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Attachment

The Fundamental Questions

Edited by **Ross A. Thompson**, **Jeffry A. Simpson**, and **Lisa J. Berlin**

“This is a volume of extraordinary importance for our knowledge about attachment relationships in human development, and for the application of that knowledge in systems across the lifespan and across societies. It could not be more timely as an incisive update on attachment research, which over the past decade has expanded and has been increasingly extended into neuroscience and education. Many fields will no doubt benefit from the rich insights provided by these chapters. I have no doubt that this landmark volume will be a standard reference for years to come.”

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“This is one of the more important books on attachment theory of the last few decades. Thompson, Simpson, and Berlin have brought together a who’s who of attachment scholars to confront nine fundamental issues. Several innovations make this a standout volume—among them, the mix of senior and emerging scholars, which leads to fresh perspectives on crucial questions, and the focused, concise chapter format. This book will serve to stimulate ideas in those familiar with the field and will be an excellent text for graduate courses on research and theory in developmental psychology.”

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“Attachment theory has grown continuously, with increasing relevance for theoretical, clinical, research, and public policy domains. Thompson, Simpson, and Berlin, together with their excellent contributors, have produced a volume of immeasurable significance. Chapters assess where the field of attachment currently stands and consider perspectives for the future. I highly recommend this comprehensive work to educators, researchers, and clinicians interested in early development.”

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The ongoing growth of attachment research has given rise to new perspectives on classic theoretical questions as well as fruitful new debates. This unique book identifies nine central questions facing the field and invites leading authorities to address them in 46 succinct chapters. Multiple perspectives are presented on what constitutes an attachment relationship, the best ways to measure attachment security, how internal working models operate, the importance of early attachment relationships for later behavior, challenges in cross-cultural research, how attachment-based interventions work, and more. The concluding chapter by the editors delineates points of convergence and divergence among the contributions and distills important implications for future theory and research.

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