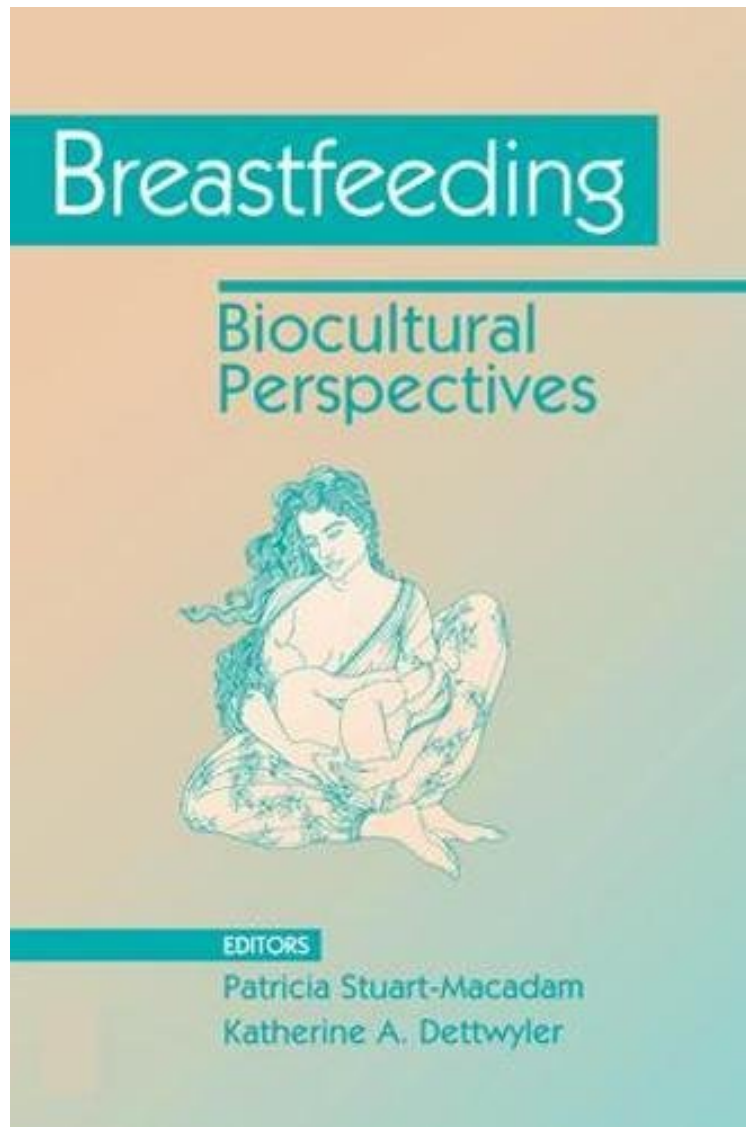


Breastfeeding: Biocultural Perspectives

Patricia Stuart-Macadam

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#1590835 in Books Katherine Dettwyler 1996-01-02Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x 1.00 x 5.981, 1.50 #File Name: 0202011925444 pagesBreastfeeding Biocultural Perspectives | File size: 53.Mb

Patricia Stuart-Macadam : Breastfeeding: Biocultural Perspectives before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Breastfeeding: Biocultural Perspectives:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Read this book but didn't gain any understanding on the ...By KarlKristRead this book but didn't gain any understanding on the subject. There are many other resources available that are much more clear, and illuminating. Dettwyler (one of the authors) is actually against breastfeeding- but I didn't learn that until later.Skip this and look elsewhere, many more quality books available on the subject.3 of 3 people

found the following review helpful. Biocultural BFing issues, important info on this subject
By Customer
Breastfeeding: BioCultural Perspectives is a wonderful in depth look at the biological and cultural issues surrounding breastfeeding. It contains a close look at the biological history of breastfeeding, explaining how it is thought that breastfeeding has evolved to protect infants and children, why it is important to breastfeed, and how women in the distant past breastfed (or not) and the implications this may have held for their offspring. The book goes on to examine information about current breastfeeding practices in various parts of the world and the effect these practices seem to have had on their populations. Included are all of the cultural issues which serve to support or sever the breastfeeding relationship. Further, the book covers issues of: weaning (what is biologically and culturally normal and why they are so different), breast as a sexual object, demand feeding vs. scheduled feeding, co-sleeping and SIDS, fertility issues affected by breastfeeding, and breast cancer and reproductive biology. This book is a must read for those interested in more than just mechanical information about breastfeeding. It is also recommended reading for any attachment style parent who is interested in a more biocultural view of why AP works. This book is not light reading, but is certainly accessible to anyone truly interested. 58 of 59 people found the following review helpful. Can really sink your teeth into this!
By AHA
This isn't for the average "consumer" of breastfeeding and parenting books- it won't give much practical advice. What it does is provide accurate, researched based information on what is currently known as "attachment parenting". I was led to "ap" by an endocrinology professor, ten years before I had children, and I learned from her that parenting can be interesting and fulfilling. I learned that there are parenting instincts- holding a baby, sleeping with the baby, not letting the baby cry... the various authors in this book reinforce that. I came away from these writings with a sense that mothering is important and has been throughout history, and that *children* are important. Sometimes I feel that gets lost in parenting books, especially the "mainstream" of Dobson, What to Expect, Ezzo... Dettwyler, et. al. show us that our children deserve better than that. I might even study anthropology someday. :-)

Breastfeeding is a biocultural phenomenon: not only is it a biological process, but it is also a culturally determined behavior. As such, it has important implications for understanding the past, present, and future condition of our species. In general, scholars have emphasized either the biological or the cultural aspects of breastfeeding, but not both. As biological anthropologists the editors of this volume feel that an evolutionary approach combining both aspects is essential. One of the goals of their book is to incorporate data from diverse fields to present a more holistic view of breastfeeding, through the inclusion of research from a number of different disciplines, including biological and social/cultural anthropology, nutrition, and medicine. The resulting book, presenting the complexity of the issues surrounding very basic decisions about infant nutrition, will fill a void in the existing literature on breastfeeding.

This volume makes an important contribution to the literature on the biocultural nature of breastfeeding, a behavior that is critical to the survival of the human species. [T]his collection provides a wealth of information about the interplay of culture and biology as they relate to breastfeeding and its influence on maternal and infant health. Many of the chapters have implications for the development of policy relating to the support of breastfeeding, such as the Family Leave Act and health care reform. This unique volume will thus be useful for health care professionals and health policy makers, as well as biological and cultural anthropologists. Anne L. Wright, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*
One hundred years ago, the vast majority of infants in the United States were breastfed. They were typically weaned anywhere between two and four years of age. Today the statistics are quite different. At the present time, about one-half of infants in the United States are breastfed, and most are weaned by the time they are six months old. Breastfeeding: Biocultural Perspectives examines the biological and cultural reasons for this shift in behavior. This volume of fifteen chapters, by almost as many authors, provides readers with an abundance of information on breastfeeding. Christine A. Behrendt, *The Quarterly of Biology*