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Diana Lang,
Parenting and Family Diversity Issues
Iowa State University Digital Press, Ames, Iowa, USA,
2020, pp. 276, <https://doi.org/10.31274/isudp.8>

The monograph prepared by Professor Diana Land (and co-authors of some chapters) entitled „Parenting and Family Diversity Issues” (Iowa State University Digital Press, 2020), which was handed over to the readers, was released in an online version with free access. This fact alone deserves an unequivocally positive assessment of the idea of combining scientific activity with non-commercial dissemination of its effects. The phenomenon of commercialization seems to dominate the activities of numerous scientific publishers, which expect fees from authors and scientific researchers for the publication of research results. Combining this with a fee for access to scientific publications, it can be clearly stated that commercialization in this area is contrary to the tradition and ethos of the university, understood as a space of freedom and searching for truth with various dimensions of reality. The economization that accompanies the commercialization of science is a kind of a brake in promotion of the ideas of truth, good and beauty of key importance for scientific activity (Mitrowski, 1993, pp. 63–74; Kieszkowska (ed.), 2015; Kabat-Szymań, 2020). Hence, free access to the presented monograph is undoubtedly an advantage that deserves emphasis and promotion of this kind of initiatives.

The technical (digital) form is another advantage of the presented monograph. The interactive links (via Internet) to the cited publications allow direct access to online materials (both: documents and videos). This gives readers an excellent opportunity to easily access sources that broaden the perspective

of the issues described in the monograph. An example is the reference to source materials available free of charge online: document – US Legal. (n.d.). *Primary-caregiver doctrine law and legal definition*. Retrieved from <https://definitions.uslegal.com/p/primary-caregiver-doctrine/> (p. 1); video – Watch Dr. Dan Siegel describe how caregivers can impact brain development. (p. 6) etc.

A digital monograph is therefore an excellent idea that uses modern technology for the purposes of science and dissemination of the research results conducted by representatives of various scientific disciplines from various academic centers around the world. This form frees the readers from time, financial or territorial barriers. The reader only needs access to the Internet, regardless of where she/he is. Each reader interested in specific issues has the opportunity to reach for properly prepared sources, including online ‘printed’ materials, audio and video etc. Diana Lang skillfully used the existing opportunities offered by the Iowa State University Digital Press – Mrs. Professor’s academic publishing house [Published Books (iastatedigitalpress.com)].

Perfect artwork, numerous illustrations and pictures (photographs), diagrams, tables etc., are another group of very positive attributes of this monograph. However, the main advantage of the book is its substantive content. Diana Lang’s life, professional and social experience is not without significance here. In addition to research and teaching [*she is an associate professor (teaching) at the Iowa State University – Department of Human Development and Family Studies*], the book’s author has experience working in family education. She is CFLE – *Certified Family Life Educator*. In her personal life, she plays the role of a mother and wife, pursuing her vocation in the immediate family environment [[dianab1.pdf](#) (iastate.edu), Diana Lang | Open Educational Resources (iastate.edu)]. Experience, knowledge and acquired skills determine the author’s broad perspective on the issues of family life. This also determines the point of view of the analyzed reality adopted by her.

The structure of the monograph is based on seven parts of logically related issues. Some chapters were prepared in co-authoring partnership. The author also refers to materials developed by other author’s teams, the works of which are referred to in the monograph. In the first part of the monograph, readers can get to know the perspective from which Professor Diana Lang considers family and parenthood (Gizicka (ed.), 2016; Osewska, Stala (eds.), 2020; Chojnacka, 2021; Lewicka (ed.), 2021). She expresses it directly by specifying the meaning of the fundamental concepts:

„Throughout this entire book, it should be assumed that the following terms are defined as follows:

Parent: The words, ‘family member’, ‘primary caregiver’, and/or ‘parent’ will be used interchangeably to denote the diverse groups of individuals who are

primarily responsible for rearing a child. These terms can include, but are not limited to, extended family members, guardians, fictive kin, foster families, close friends, those bonded by legal and/or biological ties, etc.

Family: Similarly, the words, 'family' and 'families' will be used to signify the diverse social and cultural constructions that may be derived from (a) values, beliefs, or relationship bonds (e.g., cohabitation), (b) blood, marriage, or legal ties (e.g., adoption), (c) social bonds (e.g., fostering, nurturing, or economic ties), and (d) decision-making related to day-to-day functioning. Therefore, 'family' may include, but is not limited to, extended family members, guardians, fictive kin, foster families, close friends, those joined by legal or biological ties, etc." (pp. 2-3).

In addition, the author explains the meanings of such concepts as in particular: parenting, child-rearing, care-giving, and parenting education, which are an impulse for a scientific analysis of issues related to the family, parenthood and development opportunities of children in the family life environment (pp. 1-2).

The different parts of the book are devoted to relevant substantive issues. In particular, these are: I: Key Concepts [*Influences on Parenting, Parenting Tasks, The Primary Role of Families in Promoting Children's Development, The Primary Role of Communities in Promoting Children's and Families' Development, Adverse Childhood Late Experiences*], (pp. 3-16); II: Parenting Theory [1600's - Autocratic Parenting, Early 1800's - Rousseau, 1900's - Stanley Hall, Late 1900's - Montessori, 1920's - Watson, 1930's - Vygotsky, 1930's - Freud, 1940's - Spock, 1940's - Spitz, 1940's - Skinner, 1950's - Harlow, Bowlby, and Ainsworth, 1950's - Piaget, 1960's - Erikson, 1960's - Bandura, 1960's - Dreikurs, 1970's - Bronfenbrenner, 1980's - Galinsky], (pp. 17-91); III: Family Theories [*The Double ABC-X Model of Family Stress, Family Systems Theory, Systemic Family Development Theory, Family Development Theory*], (pp. 92-102); Parenting Styles [*Baumrind's Parenting Styles, Additional Parenting Styles*], (pp. 103-116); Child-Rearing Strategies [*Child-rearing and Guidance, Active Listening, Anticipatory Structure, CALM, Constructive Choices, Four Pluses and a Wish, Grounding, I-messages, Induction, Natural and Logical Consequences, No-lose Method, Problem Ownership, Positive Language, Redirecting, Reward-oriented Parenting and Positive Reinforcement, Structure (with Flexibility), Taking Away Privileges, Time-ins and Time-outs*], (pp. 117-156); Child-rearing in a Variety of Contexts [*Child Abuse, Neglect, and Foster Care, Adoption, Exceptionalities, Additional Topics that can Impact Parenting, Child-rearing, Families, and Child Outcomes*], (pp. 157-180); Developmental Milestones [*Developmental Milestones and Positive Parenting Tips, Prenatal Development, Infancy and Toddlerhood, Early Childhood, Middle and Late Childhood, Adolescence, Emerging and Early Adulthood*], (pp. 181-276).

Each part of the monograph contains a presentation of individual issues included in the content outlined in the title. The review of the theory of family and parenting, as well as models and styles of child-rearing (upbringing), is based on a broad perspective of various approaches to the analyzed issues. Here, the reader can read the general assumptions of the relevant theories and models, as well as refer to sources that are available via online links.

For the Polish community of familiologists, the presented monograph may be one of the substantive and formal inspirations for the domestic reflection on the issues of family, parenthood, family ties, roles and tasks of the family in the 21st century, etc. Legal changes (2022) in the field of science are an opportunity for formally reviving familiology understood as an independent and separate field of science. It is a space that, in the Polish science system, provides new opportunities for scientists oriented at creating theoretical foundations for the practice of family service and support (Kłys (ed.), 1995; Stala (ed.), 2014).

The Developmental Milestones for science, scientists, politicians and practitioners outlined by Diana Lang in the last part of her monograph, may be a signpost in the search for identity for Polish academics aspiring to become a familiology members. This is particularly important in the process of creating the ontological foundations of the Polish field of family sciences, which from 2022 are independent in the system of Polish science.

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