

HONORARY DOCTORAL DEGREE AWARDED



University of Leiden was founded in 1575 and is the oldest Dutch university. On her 430th anniversary the oldest Dutch university conferred a **doctorate honoris causa** on Alan Sroufe (University of Minnesota, Institute for Child Development).

Honorary Doctoral Degree for Alan Sroufe

The University of Leiden in the Netherlands has conferred an honorary doctoral degree on L. Alan Sroufe of the Institute for Child Development at the University of Minnesota. Marinus van IJzendoorn of the University of Leiden cited Sroufe for his many years of influential research in child and family studies. Sroufe's contributions to the field included introducing, together with Everett Waters, the idea of attachment as an organizational construct, creating a solid theoretical basis for the Strange Situation Procedure, the litmus test of infant attachment. In a visionary 1984 *Child Development* paper written with Sir Michael Rutter, Sroufe portrayed the new and extremely fruitful interdisciplinary field of research of developmental psychopathology. This year he published, with Byron Egeland, Elizabeth Carlson, and W. Andrew Collins, the book *The Development of the Person* on a unique study of high risk children, followed from birth to parenthood. One of the main findings reported was that early childhood experiences with maltreatment remain important throughout the first three decades of life although they do not lead to an immutable fate.

In his laudation van IJzendoorn described Alan Sroufe as one of the most influential researchers in the field of child and family studies. IJzendoorn concluded his laudatio with saying that half a century of progress in attachment theory is celebrated with this honorary doctoral degree, conferred on one of its most prominent students.