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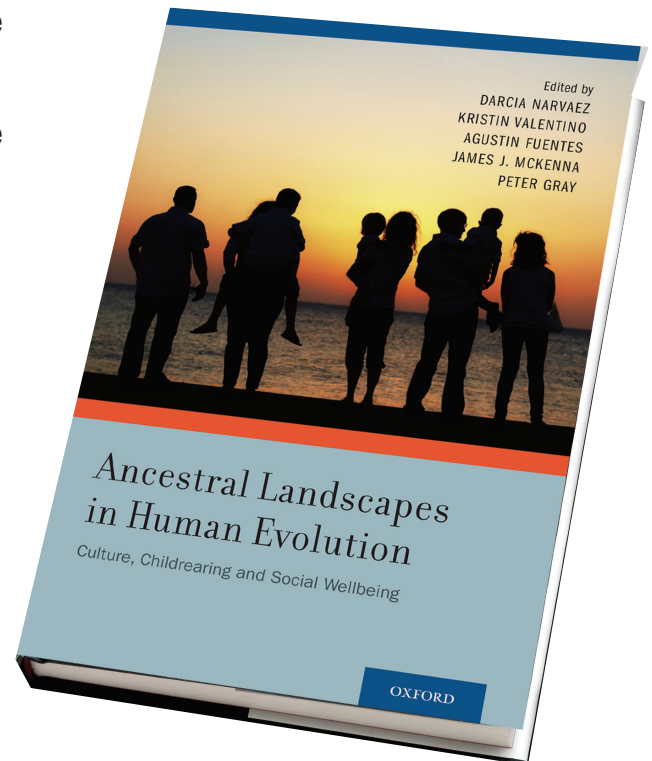
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ANCESTRAL LANDSCAPES IN HUMAN EVOLUTION Culture, Childrearing and Social Wellbeing

Edited by Darcia Narvaez, Kristin Valentino, Agustin Fuentes, James J. McKenna, and Peter Gray

The social contexts in which children develop have transformed over recent decades, but also over millennia. Modern parenting practices have diverged greatly from ancestral practices, which included natural childbirth, extensive and on-demand breastfeeding, constant touch, responsiveness to the needs of the child, free play in nature with multiple-aged playmates, and multiple adult caregivers. Only recently have scientists begun to document the outcomes for the presence or absence of such parenting practices, but early results indicate that psychological wellbeing is impacted by these factors.

Ancestral Landscapes in Human Evolution addresses how a shift in the way we parent can influence child outcomes. It examines evolved contexts for mammalian development, optimal and suboptimal contexts for human evolved needs, and the effects on children's development and human wellbeing. Bringing together an interdisciplinary set of renowned contributors, this volume examines how different parenting styles and cultural personality influence one another. Chapters discuss the nature of childrearing, social relationships, the range of personalities people exhibit, the social and moral skills expected of adults, and what 'wellbeing' looks like. As a solid knowledge base regarding normal development is considered integral to understanding psychopathology, this volume also focuses on the effects of early childhood maltreatment. By increasing our understanding of basic mammalian emotional and motivational needs in contexts representative of our ancestral conditions, we may be in a better position to facilitate changes in social structures and systems that better support optimal human development. This book will be a unique resource for researchers and students in psychology, anthropology, and psychiatry, as well as professionals in public health, social work, clinical psychology, and early care and education.



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"This is a magnificent and much needed synthesis of recent scholarship in developmental psychology, evolutionary biology, ethology, neurobiology, epigenetics, and anthropology that converges on the critical tasks of childrearing. It should be widely read by students in all of these fields, as well as by healthcare and educational professionals and policymakers concerned about the future impact of current unprecedented social experimentation with child care, education, family structure, and parenting practices." -Joshua D. Sparrow, MD, Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School

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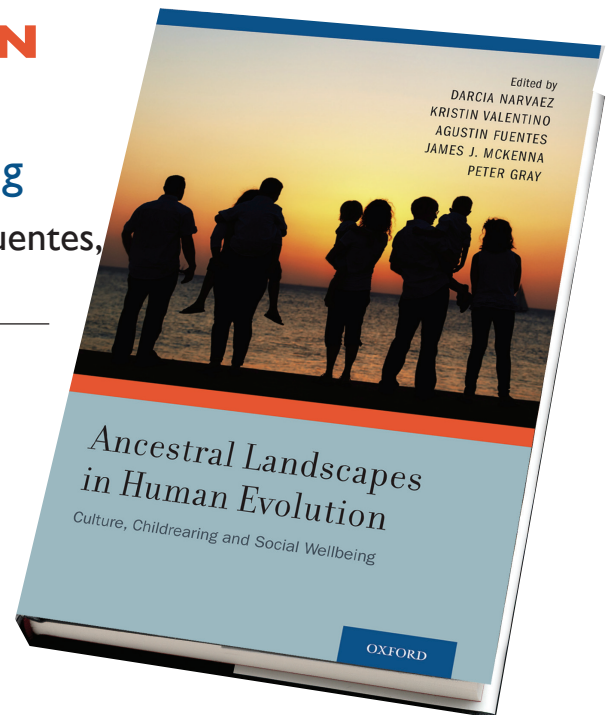
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Thank you for your consideration. I believe that *Ancestral Landscapes in Human Evolution* will greatly enhance our existing collection for the following reasons:

- Addresses the question: How do culture and parenting influence child development as well as individual and cultural wellbeing?
- Offers an in-depth examination of hunter-gatherer cultural practices relevant to child development
- Examines children's contributions and collaborations with parents in human evolution
- Explores mammalian early care effects on wellbeing

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