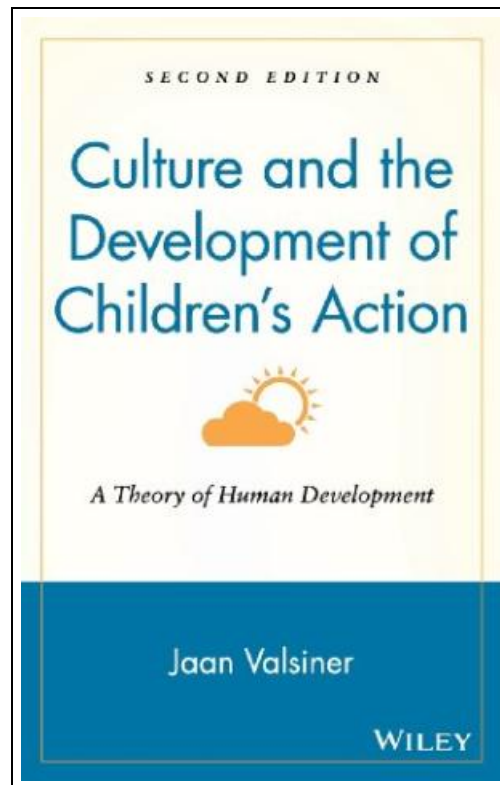


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CULTURE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN S ACTION: A THEORY OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (HARDBACK)



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John Wiley Sons Inc, United States, 1997. Hardback. Condition: New. 2nd Edition. Language: English . Brand New Book. In this deeply probing, intellectually challenging work, Dr. Jaan Valsiner lays the groundwork for a dynamic new cultural-historical approach to developmental psychology. He begins by deconstructing traditional developmental theory, exposing the conceptual confusion and epistemological blind spots that he believes continue to undermine the scientific validity of its methodologies. He describes the ways in which embedded cultural biases shape interventional goals and influence both the direction research takes and the ways in which research data are interpreted. And he suggests ways in which researchers and clinicians can become more aware of and transcend those biases. Dr. Valsiner then develops a hierarchical, systemic model that portrays development as an open-ended, dialectical process. Central to Valsiner s approach is the premise that, since each child is unique--as are his or her life conditions--deviations in function or the rate of development from a prescribed norm are just as likely to be constructive adaptations to changing environmental pressures as symptoms of psychological disorder. Drawing upon sources as varied as linguistic philosophy, structural anthropology, thermodynamics, and systems theory, as well as the work of many of the leading figures in twentieth-century developmental theory, Valsiner argues convincingly for an approach to developmental psychology mature enough to recognize the difference between healthy variability and dysfunction. In later chapters the focus shifts from development in the abstract to the everyday challenges encountered by the developing child. Case histories illustrate the subtle interplay of cultural, physiological, and psychological factors in shaping childhood behavior. Called an intellectual tour de force by the Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic, Culture and the Development of Children s Action is important reading for developmental psychologists, child psychologists, and all child clinicians. Of course, no science progresses...



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