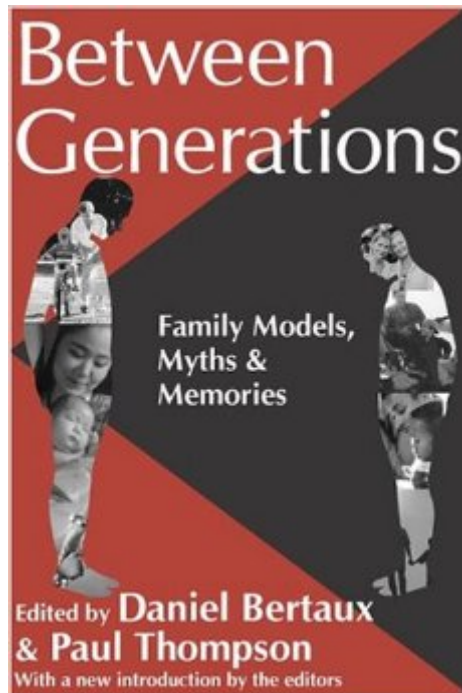


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Between Generations: Family Models, Myths, And Memories (Memory And Narrative)



Synopsis

Between Generations concerns powerful memories that continue to shape the present, but in this case in almost all families throughout the world. What is it that parents pass down to their children? How can we understand the mixture of conscious and unconscious models, myths, and material inheritance that are intertwined in both family and individual life stories? These questions turn out to be unexpectedly complicated, and answering them has suggested how a life-story approach can provide a new key to research on the dynamics of the family and on social change. Because culture is the essence of what makes individual humans into a group, the core of human social identity, its continuity is vital. Cultures are always changing, but the stability of languages, religions, and cultural habits can be astonishing. In contrast to the claims of culture to represent tradition over centuries, stands the sheer brevity of individual human life. Hence, the universal necessity for transmission between generations exists. This paperback edition in the Memory and Narrative series, brings together, contributions from the Americas and Asia as well as from Western and Eastern Europe. They combine the techniques of life story research with the insights of family therapy. Interdisciplinary and intellectually stimulating, the volume will appeal to students in many areas, including history, sociology, literature, psychology, and anthropology.

Book Information

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BETWEEN GENERATIONS International yearbook of oral history and life stories, Volume II Special

editors: Daniel Bertaux & Paul Thompson This book offers twelve stories of individual family histories and captures transition of vital life skills between generations in conditions of dramatic social change. The selection of contributors spans all over the globe, from England, through Colombia, Brazil, China, displaced Jewish families; a case study from Cyprus and from Bulgaria. Daniel Bertaux and Paul Thompson explain how important is this continuity life skills for sense of identity and culture, and analyze coping strategies of families in pathologic setup of fast changing environment and social revolution. The study also pays attention to gender differences, social mobility, and marriage across different social classes. The first case study presents English and Welsh families which earned their living as miners, whose sons at some point gave up family tradition, and moved to London, and found themselves different means of making a living. Means of survival and coping with changing world presented in this book are strikingly varied, and show immense creativity and adaptability of people in extreme social environments. Life paths of some children are very different from that offered by their parents; and children tend to learn from all contacts they have got in situations when original family disappears, what is a case of yet another life story of Holocaust survivors or children whose families vanished in Gulags. Original family is then replaced by those who happen to come by in formative age, orphans get adopted by wider family, and thrive on people who offer motivation to grow and help to shape interests and values.

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