



NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF FAMILY PSYCHOLOGY

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Edited by Thomas M. Gehring and Peter K. Smith

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IAFP publishes a newsletter which is mailed out by e-mail about every six months. Sample issues can be downloaded from the IAFP homepage or may be obtained from your national representative (www.iafpsy.org) and the editors: Thomas M. Gehring, Ph.D. (tmgehring@bluewin.ch) and Peter K. Smith, Ph.D. (P.Smith@gold.ac.uk).

Editorial

This issue of the IAFP Newsletter starts with a Call for Submissions for the upcoming IAFP conference 2006 in Cardiff, Wales – a great opportunity for scholars in the field of family psychology to meet. So mark your calendar and make sure to be there!

Furthermore, the newsletter covers various interesting topics, namely, a contribution focusing on applied family psychology in Austria and an article describing the impact of poverty on family constructs of Turkish children and adolescents. Finally, congress reports, book reviews and information on publications from the field of family psychology as well as other conferences focusing on family psychology are included.

Over the last months, there have been heroic efforts by humanitarians to recover from the enormity of the devastation by the tsunami and earthquake in South Asia. Much work remains in the recovery efforts, but there is progress made each day. The greatest signs on the path to progress are not necessarily measured in quantities, but seen in the hope and positive thinking of the traumatized families.

We assume that most people have seen much of the news coverage during the Christmas holiday and have noticed the decline in news coverage. This coverage temporarily increased after the Indian Ocean earthquake of last March but we fear that the consciousness of the long term consequences of this disaster has declined again. We hope that the tragedy of the South Asian victims and survivors will not be forgotten too soon.

The tsunami's consequences are ever-present for many families around the world. Certainly, the enormity of such events can be difficult to comprehend for people not directly involved. However, we respectfully offer our sympathy and great respect to those who know the fate of their lost loved ones, as well as those individuals and families who still wait for news. In addition, we offer compassion and solidarity for those who survived the tsunami. With global assistance, they are bravely facing the daily challenges to move from physical survival to creating the highest possible quality of life.

In this context we suggest studying the December issue of the Newsletter of NCFR (www.ncfr.org) which provides an international perspective of family development including societies with extreme economical hardship. The over twenty short contributions from all over the world clearly indicate that an increased focus on non-western families is needed. For

example they cover the following topics: Chinese immigrant families, African families and survival, families in Eastern Europe, Turkish families living in the slums, armed conflict in families and Nyoongah women's changing roles.

We hope that the present Newsletter will help to improve communication between IAFP members as well as between family psychologists all over the world. We look forward to international contributions from different family perspectives. We welcome various forms of contributions such as news of member's interests, innovative research approaches, congress reports, reviews of family psychology in particular countries, interviews, reviews of books as well as letters and debates on important issues.

Zurich and London

Thomas M. Gehring, Peter K. Smith

From the President's Desk

During these past months, the Board Members and particularly Gordon Harold and his team have been busy preparing for the 5th conference of the International Academy of Family Psychology in 2006. This meeting is going to be held in Cardiff, Wales, a charming city with a strong academic tradition. As you will see on the next pages, it offers many attractive sites to visit, but most importantly we hope to provide a rich and most stimulating program for our participants.

In 2002, when the 4th conference of IAFP was held in Heidelberg, Germany, our focus was on "Families in Context: International Perspectives on Change". The upcoming meeting will allow for an update of many issues covered during the previous conference, but takes a shift in perspective. Particular attention will be paid to research in the field of family psychology as it is linked to policy making, the legal system, structures and programs in the educational system, health sciences, and social work. Accordingly, the main theme will be "Family Psychology in Context: Linking Research, Policy, and Practice".

Family psychology is located in a complex network of neighbouring disciplines as well as fields of practice which are shaped by cultural and societal traditions, provisions, and demands. Many issues in family research are triggered by an applied perspective which is sensitive to family problems and demands as they arise from gaps between (changing) family needs and available resources. Prominent examples are parents' problems in accessing the labour market and finding high-quality

affordable support in the child care system, difficulties in negotiating an acceptable work-life balance, challenges encountered when trying to work out guidelines in child rearing which match changing norms of parental authority and child participation, and coping with demands of securing healthy lives of the older and younger generation. Available resources and regulations affect family life – and even family formation – and thus shape our research questions and findings. But similarly, research may inform policy making or instigate changes e.g. in the law, the health sector, and educational programs thus providing different contextual conditions for family life. An international perspective promises particularly valuable insight into these complex linkages.

Aside from this special focus, the conference will provide an open arena for other contributions to the field of family psychology. As was the case in Heidelberg, we also welcome contributions from other disciplines. Family research has a long-standing tradition in sociology and gains increasing prominence in education where creating supportive “meso-systems” through the cooperation of families and child care, schools, and other services is acknowledged as a necessary tool to secure children’s optimal development. Last not least family lawyers are particularly invited to reflect on current decision making practice in the light of available insight from family psychology. As can be seen on the next pages, “Family and the Law” will be one of the special issues to be addressed in Cardiff.

One of the primary aims of IAFP is to encourage international cooperation. At least one such cooperative research program has emerged since our last conference in Heidelberg, investigating young adulthood in Madrid, Milano, and Munich. Furthermore, several contacts which were first made in Heidelberg have been strengthened in the meanwhile by organising symposia, mutual visits, inviting each other’s consultation, and taking the role as external examiner for dissertations. We hope that IAFP members increasingly make use of these options. Our national representatives will be happy to help networking. Of course, getting to know each other on conferences is the most helpful first step. So mark your calendar and reserve June 10 – 13 in 2006 for your trip to Cardiff. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sabine Walper
President of IAFP



International Academy of Family Psychology
5th Meeting in Cardiff, Wales
Saturday, June 10th-Tuesday, June 13th, 2006

Family Psychology in Context: Linking Research, Policy, and Practice

Go to www.IAFPSY.ORG for more information

Submissions to IAFP@cardiff.ac.uk



Main College, Cardiff University, Wales

Conference Announcement and Call for Submissions

Submissions deadline: 1st December, 2005

About the Conference and Conference Themes

The board members are pleased to announce the 5th meeting of the International Academy of Family Psychology to be hosted by the School of Psychology at Cardiff University, Wales.

The International Academy of Family Psychology was founded in 1990 to enhance international exchange and collaboration between researchers and practitioners working in the field of Family Psychology. As an international organisation, IAFP provides a broad arena for the dissemination and discussion of family psychology research. Furthermore it seeks to promote a comparative perspective as well as international co-operation in family research and practice.

An international perspective on family issues is central to any IAFP conference and this year particular attention will be paid to links between research and practice in family education, counseling, and therapy as well the implications of family research for policy – issues which invite an interdisciplinary, as well as a worldwide perspective.

Special issues to be addressed in the 2006 conference include:

1. Cross-Cultural Perspectives in Family Research
2. Families and the Law
3. Family Challenges of Migration
4. Family Change and its Implications for Young Adulthood to Old Age
5. Capturing the Voice of the Child in Risky Family Settings
6. Health and Well-being in the Family Context
7. Mixed-Method Approaches in Family Research

About the Host City: Cardiff

Lively, elegant, cosmopolitan: The capital of Wales is small enough to be friendly yet big enough to offer the culture and atmosphere associated with a vibrant capital city. The university itself, which will be the venue for the 2006 conference, is set in Cardiff's magnificent civic centre. With its wide tree-lined avenues, ornamental parklands and white-stoned neo-classical architecture, it provides one of the finest sites of any civic university in Britain.

Delegate accommodation is conveniently located only a short walk from the University and in the heart of the city. Nestled at the heart of the city is Cardiff Castle, founded in Roman times and developed into a strong hold by the Normans. The original Norman keep remains, although the present castle was built by the Marquis of Bute in 1814. A stones throw from the Castle is the acclaimed Millennium Stadium which, built in 1999 to host the Rugby World Cup, is considered to be one of the finest stadiums in the world. Those visitors hoping to soak up some of the Welsh culture should spend a tranquil afternoon at the National Museum and Gallery of Wales or take in a show at the closely situated New Theatre. A must is a visit to the striking Millennium Centre, newly constructed in 2004 and home to the Welsh National Opera and the Dance Company of Wales.

For a relaxing evening meal or afternoon coffee, Cardiff Bay is the place to visit. Located by the harbour, the Bay is crammed with cafes, restaurants and people out for slice of cosmopolitan Cardiff. If shopping is what you're after then you won't be disappointed by Cardiff. The city centre boasts a huge array of shops, but the main delights of shopping in Cardiff are to be found in the specialist shops and boutiques within the seven Victorian and Edwardian arcades located around the city centre.

All in all Cardiff has something for everyone and will make your trip to the fifth IAFP Conference truly memorable.

Deadlines at a glance

Submission of all formats:	December 1 st , 2005
Information on acceptance:	February, 2006
Early bird registration: (mandatory for presenters to be included in the program)	April 30 th , 2006

Submission Guidelines

Submission Formats:

Contributions to the conference may be submitted as

- Individual Papers: Individual papers will be grouped in thematic sessions with 4 – 5 presentations. Each speaker will be asked to present for a maximum of 20 minutes followed by a short discussion.
- Individual Posters: Displayed for one day with author(s) present for a period of 2 hours. Each poster will occupy one display board .
- Paper Symposia: Symposia are scheduled for two hours. Presentations will include 4 – 5 presentations and a discussant
- Discussion Forum: up to 5 participants (excluding the chair) providing short inputs to a thematic discussion session

Symposia:

Symposia organizers should submit (1) an abstract of no more than 200 words stating the purpose and content of the symposium and (2) an abstract for each individual paper to be presented as part of the symposium (maximum: 300 words; see guidelines for paper / poster submissions).

Papers / Posters:

The abstract for submitting a paper or poster (as an individual contribution or as a contribution within a symposium) should inform the review panel about the theoretical / conceptual framework underpinning the work, the research questions to be addressed, the methods (sample, selected indicators), and most importantly the results. It should contain no more than 300 words.

Discussion Forum:

A 500 word summary should be submitted outlining the aim of the session, the broad questions for discussion and the expertise of the participants. This format is most suitable for addressing blind spots in research, instigating new research initiatives, or bringing together researchers and practitioners with a common focus on applied issues. At least one chair is required and three discussants.

General Format:

Each abstract must contain:

- Title: Not to be included in the overall word count.
- First name(s) and family name(s) of the organizer(s) / presenter(s)
- Text of the abstract in a single Word file.
- Selection of one of the seven special issues to which the submission relates (indicated below the summary or abstract).

Personal Information

In order to successfully submit your abstract or summary you will be required to complete the personal information form which can be downloaded in PDF or Word formats from www.IAFPSY.org. The principal author/organizer should be designated as the person to whom any notification or further correspondence should be sent, although details of other authors/participants should also be given.

Failure to complete this form in full will result in unsuccessful submission.

Submission process

To submit all formats you will require:

- A single Word file containing your abstract(s) or summary(s) and other details (see general format above).
- A downloaded and completed version of the personal information form.
- Both the abstract and the personal information form should be sent as attachments in the **same email** to IAFP@cardiff.ac.uk.

Notification

- The principal author/organizer will receive notification of receipt within two weeks of sending their abstract/summary.
- If an email is not received within this time the author should assume that their email was not successfully transmitted and resend their abstract/summary.
- Authors who send incomplete information will be notified and given the chance to resubmit both their abstract/summary and **fully completed** personal information form. Failure to resubmit will mean that the abstract/summary will not be entered into the review process.
- The principal authors of submissions to be included in the 2006 programme will be notified in February 2006.

Please note that submission of an abstract/summary does not constitute registration at the 5th IAFP conference. Authors of work to be included in the program will be required to register at the conference by April 30th 2006, arrange payment of conference fees, and arrange accommodation.

Information regarding conference registration and accommodation will be available at www.IAFPSY.org in mid-June 2006.

We hope to see you in Cardiff in 2006!

Applied Family Psychology in Austria

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University of Vienna¹ / Medical School University of Vienna²

Following the international trend, the field of family psychology has considerably expanded in Austria within the last 20 years (cf. e.g. Rollett & Werneck, 2001; Schneewind, 1999, 2000; Werneck & Werneck-Rohrer, 2000). Also in Austria, application-oriented family psychology is one of the most rapidly growing fields of psychological research at the moment. This development is linked with extensive social change, such as increasing number of single parents, new ways of life, patchwork families, etc. These changes lead to a higher demand for counselling because people are no longer able to solve their problems adequately with the help of their traditional repertory of behavior and attitudes. For this reason, it has been and still is the task of family psychology to deal with these developments, to record them empirically, interpret them and find solutions. 'Separation' and 'divorce' can be mentioned as an example (according to Statistik Austria, 2003, the nationwide Austrian divorce rate increased from 28.5 % in 1982 to 44.4 % in 2002). Therefore, the causes and consequences of separations and divorces have become an urgent field of research within the last few years, as is publicly documented (e.g. Beham, Werneck, Wilk & Zartler, 2002; Sander, 2002; Werneck & Werneck-Rohrer, 2003). Divorce and separation counselling, and especially the new occupational specialization in divorce and separation mediation, can be regarded as a direct reaction to this development.

The increasing importance of family psychology in Austria becomes obvious as it is represented in important professional and scientific expert societies. For instance, the department of child, adolescent and family psychology is one of the most active divisions of the "Berufsverband Österreichischer Psychologinnen und Psychologen" ("Association of Austrian Psychologists"). The "Österreichische Gesellschaft für Interdisziplinäre Familienforschung" ("Austrian Society for Interdisciplinary Family Research"), the aim of which is to enhance the interaction between the different disciplines in family research, established the "Arbeitskreis für familienpsychologische Aspekte" ("Working group for aspects of family psychology") especially for the concerns of family psychology in order to strengthen systematic exchange of information and cooperation between scientific and occupational groups which directly or indirectly work in the field of family psychology.

Educational and occupational possibilities in the field of family psychology in Austria

A family-psychological expertise is part of many psychological forms of counselling and intervention. In practice, this problem is usually solved by means of additional family-psychological and family-therapeutic qualifications for the respective specialists. The academy of advanced training of the Berufsverband Österreichischer Psychologinnen und Psychologen, for instance, offers courses on family therapy. In general, according to the Austrian law of psycho-therapy of 1990, Systematic Family Therapy as a part of the psycho-therapeutic education is by far the most common psycho-therapeutic method at the moment (18.2%) (behavior therapy: 9.7%, client-centered psychotherapy: 9.7%, psycho-analysis: 5.5% – see <http://www.psyonline.at>).

In Austria, family counselling saw a significant boom due to the law to promote family counselling (“Familienberatungsfördergesetz”) of January 23rd, 1974. It brought about the legal promotion of family counselling, focussing on issues of family planning, expectant mothers’ economic and social matters, family concerns, particularly of a legal and social nature, sexuality, and other relationships. Persons listed as entitled to carry out counselling are primarily graduates from the Academy of Social Work or schools for marriage and family counselling; but as for persons who need to be available if required, only counsellors who finished a university study majoring in psychology are explicitly mentioned. Depending on the problem, other experts (jurists, physicians, pedagogues, adolescent and family sociologists) can be called in.

Meanwhile, Austria has a network of more than 300 family help centers (cf. Janda, 2002). Currently, there is an average of one family help center per 26,000 persons in Austria (with about 8 million inhabitants in all). The number of counsellings per year nearly doubled from 1988 (200,000) to 1999 (370,000). Statistically, an average counselling interview lasts about 45 minutes. Within the last few years the central themes of counselling have changed from questions on family planning and social and economic aspects of motherhood to legal and social family matters (e.g. divorce) as well as to partnership conflicts. These two themes already make up 42% of all counsellings in the statistics of family help centers, followed by psychological (13%) and social (11%) problems.

Since there are family help centers in nearly every part of the country, the emphasis in the further development of those important contact points lies particularly in the contents, so that in some places multifunctional

centres can be created, specializing on topics like violence in the family, pregnancy or divorce counselling. Since 1998 there is a family help center in each of the nine Austrian provinces that assists partners, children, adolescents or other attachment figures when a relative or another close person is in contact with a so called "sect". Since the year 2000, a new subject of counselling has been offered, dealing with the compatibility of family and work with special regard to family skills acquired during a longer family break. Within the context of a pilot project a family help center was chosen in each province that is devoted to this special issue (Janda, 2002).

Thanks to the wide-range availability of family help centers, applied family psychology has developed into an important part of the psychosocial supply in Austria. As a result of the social changes there is a high demand for family-psychological counselling and support in solving concrete problems within the population, which should also be met by family psychologists who have their own practices. This interesting field for psychologists will gain even more relevance in Austria in the future.

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THE IMPACT OF POVERTY ON FAMILY COHESION AND HIERARCHY: RESULTS OF A TURKISH STUDY

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This research investigated the impact of poverty on perceived cohesion and hierarchy in parental and cross-generational relationships. The Family System Test (FAST) was used to portray family structures of 179 first to ninth graders from Turkish two-parent families. Forty-seven percent of participants were from poor families and 53% from economically privileged backgrounds. Among the demographic variables, socio-economic status was the most influential factor affecting both cohesion and hierarchy structures. Respondents from poor families depicted cross-generational relationships as less cohesive and more hierarchical than their economically privileged counter-parts. This effect was particularly pronounced in the family representations of first to sixth graders. The finding that poverty correlates with family patterns which have previously been shown to be indicative for stress and adverse developmental outcomes is discussed.

Studies about family development and socio-economic variables can enhance our understanding of risk factors in economic disadvantaged areas as well as inform the design of evidence based empowerment programs.¹ Previous research including poor urban families has shown that there is a relationship between variables such as socio-economic disadvantage, parenting style and offspring outcome.^{2,3} However, it should be determined more specifically how economic hardship and stressful living conditions affect family relations, which are likely to influence children's development.^{4,5} For example, it needs to be clarified whether family members experience low income as a source of life stress which affects parental and cross-generational relationships.

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The demographic situation of Turkish families has changed over recent decades. Since World War Two a shift from a predominantly agriculture-based economy towards modern industrialization has taken place. In Turkey the family is an important source with respect to economical and psychosocial support of its members. Although Turkish women from the middle- and upper middle-classes increasingly engage in the labour process, they still have traditional gender-orientated roles focusing on household issues.⁶ In economically disadvantaged families, parents have low educational levels and men are not likely to find paid jobs. Women, whose employment is not compatible with traditional gender roles are mainly responsible for child-rearing.

As a result of poverty and migration to the city, settlements known as "gecekondu" have become one of the most important social issues in Turkey. "Gecekondu" means 'set up in one night', and refers to a house built without legal permission.⁷ Based on recent studies including poor urban families in Brazil, it can be assumed that the living conditions of "gecekondu" families negatively affect their interpersonal structures, in a way that could be seen as a risk factor for psychopathological development.^{1,4,7}

Parents from "gecekondu" families have traditional values and attitudes. In general, they exert high control and pressure, a fact that can hinder close cross-generational relationships. In particular, mothers show excessive control and demand obedience from their children as they enter puberty. However, mothers are more likely to use such restrictions for their adolescent daughters than sons.⁸ This type of coercive and authoritarian parenting was observed much less frequently among well-educated mothers with an upper middle-class background.⁹

In contrast to traditional rural or "gecekondu" families, members of rich urban families are highly affected by the rapid economic and social changes and as a consequence show more western life styles.¹⁰ It has been reported that modern Turkish middle-class women prefer to have daughters rather than sons.¹¹ These women like to be friends with their daughters and establish a life-long, close relationship with them. According to Ataca and Sunar¹¹, this is because traditional economic ties are becoming replaced by emotional ties. In this context children's values are increasingly based upon their capacity to meet the emotional rather than economic needs of their parents.

Growing interest in the study of family has led to a number of constructs and theories about family development and various evaluation and treatment methods.¹² Systemic approaches such as Minuchin's¹³ structural family theory have been very influential in the understanding of family relationships and provided key dimensions such as cohesion and hierarchy

and the construct of generational boundaries. For the measurement of these dimensions different assessment methods and techniques ranging from observation of the family to self-report devices have been used. The applicability of the various approaches and methods have been discussed in some detail.¹⁴⁻¹⁷

In Turkey, the study of family within the framework of systems theory is in early stage of development.^{6,8,18-20} Turkish family researchers are faced with difficulties in assessing interpersonal structures from a systemic perspective and they have also to cope with the fact that respondents are often not familiar with "taking part in a scientific study".²¹ Moreover, self-report methods like questionnaires cannot be applied to illiterate people, leaving the low socio-economic samples outside the reach of researchers. Figure placement techniques, due to their non-verbal character, have proved to be useful tools for low-educated people and family research in different cultures.²²⁻²⁴

Family System Test (FAST)

The FAST is a figure placement technique assessing cohesion and hierarchy structures governing relations in the family and its subsystems in various contexts (www.fast-test.com).^{25,26} Based on western middle-class families, construct validity of the FAST has been supported by the finding that, convergent with predictions from structural theory, family representations vary according to the situation depicted.²⁷⁻³⁰ In particular, typical family relations are portrayed as cohesive and as moderately hierarchical. Compared to typical representations, ideal ones show stronger cohesion and less hierarchical structures. Based on samples of families with a child psychiatric outpatient and controls, typical and ideal FAST representations show significant clinical discriminant validity. Results indicate that distressed offspring are less likely to represent their typical family structures as cohesive and moderately hierarchical and as having clear generational boundaries. Furthermore, troubled children's ideal family constructs display less cohesion than those of their non-clinical counterparts.

Using the FAST the main objective of this study is to describe how children and adolescents from poor and economically privileged urban families in Turkey perceive their typical and ideal family structures. In particular, we examine whether their representations of cohesion and hierarchy in the parental and cross-generational relationships are influenced by socio-economic status, age and gender.

Method

Sample

A total of 179 respondents aged 7 to 16 years (mean age= 11.2; $SD= 2.5$) from two-parent families in Izmir took part in the study. The sample was divided into three age groups: first to third graders ($n= 49$), fourth to sixth graders ($n= 73$) and seventh to ninth graders ($n= 57$). Fifty-two percent of participants were male, 48% female. Respondents originated from two socio-economic environments: 47% from low SES families and 53% from high SES families. They were recruited from a public school situated in the "gecekondü" area in the outskirts of the city (low SES) and a private school that had the highest tuition fees among the private schools in Izmir (high SES). In the "gecekondü" families 68% of fathers and 56% of mothers had only five years or less of education; 39% of mothers and 17% of fathers had no schooling. Household size was 5.4 ($SD= 1.6$); 95% of mothers were housewives and 85% of fathers had blue-collar jobs. In the high SES families 80% of fathers and 72% of mothers were university graduates. The household size was 3.7 ($SD= 0.6$); 68% of mothers and 95% of fathers were employed in white-collar jobs.

Test Materials

The FAST materials include: A monochromatic square board (45 cm x 45 cm) divided into 81 squares; male and female figures (8 cm) representing family members; cylindrical blocks of different heights (1.5 cm, 3 cm and 4.5 cm) to indicate the power of family members. Figure 1 shows a FAST representation of a five-member family.

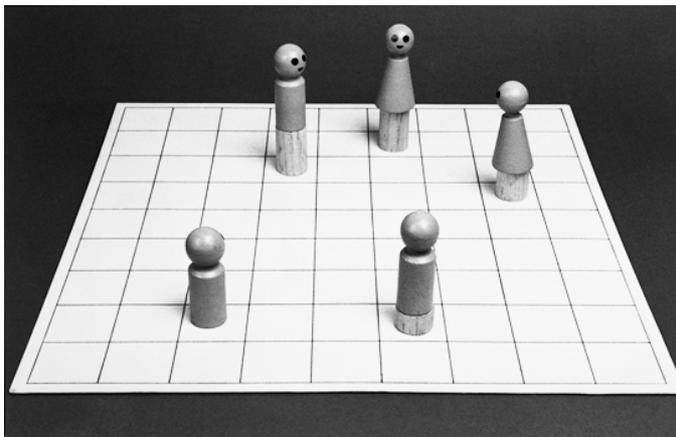


Figure 1. FAST-Representation

Test Procedure

Respondents were examined individually during regular school hours. First, they were asked to represent their current family relations (i.e., typical representation). When they had completed the typical representation the evaluator ascertained which family member was represented by each figure, and recorded the location and height of each figure. Afterwards respondents were asked to portray their desired family structure (i.e., ideal representation), which was recorded by the evaluator as well.

Scoring

Cohesion scores are derived from distances between figures and hierarchy scores from differences between the elevation of figures. Based on the Pythagorean formula the distance between figures on adjacent squares is 1 and on diagonally adjacent squares 1.4. The maximum dyadic distance score possible on the board is 11.3. In order to generate cohesion scores (as opposed to distance scores) each of the distance scores is subtracted from 12. Cohesion scores thus range from 0.7 to 11, with higher scores indicating increased cohesiveness. Evaluation of hierarchy is derived from the differences in height of the used power blocks, with greater difference indicating increasingly marked hierarchies. A hierarchy score of zero means that the relationship is perceived as egalitarian. For cross-generational dyads the height of the child figure is subtracted from the height of each parent figure. Positive scores thus mean that the parents are more powerful than the child.

Psychometric Properties of the FAST

Using western middle-class samples the FAST demonstrated good psychometric properties.^{25,27} Analysis of family portrayals included evaluation of the independence of the cohesion and hierarchy dimensions which have been found to be orthogonal, correlations between family and subsystem representations (r 's range from .04 to .95), test-retest reliability over a one week period (r 's range from .47 to .87) and convergent and discriminant validity assessed by FACES III and FES as external criteria.^{31,32}

Results

In general, ideal representations indicated more cohesive and less hierarchical relationships than typical representations ($p < .001$)^a. The pattern of cohesion and hierarchy structures varied also as a function of the relationship depicted. In both representations, the parental relationship was the most cohesive and least hierarchical one. Furthermore, respondents would prefer more cohesive and less hierarchical father-child relationships.

The Influence of Age, Gender and Socio-economic Status

Age had an effect on the ideal representation of mother-child cohesion and father-child hierarchy ($p < .05$). Older respondents wished for more cohesion and less hierarchy in the respective relationships.

Gender was a significant variable in the typical representation of parental and father-child hierarchy ($p < .05$ and $< .01$ respectively). Males represented more power difference than females in both the father-mother dyad and father-child relationships). In the ideal representation, males portrayed father-child relationships more hierarchical than females ($p < .05$).

Socio-economic status was the most influential factor affecting both cohesion and hierarchy structures in typical and ideal portrayals. Table 1 shows that low SES respondents depicted less cohesion in the father-child and mother-child relationships ($p < .05$ and $< .01$ respectively), and portrayed these relationships as more hierarchical ($p < .05$ and $< .01$ respectively). Furthermore, low SES respondents portrayed the ideal father-child and mother-child relationships as less cohesive than high SES ($p < .001$), and father-mother and father-child relationships as more hierarchical ($p < .05$).

In the two younger age groups, low SES children depicted less mother-child cohesion than high SES children, both in their typical and ideal representations ($p < .05$). These differences disappeared in the oldest age group. Ideal representations of low SES children of the two younger age groups showed also markedly more power difference in father-child relations than those of high SES children ($p < .05$).

Finally, in the typical representation, female seventh to ninth graders from high SES families depicted mother-child relationships as less hierarchical than their younger counterparts ($p < .05$). In the ideal representation a significant effect on cohesion in the father-child and mother-child relationships ($p < .05$) was observed. In the mid-age group of the low SES respondents, boys showed more parent-child cohesion than girls.

Table 1 Cohesion and Hierarchy Scores in Typical and Ideal FAST Representations as a Function of Age and SES (*N*= 179)

Representation Age Group and Relationship	Cohesion		Hierarchy	
	Low SES	High SES	Low SES	High SES
Typical Representation				
1st to 3rd graders (<i>n</i> = 49)				
Father-mother	9.9	10.1	0.8	0.4
Father-child	9.5	10.0	1.4	1.2
Mother-child	10.0	10.3	0.7	0.8
4th to 6th graders (<i>n</i> = 73)				
Father-mother	10.7	10.5	1.1	0.3
Father-child	9.3	10.4	1.9	1.1
Mother-child	9.6	10.5	0.8	0.8
7th to 9th graders (<i>n</i> = 57)				
Father-mother	10.3	10.3	0.6	0.6
Father-child	9.8	10.0	1.9	1.3
Mother-child	10.3	10.2	1.2	0.8
Ideal Representation				
1st to 3rd graders (<i>n</i> = 49)				
Father-mother	10.8	10.6	0.7	0.1
Father-child	10.0	10.6	1.2	0.4
Mother-child	9.9	10.3	0.5	0.2
4th to 6th graders (<i>n</i> = 73)				
Father-mother	10.9	10.9	0.6	0.1
Father-child	10.2	10.7	1.6	0.6
Mother-child	10.1	10.7	1.0	0.5
7th to 9th graders (<i>n</i> = 57)				
Father-mother	10.9	10.8	0.2	0.1
Father-child	10.5	10.6	0.5	0.6
Mother-child	10.5	10.6	0.4	0.5

Discussion

Family constructs of Turkish offspring were in line with structural family theory and corresponded with previous studies including western samples.²⁸ Parental and cross-generational relationships were portrayed as more cohesive and less hierarchical in ideal as compared to typical representations. In both representations the parental dyad emerged as the most cohesive and hierarchy between father and mother was almost egalitarian.

Socio-economic status was the most influential variable on family representations. Respondents from poor families portrayed cross-generational relationships as less cohesive and more hierarchical than their economically privileged counterparts. Previous research including western samples has found that stress and restraint is associated with disengagement and unbalanced hierarchies in the family.³³⁻³⁶ For example, in a study comparing child psychiatric outpatients and non-distressed offspring, troubled children represented typical and ideal family structures as less cohesive than non-distressed children.^{27,30} This indicates that perception of family structures by poor Turkish children resembles those of clinical samples in western societies.

FAST studies including middle- and upper middle-class samples from Europe and USA did not reveal any effect of parental income on family representations.^{25,28} In contrast, this research as well as a recent study comparing rich and poor families of a Brazilian city area showed significant differences between the two groups.⁴ It has been reported before that parent-child relationships are likely to be disrupted by economic adversity.^{1,37,38} Poverty and deprivation have been associated with lower levels of family cohesion and stability, satisfaction, harmony and warmth.³⁹⁻⁴¹ Moreover, several studies indicate that children living in poverty suffer significantly from physical, emotional, and behavioral problems.⁴²⁻⁴⁴

Children from poor families represented increasing closeness with their parents as they got older. This trend could appear surprising in relation to the developmental literature from western societies, where mother-child and father-child closeness typically show a dip in the adolescent years.^{45,46} The different pattern found in our Turkish sample might be explained in the light of utilitarian circumstances.^{47,48} Poor children's engagement in the families' fight against poverty may take the form of helping parents with the house work, taking care of the younger siblings or even contributing to the family budget, a fact which may promote closeness.¹¹

In contrast to similar studies including western families, in this research gender was a significant factor in relation to hierarchy.^{30,45,49} Compared to

girls, boys showed more power differences in the typical portrayal of the parental and father-child relationships. Turkish families are characterized by a hierarchical ordering of its members, especially with regards to gender and generation, and fathers still continue to keep their place as authority figures.^{11,50,51} It can be assumed that Turkish fathers are gender role models and identification figures for boys rather than for girls.⁵² Therefore, it could be expected that boys would attribute a relatively high degree of power to the father. On the other hand, it is plausible that especially adolescent daughters from poor families, who are confronted with relatively high parental restrictions and control, tended to minimize the hierarchical inequality by attributing less power to the father in their ideal representations.⁵²

Turkey is an Islamic country that is going through rapid economic and social changes that are also reflected in the family organization and structure. It has been pointed out that, in contrast to traditional 'rural' or 'gecekondu' families, members of rich urban families are highly affected by these changes and that they show rather western standards in terms of education, life style, values and attitudes.⁵³ Accordingly, offspring from wealthy families in our study represented their families similar to respondents from western middle-class samples. On the other hand, representations of poor children indicated interpersonal patterns that are classified as a risk factor for psycho-pathological development in western middle-class families. However, since our data are based on comparisons of extremely disadvantaged and economically privileged families, and do not include parent reports to compare with those from their children, the results cannot be considered as fully representative. Longitudinal studies including multi-respondent data as well as clinical outcome measures will have to follow for further evaluating the impact of social adversity and developmental change on family functioning.

Summary

Using the FAST, this research investigated family cohesion and hierarchy as perceived by rich and poor offspring from a Turkish urban area. Results indicated consistently that respondents from poor families portrayed cross-generational relationships in both typical and ideal representations as less cohesive and more hierarchical than their economically privileged counterparts. Our findings provide further evidence that economical hardship correlates with unbalanced family structures, and it is argued that such patterns are a risk factor for negative developmental outcomes.

Note

- (a) In order to establish test-retest reliability, the FAST was administered to a matched sub-sample consisting of 28 male and 22 female children one month after the initial assessment. Cohesion and hierarchy stability coefficients ranged from $r=.41$ to $.81$ and $r=.35$ to $.64$ respectively for the typical representation and $r=.15$ to $.42$ and $r=.50$ to $.55$ for the ideal representation.

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Congress Report: The 14th International Family Therapy Association (IFTA) Conference in Turkey

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From March 22nd to March 28th 2004, we sojourned in Istanbul, Turkey at the IFTA Congress, hosted and co-sponsored by The Turkish Association of Marital and Family Therapy (TRAMFT), and the Turkish Psychological Association. Over 600 people attended from at least 40 countries. There were large numbers of participants from Israel, Italy, Mexico, Norway, the United States and Turkey, plus others from such far-flung countries as Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Palestine, Russia, Spain, South Africa, and the United Kingdom, among others. To my knowledge, David McGill was the only other active IAFT member present. The usual mixture of religions that we have had traditionally at

IFTA, of Protestants, Catholics and Jewish members, was extended this time to include numerous Muslims. This conference truly exemplified religious, ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic diversity, and the intermingling formally in sessions and informally in the hallways and at social events proved to be most fruitful.

The theme of the conference was *"Families in a Time of Global Crisis"*, certainly a timely one. Everyone present seemed cognizant of the fact that no country is immune from terrorist attack. Many people indicated that they had experienced trepidation about both travelling overseas generally, and going to Turkey specifically, and friends and family had cautioned them about potential dangers. Nonetheless, hundreds of family psychologists and therapists, researchers, and professors made the trip. Once there, we all felt relatively safe, despite the fact that cars and people went through security checks whenever entering hotel property. I think all who attended found it a stimulating, informative, and perhaps even an exhilarating experience. The 5-star Conrad Istanbul, our hotel and conference facility, added to the pleasure, since all sessions took place under one roof, which minimized inconvenience.

Many of the programs focused on some aspect of the theme. We heard about terror and trauma, including both people-made and natural disasters, and the long-term aftermath of these, from such far flung countries as Mexico, Kosovo, Lebanon and South Africa. For example, in the plenary in which I participated, Maurizio Andolfi of Italy spoke rather generally about the devastating effects of various kinds of crises and how family therapy can help family members support one another and re-establish the family. Tom Andersen talked about the horrendous tragedy and trauma wrought by poverty, prejudice and discrimination on the lives of all down-trodden people, and how therapists can help by engaging in non-hierarchical therapeutic conversations.

Emre, a recent Past-President of the Turkish Psychological Association, discussed the 1999 massive earthquake in his country and the various efforts to deal with the widespread distress it wrought. Listening while sitting on the podium, I was startled to hear that when nothing else worked, they decided to invite an Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR) trainer to help them acquire knowledge about and skill in this rather new intervention philosophy and technique. To their surprise, and perhaps even mystification, what they learned and experimented with turned out to be highly effective, when nothing else had worked. More and more people became trained, and EMDR enjoys great popularity in Turkey.

I had been asked to talk about the impact of the Holocaust and other genocides on succeeding generations, and discussed such facts as that

almost 60 years after World War II ended, the intergenerational transmissions of the family legacies of relatives being herded into overcrowded ghettos with little housing, poor sanitation and little food; of loved ones being hauled off to concentration camps, never to return, or surviving in an emaciated and disillusioned condition – to be liberated – minus one's loved ones who had been exterminated, with no home or homeland to go to, and being unwanted refugees that few countries were willing to provide with any welcome continued on. Despite having great respect for their grandparents' and parents' survival skills, the descendants' collective unconscious is filled with fears that anti-Semitism will (and is) increase and the Jewish people will again be the targets of persecution and annihilation. Such fears linger long in the hearts and minds of victims of all genocides. All realize that peace and reconciliation are essential, but many find forgiveness and forgetting impossible. How can one forgive and forget the brutal killings of many, if not all, of their relatives? Or having never known their grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins? Or having all of their rightfully earned property confiscated? Just because they were Jewish, or Albanian, or black Africans, or Croatian? Yet, to move on as fellow citizens within a country and within the world, we/they must find a way to reach across the wide chasms that divide, and move forward together. Questions about how this can be done plague the hearts and minds of descendants, as they do others who seek an end to terrorism and the achieving of the ultimate goal of many, but not all of us, of universal and enduring peace.

The 8th session of the annual Holocaust Dialogue Group, which I lead, was held in Turkey. As there were only a few Germans at the Conference, there were only 2 or 3 in the dialogue group; their presence was sorely missed. We were happy to have many Israelis in attendance, some of whom have been stalwarts in the group, and some who had never attended before. One reaction expressed by several Israelis new to the group is a response we have heard numerous times before, and that is, "This is the first time I have ever been part of a small group with Germans, and sitting next to or across from someone of German descent is a startling experience. I do not know if I can handle it." But all did, and at the end of the session shook hands and said goodbye, knowing they would meet again during the Conference. For the first time we had a Jewish woman attending who had escaped from Lebanon. Her tale of persecution, isolation and loneliness provided a new version of a familiar refrain. Another member from Argentina rejoined us.

What was very new, different and significant to all was the presence of a young man who had implored me to permit him to attend, even though technically he was not a descendant of a survivor. Yet, unlike the numerous other people who had asked to attend and observe – which we do not allow – he had asked, with a quiver in his voice and trying hard to

hold back the tears. His request had an urgency to it, and so he was included. He sat in what turned out to be the last seat in the circle, and listened attentively to everyone. When it was his turn, he began haltingly by saying his story was both totally unique from what he had heard, and yet bore remarkable similarities. His father had served in the U.S. Army in World War II and he had been amongst those who entered the concentration camps to set the incarcerated inmates free. This experience of what he saw, including the extermination ovens and the near skeleton figures of those being freed, had so marred and scarred his father, that no one in his family was allowed to talk about it. Shows on TV about the Holocaust were forbidden viewing. The children were not allowed to see Holocaust related films or ask any questions about the Hitler era if they were studying about it in school. His dad has been remote and depressed throughout his son's lifetime. He reported that he felt deprived of a father who could be there for him emotionally and for whom the horrors of his past heroism in the army had lived on as pervasive memories of the torturous sights he saw and could not forget. He sobbed as he poured forth his resentment and indicated he had never met anyone else in a similar situation, nor anyone who was willing to listen to him and talk to him about his father's nightmare, which had been transmitted to him. The group assembled sat transfixed, startled by this additional saga of the horrific sequelae of the Holocaust for yet an additional group of victims. Quietly and gently, I reassured him that we were so glad he had come to the Dialogue Group, and told him there is a name for the group of men who had entered the camps as his father did; they are called "The Liberators". This was new to him, and he wanted to know if there was some way to contact any of them. (Subsequently he took me up on my offer to provide him with the name of a friend who is a liberator, does lectures on the topic, and who would be willing to talk with him.) In the future, we will be willing to include descendants of liberators whose lives have also been shaped by the events of this tragic era.

Before adjourning, I asked whether those present wanted to continue the group with its present membership restriction, which limits participation to those who are descendants of victims or perpetrators of the Nazi Holocaust only, or open it to descendants of other genocides also. Those present agreed unanimously that they want this group to continue in its present form as it still provides a very important forum, each year, in which new people can tell their stories to an empathic group and benefit from the catharsis and understanding received and where returning members can have a welcoming group that continues to bear witness to and validate their story, their feelings and their continuing journey toward greater resolution. They suggested that a separate, similar group be formed for survivors and descendants of survivors of other genocides.

There were many other excellent sessions, but limited time and space preclude my writing much more. But I would be remiss if I did not mention an excellent workshop co-led by several people who have been involved in a project linking up American and Turkish therapists with mental health professionals in Kosovo. In their work, they have heard stories of pride, stories of shame, and stories of hope. These survivors have inherited the tragedy and are severely traumatized. Having someone to listen to their story validates and honors their experience. All agree that reconciliation is essential and that stories told reinforce the belief in the resilience of people and their desire to remain alive, and find enjoyment in living.

Carlos Sluzki gave a fine plenary on the pathway from confrontation to co-existence, highlighting a sequence that moves from conflict to truce to collaboration, and finally toward cooperation, interdependence, and then, with cautious trust, to integration. In the dominant narratives that undergird and sustain conflict, both sides believe they have been wronged and humiliated. It is extremely difficult to catapult them beyond win/lose thinking to the concept of a joint win.

I came away from these and other remarkably astute, insightful, and illuminating presentations realizing that ultimately *we must learn to co-exist or we will cease to exist*. And the latter should never be an option.

And so, this conference in Istanbul, on the shores of the Bosphorus, was, at least in my opinion, a most successful, thought-provoking enjoyable fun event.

Conference Announcement:

On July 22-23, 2005, the ***Fourth Munich Conference on Family Psychology*** will be held in Munich, Germany. This meeting highlights issues around "Strengthening Family Competencies". Three major topics will be focused: (1) Family and Violence, and (2) Family and Work, and (3) Family and Health. Each of these topics will be introduced by an invited paper, followed by a symposium, several workshops, and a poster session. Keynote speakers are Christian Pfeiffer (Family and Violence), Gerold Mikula (Family and Work), and Heiner Keupp (Family and Health). Details may be found on the website www.mtfp.de. Klaus Schneewind and his team are organisers of this conference.

Family Therapy around the World

A special book and issue of the *Journal of Family Psychotherapy* entitled *Family Therapy Around The World* has been published by Haworth Press as a *Festschrift for Florence W. Kaslow*. Edited by William C. Nichols, Ed.D., this volume is "an inspired tribute" to Dr. Kaslow, who is a driving force in family therapy/psychology and is the immediate Past-President of IAFP. The 16 book chapters are written by authors from countries around the world, including several IAFP national representatives, who have been profoundly influenced by her teaching, writing, clinical work, research, and organizational leadership. The book also offers a state of the art view on family therapy/psychology in a myriad of countries. We hope to review this book in a forthcoming Newsletter.

Book Reviews

John D. Morgan and Pittu Laungani (Eds.) (2003). *Death and Bereavement around the World Volume 3: Death and Bereavement in Europe*. New York: Baywood Publishing Company, Inc. (ISBN 0-89503-236-8).

It is difficult to do justice to a work like this particular one which is of epistemological and educational importance. We learn that the meanings of death differ in the various parts of the world. Death happens to all of us, to our parents, grandparents, our friends and even children.

The pages of this book are those of writers of cultures of Europe. From Holland and Italy there are writings about euthanasia and what it means to have a good death. From Greece the culture tells us "death is perceived as a process of transition from one state to another and again conceptualises a journey from one world to another". From England the emphasis is on funeral practices; and from the Ukraine the schedule that must be followed upon the death of a relative. There are prescribed customs and little time for grieving. The chapter from Sweden focuses on the development in that country of an adequate palliative care system and from Portugal the writings concentrate on changes in the way people deal with grieving. The Croatian chapter is about the development of the hospice movement and from Germany a written chapter on a funeral directors account as a grief counsellor "people don't mourn openly rather they hide inside their home". The Irish chapter explains the concept of the

death system and a similar development is accounted for in Italy, the most technical of all the chapters. The Polish chapter addresses ambivalence around the issues of dying and situations in which dying children find themselves. In Russia the chapter deals with the denial of death as an existential reality whereas in both Wales and Russia the attitude is of defiance in the face of death.

The book is a testament to trying to create new ways for caring for the dying and grieving people by rediscovering old traditions and forming new systems that allow for medical advances and ethical and spiritual care. Unlike the last book I reviewed, "Death and Bereavement in the Americas", the people of Europe have a centuries-old cultural history and there is much to teach us.

It is an informative and brilliant book and I recommend it to psychologists from anywhere who wishes to understand death and bereavement. It casts light upon the importance of humanness of the process of dying. The practitioner can grow in understanding as one reads about the world practices the book outlines. Many thanks to the illustrious John Morgan and Pittu Laungani for undertaking this momentous work.

Sandra E.S. Neil

Schwartz, Lita Linzer & Kaslow, Florence (Eds.) (2003). *Welcome Home! An International and Nontraditional Adoption Reader*. Binghamton, NY: Clinical Practice Press. (hardcover, 255pp., ISBN 0-7890-1773-3).

Welcome Home! An International and Nontraditional Adoption Reader is primarily a collection of personal experiences with international and multicultural adoption that will be an insightful and enlightening guide for anyone considering cross-cultural adoption. The editors begin by providing an overview of the adoption process, the decisions that need to be made and various kinds of adoption: open adoption, biracial adoption, adopting a special needs child, cultural attitudes, and how to handle an adopted child's question in later years. They also address the complex issues relating to choosing an adoption agency and how the agency negotiates with the birth mother and her state and country laws and practices, and expenses such as legal, medical and travel costs.

A second chapter presents the findings of a survey research study of nearly 1,500 adopted children and their families called the Northeast/Northwest Collaborative Adoption Project written by Paul Lipton and colleagues. The surveys had questions related to reasons for adopting and

preparation, ideas about child reading, education and the birth culture and how the children have adjusted. In this survey it is striking how positive the parents reports of the adoption experience were, including the frequent observation that the addition of the child had deepened and strengthened the couple's relationship. As a clinician who works with adoptive families that do experience serious problems such as reactive attachment disorder (early on) or painful, complex identity search processes in adolescence or later - such as illustrated in the film "First Person Plural" (Korean adopted by Californians in the 1960s), it is good to be reminded how positive the experience is for many families.

The personal stories of parents and some children in chapters 3 to 13 are the very engaging strength of the book, each quite a unique story. The children were adopted from China, Greece, Cambodia, Romania, Russia, Iran, Latvia, and Poland. Adoptive Parents included heterosexual couples, a lesbian couple, single mothers, parents with biological children and parents who adopted through the foster care system. Some stories tell the story of frustration, delay and disappoint before final satisfactory adoption. Others are quite extraordinary, enthusiastic stories of multiple adoptions.

A concluding chapter summarizes the problems, perils and pleasures of multicultural and biracial adoption and is followed with an appendix that lists adoption resources within and outside the United States.

This is a great book for the general public, especially those considering international adoption. It is also a good resource for family therapists, helping us appreciate the wide and rich range of experiences in these adoptive families.

David McGill

Family Psychology Publications of Sandra E.S. Neil. These all involve the Satir Model with references and bibliographies including Satir and others from Avanta and the International Council of Psychologists.

Book chapters

In "Resilience For Today: Gaining Strength from Adversity", edited by Edith Grotberg. Dr Neil's chapter is: "*Enhancing Family Resilience: A Trans-generational Approach to Positive Change in Dysfunctional Families.*" Greenwood Press 2003, pp. 53-80 (ISBN 0-275-97984-9).

In "Psychologists Working With Depression Across the Life cycle", edited by Sandra Lancaster (a book written by the Depressions Special Interest

Project, of which Dr Neil was the Chair). Dr Neil's chapter is *"Disengaging Depression by Building Resilience, and supporting and Educating Families"*. Australian Academic Press 2003, (ISBN 1875 378 47 2).

In "Family Therapy Around the World". edited by W.C. Nichols. Dr Neil's chapter is: *"The Family Chessboard and Projective Genogramming: Two Tools for Exploring Family Systems."* pp. 73-186, Haworth Press, USA 2004, (ISBN 0789025159).

Journal Article

"The Family Chess-board and Projective Genogramming: Two Tools For Exploring Family Systems." *Journal of Family Psychotherapy*, Volume 15, Issues 1 & 2. Edited by Haworth Press, USA, 2004, (ISBN 0897-5353).

Books received

Gehring, T.M., Debry, M. & Smith, P.K. (2001) (Eds.). *The Family System Test (FAST): Theory and Application*. Hove: Routledge.

L'Abate, L. (2002). *Beyond psychotherapy: Programmed writing and structured computer-assisted interventions*. Westport, CT: Ablex.

L'Abate, L (2003). *Family Psychology III: Theory building, theory testing, and psychological interventions*. Lanham: University Press of America.

L'Abate, L. & De Giacomo, P. (2003). *Intimate relationships and how to improve them: Integrating theoretical models with preventive and psychotherapeutic interventions*. Westport, CT: Praeger.

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