



 Get Print Book

The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind

By Melvin Konner



Download



Read Online

The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind By Melvin Konner

This book is an intellectual tour de force: a comprehensive Darwinian interpretation of human development. Looking at the entire range of human evolutionary history, Melvin Konner tells the compelling and complex story of how cross-cultural and universal characteristics of our growth from infancy to adolescence became rooted in genetically inherited characteristics of the human brain.

All study of our evolution starts with one simple truth: human beings take an extraordinarily long time to grow up. What does this extended period of dependency have to do with human brain growth and social interactions? And why is play a sign of cognitive complexity, and a spur for cultural evolution? As Konner explores these questions, and topics ranging from bipedal walking to incest taboos, he firmly lays the foundations of psychology in biology.

As his book eloquently explains, human learning and the greatest human intellectual accomplishments are rooted in our inherited capacity for attachments to each other. In our love of those we learn from, we find our way as individuals and as a species. Never before has this intersection of the biology and psychology of childhood been so brilliantly described.

"Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution," wrote Dobzhansky. In this remarkable book, Melvin Konner shows that nothing in childhood makes sense except in the light of evolution.



[Download The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion ...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emoti ...pdf](#)

The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind

By Melvin Konner

The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind By Melvin Konner

This book is an intellectual tour de force: a comprehensive Darwinian interpretation of human development. Looking at the entire range of human evolutionary history, Melvin Konner tells the compelling and complex story of how cross-cultural and universal characteristics of our growth from infancy to adolescence became rooted in genetically inherited characteristics of the human brain.

All study of our evolution starts with one simple truth: human beings take an extraordinarily long time to grow up. What does this extended period of dependency have to do with human brain growth and social interactions? And why is play a sign of cognitive complexity, and a spur for cultural evolution? As Konner explores these questions, and topics ranging from bipedal walking to incest taboos, he firmly lays the foundations of psychology in biology.

As his book eloquently explains, human learning and the greatest human intellectual accomplishments are rooted in our inherited capacity for attachments to each other. In our love of those we learn from, we find our way as individuals and as a species. Never before has this intersection of the biology and psychology of childhood been so brilliantly described.

"Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution," wrote Dobzhansky. In this remarkable book, Melvin Konner shows that nothing in childhood makes sense except in the light of evolution.

The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind By Melvin Konner Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #723258 in Books
- Published on: 2011-11-30
- Released on: 2011-10-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.26" h x 1.92" w x 6.41" l, 2.48 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 960 pages

 [Download The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emoti ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind By Melvin Konner

Editorial Review

Review

It's been a long time coming but it was worth the wait. Mel Konner's wonderful new book shows that you simply must think about our biological past to understand our psychological present. *The Evolution of Childhood* offers an extraordinary new foundation for all knowledge of human development. (Michael Ruse, co-editor of *Evolution: The First Four Billion Years*)

Ever since his pioneering studies of infancy among Kalahari hunter-gatherers, anthropologist and physician Mel Konner has illuminated anthropology with knowledge from ethnography, sociobiology, neuroscience, and social psychology, in a search for a deep understanding of what it means to be human. This monumental book contains the best description of what play is all about that I have ever read, as well as the most comprehensive guide anywhere taking a reader through different phases of infancy, middle childhood, and adolescence. The book is the culmination of Konner's lifelong quest. It will transform the way that human development is understood and taught. (Sarah Blaffer Hrdy, author of *Mothers and Others: The Evolutionary Origins of Mutual Understanding*)

This monumental book--more than 900 pages long, 30 years in the making, at once grand and intricate, breathtakingly inclusive and painstakingly particular--exhaustively explores the biological evolution of human behavior and specifically the behavior of children. Melvin Konner, an anthropologist and neuroscientist at Emory, weaves a compelling web of theories and studies across a remarkable array of disciplines, from experimental genetics to ethnology...To read this book is to be in the company of a helpful and hopeful teacher who is eager to share what he's found. (Benjamin Schwarz *The Atlantic* 2010-05-01)

[Konner] covers almost every topic imaginable in anthropology, biology, and psychology that involves child development. Moreover, since the book is on evolution, there's a lot about other animals, from the platypus to the great ape...If you want to know the latest scholarly information on child development, you can buy this book for \$40 or get a new scholarly encyclopedia of child development for \$1500. Odds are that this one will be more thought-provoking and better written--and probably almost as extensive. (Mary Ann Hughes *Library Journal* 2010-04-15)

Why do we love watching [babies]? Perhaps because we recognize parts of ourselves in them but still find something mysterious about the behavior of those tiny human beings. *The Evolution of Childhood*, Melvin Konner's massive and massively researched new book, goes a long way in dispelling a lot of that mystery. Konner gives a detailed and expansive overview of what the fields of anthropology, evolutionary biology, psychology and genetics have taught us about human childhood. The book, in fairly accessible language, explains the evolutionary purpose of everything from babies' expressions (humans, apparently, are the only animal who can pull off the "relaxed friendly smile") to crying, early childhood outbursts and juvenile delinquency. (Thomas Rogers *Salon* 2010-05-31)

Magisterial. (Rebecca Mead *New Yorker* 2010-07-05)

Anthropologist-physician Melvin Konner's *The Evolution of Childhood* is a masterwork of scholarship. Even at over 900 pages, it should entice anyone keen for knowledge about human infancy, childhood, and adolescence and the evolution of these life stages...Konner marries biology and psychology, adds a firm grasp of our primate past, and guides our understanding of children's lives in various social contexts.

(Barbara King *Bookslut* 2010-07-01)

This book is not a weekend read...If you plan to read this book through, take a little each day and savor the delights it bestows. Well worth the read. (D. Wayne Dworsky *San Francisco Book Review* 2010-09-23)

This book is undeniably a tour de force. Indeed, Konner is perhaps the only scholar who is as comfortable describing cultural change, or evolution in its broad quasi-philosophical outlines, as he is defining the complex biochemical and statistical correlates of behavior. One of his writerly charms is that he is ever seer and scientist. He marvels as he describes. He also renders the boundaries among disciplines porous. He scurries from one to another, insisting on their enmeshment, whether it be ethology, cognitive neuroscience, evolutionary or developmental psychology, endocrinology, or cultural anthropology. He draws on all these fields to address the story of our inordinately long, and, compared to those of other species, "strangely-shaped" childhoods, and to discover how our childhood evolved to make us what we are. (Michele Pridmore-Brown *Times Literary Supplement* 2010-10-01)

Konner places childhood firmly within an evolutionary framework in his magisterial book...Konner is an excellent tour guide to the sacred lands of childhood. He has produced a scholarly, detailed and beautifully written study...*The Evolution of Childhood* shows that the pleasures of life are linked to the evolutionary imperatives of reproduction and survival, and that we are starting to understand their underlying neural mechanisms. (Morten Kringelbach *Nature* 2010-10-21)

The Evolution of Childhood is one of the most remarkable books I have read. Melvin Konner is a neuroscientist and anthropologist who shows how human childhood evolved over the last 200,000 years to make us what we are...Konner re-enchants child's play, for instance, by explaining its molecular and evolutionary backstory. That he is able to do this in a lively, accessible manner is no mean feat. Along the way, he makes a compelling case for how humans came to acquire complex culture. (Michele Pridmore-Brown *Times Literary Supplement* 2010-12-03)

[Konner's] goal is...ambitious: to synthesize all the literature bearing on the evolutionary emergence of our species, and especially on the ways in which humans came to raise their children. The breadth of vision he displays is extraordinary. Konner summarizes a considerable body of research on human evolution, beginning with paleontological and archaeological work on the emergence of life-forms and continuing through evidence regarding the emergence of mammals, primates, hominids and early humans, until finally *Homo sapiens* enters the scene. The volume is a singular achievement, not least because it encompasses, and describes accessibly and eloquently, many fields of endeavor and scholarship, ranging from molecular biology and interpretation of the geological record, to the interpretation of bone fragments found in archaeological sites, to observational research on the behavior of contemporary humans in a wide variety of ecological niches. Furthermore, Konner does not limit himself to secondary sources, as many might do when attempting to place their own research in broader context. Instead, he lucidly discusses a vast range of primary sources. The book's 753 pages of text are accompanied by 159 pages of references. The goal may be extraordinarily ambitious, but the exercise must be deemed a remarkable success. Konner achieves a readable and persuasive synthesis more inclusive than anything ever before attempted. His account of human evolution, and especially of the evolution of childhood, is coherent and compelling...This magisterial book is assuredly the most important analysis of the evolution of childhood yet attempted. It summarizes 40 years of observation, analysis and synthesis by one of the most profound thinkers of our generation. Whoever follows intellectually will necessarily build on this magnificently eloquent and integrative edifice. (Michael E. Lamb *American Scientist* 2011-01-01)

About the Author

Melvin Konner is Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Program in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology at Emory University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ron Lauer:

What do you consider book? It is just for students since they're still students or it for all people in the world, exactly what the best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that query above. Every person has various personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind. All type of book is it possible to see on many sources. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

Bethany Eng:

This The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind is fresh way for you who has curiosity to look for some information as it relief your hunger info. Getting deeper you into it getting knowledge more you know or perhaps you who still having little bit of digest in reading this The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside this particular book is easy to get through anyone. These books create itself in the form and that is reachable by anyone, yeah I mean in the e-book web form. People who think that in publication form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this reserve is the answer. So there isn't any in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for a person. So , don't miss the item! Just read this e-book variety for your better life in addition to knowledge.

Jim Molnar:

You may get this The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind by go to the bookstore or Mall. Merely viewing or reviewing it may to be your solve issue if you get difficulties on your knowledge. Kinds of this publication are various. Not only simply by written or printed but additionally can you enjoy this book by means of e-book. In the modern era similar to now, you just looking by your mobile phone and searching what their problem. Right now, choose your own personal ways to get more information about your guide. It is most important to arrange you to ultimately make your knowledge are still change. Let's try to choose suitable ways for you.

Rochelle Barrick:

A lot of e-book has printed but it differs from the others. You can get it by world wide web on social media. You can choose the top book for you, science, witty, novel, or whatever by means of searching from it. It is called of book The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind. Contain your knowledge by it. Without departing the printed book, it may add your knowledge and make anyone happier to read. It is most significant that, you must aware about reserve. It can bring you from one place to other place.

**Download and Read Online The Evolution of Childhood:
Relationships, Emotion, Mind By Melvin Konner
#8CRWLTKX9N3**

Read The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind By Melvin Konner for online ebook

The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind By Melvin Konner Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind By Melvin Konner books to read online.

Online The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind By Melvin Konner ebook PDF download

The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind By Melvin Konner Doc

The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind By Melvin Konner Mobipocket

The Evolution of Childhood: Relationships, Emotion, Mind By Melvin Konner EPub