Parenthood and Parenting in Croatia: A Developmental and Socio-Cultural Perspective

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Parenthood and parenting in Croatia: A developmental and socio-cultural perspective is an impressive and extensive book edited by the pioneer of research on parenthood and parenting in Croatia Katica Lackovic-Grgin and her coworker and former student Zvjezdan Penezic. Because Croatia has undergone major political and socio-economic changes in the last three decades, examining parenting in its context enables better understanding of contextual influences on parenting processes. The book consists of nine chapters which represent an illustrative sample of issues around which Croatian scholars in the field of parenting focused their attention on. They range from fertility motivation and generativity to different stages of parenting (parenting adolescents, parenting in late adulthood and grandparenting) to parenting in challenging circumstances (single-parenting and parenting in post-war society). Except one chapter based on original empirical data, all other chapters are systematic research reviews in which results of empirical studies conducted in Croatia are compared with research findings from other countries and placed within the relevant theoretical framework. The two introductory chapters, written by Lackovic-Grgin, bring her original theoretical reasoning on socio-cultural influences and life-span changes in parenting and parenthood. This theorizing contributes to extant theories on parenting, its determinants, and its impact on child development. The Parenthood and parenting in Croatia clearly shows that parental role and parent-child relationships in Croatia are both similar to and different from parenting in other parts of the world. The book enables the reader to get thorough understanding of the specificities of parent-child relationships, self-perceptions of parenting and their correlates in the context of Croatia. I would recommend this book to everyone interested in parenting from a cross-cultural perspective.

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