

In summary, although this is perhaps the best introductory short text available in this sub-specialty, it will be unlikely to improve mental healthcare services and service delivery for people with intellectual disability.

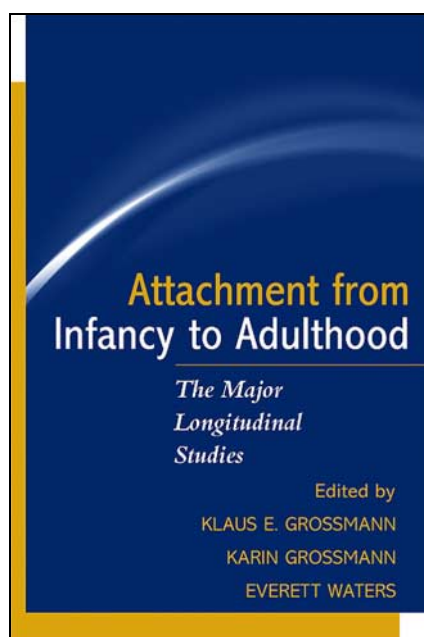
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Attachment from Infancy to Adulthood: The Major Longitudinal Studies

Edited by Klaus E. Grossmann, Karin Grossmann & Everett Waters.
Guilford Press. 2005. 332pp. £30.00 (hb).
ISBN 1593851456

Tracing the historical roots of attachment theory through its evolutionary stages, *Attachment from Infancy to Adulthood* brings the reader up to date with recent developments in the area as well as providing thoughts for the way forward into the future. It benefits greatly from contributions by people whose names are instantly recognisable for their seminal work within the area of attachment theory and it is interesting to learn about their diverse backgrounds and what motivated their interest in the subject. It is perhaps this eclectic mix of experience, and the synthesis of key disciplines including ethology, behavioural psychology and linguistics, that have enabled attachment theory to progress and develop to the extent it has over the years.

In addition to reporting findings from major longitudinal studies carried out in America and Europe, the authors discuss the many and complex methodological issues inherent in this type of research, particularly in relation to studying development across the lifespan. They examine the effects of mediating variables and their influence on the relationship between infant attachment and adult outcomes. The studies also show that it is not only mothers but fathers and, as discussed in chapter 7, multiple caregivers in the Kibbutz setting in Israel who influence and contribute to attachment outcomes in later life. Another important dimension, as outlined in chapter 11, is a focus on children who experience



disruptions as a result of their placement in foster care.

The book is accessible and is written in an approachable manner that will appeal to students, researchers and others at various stages in their careers. One criticism I have is that the extremely naive reader has to wait until chapter 10 before a full description of the 'strange situation' experiment, referred to throughout the book, is given.

As a proponent of longitudinal research and a user of the recently introduced Northern Ireland Household Panel survey, I found this book interesting and informative about the relationship between early attachment processes and outcomes in later life. As a parent it has caused me to study, somewhat warily, my own adult children's attachment behaviours!

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Prevention and Treatment of Suicidal Behaviour: From Science to Practice

Edited by Keith Hawton. Oxford University Press. 2005. 400 pp. US\$69.50 (pb).
ISBN 0198529767

Prevention and Treatment of Suicidal Behaviour is an accessible book that will appeal to those working in the field and those with a more casual interest. From the

perspective of a trainee in psychiatry, it also clarifies the rationale behind the themes of the *National Suicide Prevention Strategy for England* (Department of Health, 2002). The editor, Keith Hawton, has drawn on the expertise of international authors; chapter by chapter they describe and critically appraise the evidence base, offer practical clinical guidance and identify areas in need of research.

Strategies for dealing with high-risk groups are addressed through the identification of risk factors for suicidal behaviour and chapters focusing on mental health service users, prisoners, and those who misuse substances. Qualitative research is used to identify population-based strategies for reducing suicide, which might also represent logical steps towards tackling mental illness in general. Other chapters explore the population-targeted interventions of restricted access to the means of suicide, the influence of the media's reporting, and controversies surrounding anti-depressant use and suicide rates.

In addition to the two-pronged epidemiological approach to the level of intervention, the authors also present a biopsychosocial exploration of suicide prevention strategies. Psychologically, the 'entrapment model' and the role that traumatic stress has in suicidal behaviour are emphasised. Biologically, the focus shifts to descriptions of neurobiological and genetic aspects of the predisposition to suicidal behaviour. The growing concerns about self-harm and psychosocial interventions intended to reduce repetition

