeper understanding of the debates surrounding parenting and society today.

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