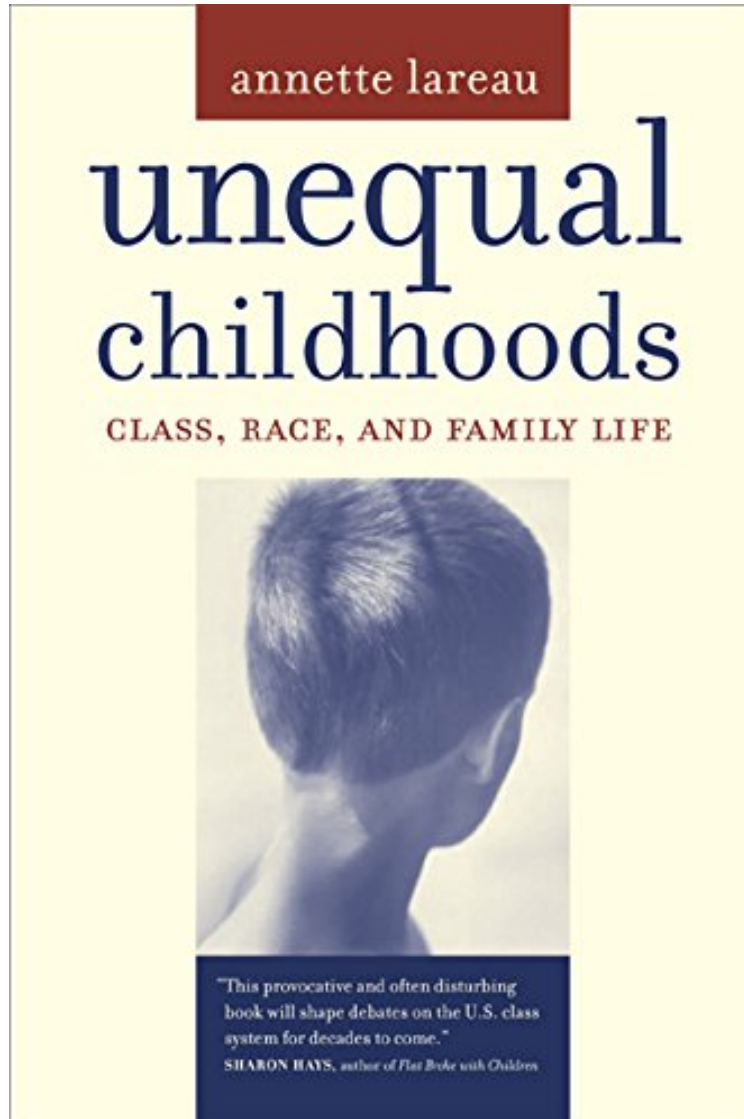


[Ebook pdf] Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life

# Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life

Annette Lareau

ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#188761 in Books 2003-09-11 Format: CLV Original language: English PDF # 1 .82 x 6.32 x 8.98l, 1.10 #File Name: 0520239504343 pages | File size: 68.Mb

**Annette Lareau : Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read! By Jazzman Required reading for a sociology class on family and thoroughly enjoyed reading the stories of the people involved in Lareau's research. Concepts on various forms of child rearing at not new and has lead to heated debates as to what constitutes the preferred form. Lareau's research represents contrasting aspects of families, children and expectations across a backdrop of socioeconomic and

environmental influences and their effect on the development of children. Add this book to my library. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Not just for academics

By hungarianjedi Looking into private family/parenting styles differentiated by class and race, the book reads almost like a series of mini reality TV shows airing on the Discovery or Learning channels with the added advantage of having an academic narrating and guiding you through it all. One advantage of Lareau's lucid style, is the ease with which the book can be read (dare I say enjoyed) by most readers. This book would be useful for parents wishing to compare the impact of different parental approaches or for teachers trying to assess parenting styles/philosophies based on child behavior. Another advantage is that it could also help readers understand adults and how their attitudes, management or decision making styles in the work place are affected by their race, class and upbringing. For instance, anyone trying to understand or perhaps even struggling to work with or manage "Generation Y" (Generation me) individuals, this is an outstanding must-read primer to other books such as "Not Everyone Gets a Trophy". Pages 165-181 and the top of page 245 relating to Stacey were so accurate that "Stacey" became office code for individuals with a high sense of entitlement coupled with a low to non-existent work ethic or performance level. For instance, 'concerted cultivation' coupled with the presumption that a higher education automatically equates to higher salary sometimes leads to: "I've been told education leads to affluence; I got the education so give me the money, I deserve it!"; regardless of actual output, performance or competence, which then leads to "This is a mundane task and beneath me, I didn't get a Masters degree for this. This is boring. I also need constant direction and feedback on my performance. I was top of my class and my parents told me I was special... so when do I get that management job I deserve?". Overall, this is a great book, it was a fun read and was well worth the below \$20 price tag. The paperback edition is of a good quality binding and paper with average sized font causing no eye strain. The text is clear and well printed with minimal or no noticeable typos. The pages offer plenty of margin space for notes; line spacing allows for easy underlines; endnotes only but worthwhile looking into during the read. lists it as 343 pages but the text only runs to p.257, followed by 3 appendices, endnotes, a bibliography and an index which give the book a total of 331 pages.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A Must Read For Everyone

By Tinie This book was part of the reading material for my 400-level Purdue University Sociology course. It has taught me A LOT about the various aspects of family and child-life in the families of different SES in the US. Now, I have passed the book on to my mum as suggested reading, and she too has claimed to have learned a lot about the lives of American families, as well as opening her eyes to other aspects of child-rearing. Once again, this is definitely a book worth the read.

Class does make a difference in the lives and futures of American children. Drawing on in-depth observations of black and white middle-class, working-class, and poor families, *Unequal Childhoods* explores this fact, offering a picture of childhood today. Here are the frenetic families managing their children's hectic schedules of "leisure" activities; and here are families with plenty of time but little economic security. Lareau shows how middle-class parents, whether black or white, engage in a process of "concerted cultivation" designed to draw out children's talents and skills, while working-class and poor families rely on "the accomplishment of natural growth," in which a child's development unfolds spontaneously—as long as basic comfort, food, and shelter are provided. Each of these approaches to childrearing brings its own benefits and its own drawbacks. In identifying and analyzing differences between the two, Lareau demonstrates the power, and limits, of social class in shaping the lives of America's children. The first edition of *Unequal Childhoods* was an instant classic, portraying in riveting detail the unexpected ways in which social class influences parenting in white and African-American families. A decade later, Annette Lareau has revisited the same families and interviewed the original subjects to examine the impact of social class in the transition to adulthood.

From Publishers Weekly This accessible ethnographic study offers valuable insights into contemporary family life in poor, working class and middle class American households. Lareau, an assistant sociology professor at the University of California, shadowed 12 diverse families for about a month, aiming for "intensive 'naturalistic' observation" of parenting habits and family culture. In detailed case studies, she tells of an affluent suburban family exhausted by jaunts to soccer practice, and of a welfare mother's attempt to sell her furniture to fund a trip to Florida with her AIDS-stricken daughter. She also shows kids of all classes just goofing around. Parenting methods, Lareau argues, vary by class more than by race. In working class and poor households, she says, parents don't bother to reason with whiny offspring and children are expected to find their own recreation rather than relying upon their families to chauffeur them around to lessons and activities. According to Lareau, working class and poor children accept financial limits, seldom talk back, experience far less sibling rivalry and are noticeably free of a sense of entitlement. Middle class children, on the other hand, become adept at ensuring that their selfish needs are met by others and are conversant in social mores such as shaking hands, looking people in the eye and cooperating with others. Both methods of child rearing have advantages and disadvantages, she says: middle class kids may be better prepared for success at school, but they're also likely to be more stressed; and working class and poor kids may have closer family ties, but sometimes miss participating in extracurricular activities. This is a careful and interesting investigation of life in "the land of opportunity" and the "land of inequality." Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Unequal Childhoods is as

exciting to read as it is depressing in its implications." (Four stars)--"The Scotsman"From the Inside Flap"Less than one in five Americans think 'race, gender, religion or social class are very important for getting ahead in life,' Annette Lareau tells us in her carefully researched and clearly written new book. But as she brilliantly shows, everything from looking authority figures in the eye when you shake their hands to spending long periods in a shared space and squabbling with siblings is related to social class. This is one of the most penetrating works I have read on a topic that only grows in importance as the class gap in America widens."—Arlie Russell Hochschild, author of *The Time Bind* and *The Commercialization of Intimate Life*"Sociology at its best. In this major study, Lareau provides the tools to make sense of the frenzied middle-class obsession with their offspring's extracurricular activities; the similarities between black and white professionals; and the paths on which poor and working class kids are put by their circumstances. This book will help generations of students understand that organized soccer and pick-up basketball have everything to do with the inequality of life chances."—Michele Lamont, author of *The Dignity of Working Men: Morality and the Boundaries of Race, Class, and Immigration*"Drawing upon remarkably detailed case studies of parents and children going about their daily lives, Lareau argues that middle-class and working-class families operate with different logics of childrearing, which both reflect and contribute to the transmission of inequality. An important and provocative book."—Barrie Thorne, author of *Gender Play: Girls and Boys in School*"With rich storytelling and insightful detail, Lareau takes us inside the family lives of poor, middle-class, and affluent Americans and reminds us that class matters. *Unequal Childhoods* thoughtfully demonstrates that class differences in cultural resources, played out in the daily routines of parenting, can have a powerful impact on children's chances for climbing the class ladder and achieving the American dream. This provocative and often disturbing book will shape debates on the U.S. class system for decades to come."—Sharon Hays, author of *Flat Broke with Children*"Drawing on intimate knowledge of kids and families studied at school and at home, Lareau examines the social changes that have turned childhood into an extended production process for many middle-class American families. Her depiction of this new world of childhood--and her comparison of the middle-class ideal of systematic cultivation to the more naturalistic approach to child development to which many working-class parents still adhere--maps a critically important dimension of American family life and raises challenging questions for parents and policy makers."—Paul DiMaggio, Professor of Sociology, Princeton University"Annette Lareau has written another classic. Her deep insights about the social stratification of family life and childrearing have profound implications for understanding inequality -- and for understanding the daily struggles of everyone attempting to raise children in America. Lareau's findings have great force because they are thoroughly grounded in compelling ethnographic evidence."—Adam Gamoran, Professor of Sociology and Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison"With the poignant details of daily life assembled in a rigorous comparative design, Annette Lareau has produced a highly ambitious ethnographic study that reveals how social class makes a difference in children's lives. *Unequal Childhoods* will be read alongside Sewell and Hauser, Melvin Kohn, and Bourdieu. It is an important step forward in the study of social stratification and family life, and a valuable exemplar for comparative ethnographic work."—Mitchell Duneier, author of *Sidewalk and Slim's Table*