

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910457831103321
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Titolo	Change processes in relationships : a relational-historical research approach // Alan Fogel [and three others] [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2006
ISBN	1-107-16712-4 0-521-12068-3 1-280-48043-2 0-511-22082-0 0-511-21936-9 0-511-31718-2 0-511-48968-4 0-511-22004-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 286 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	306.8743
Soggetti	Mother and infant Interpersonal communication Developmental psychology Parent and child - Psychological aspects
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half-title; Title; Copyright; Dedication; Contents; Figures; Tables; Acknowledgments; Overview of the research problem and summary of findings; 1 Relationships as developing systems: theoretical foundations; 2 Mother-infant relationship development in the first six months: from face-to-face play to object play; 3 Relational-historical research on developmental change; 4 Relational-historical research: the multiple case study approach, frame analysis, qualitative and quantitative analysis; 5 Research propositions about relationship change processes 6 Research methods for the current investigation: subjects, procedures, and data analysis 7 Results of the current investigation: quantitative analysis of developmental changes in relationship frames and in infant;

8 Results of the current investigation: qualitative analysis of Richard and his mother; 9 Results of the current investigation: qualitative analysis of Betsy and her mother; 10 Results of the current investigation: qualitative analysis of Lewis and his mother; 11 Results of the current investigation: qualitative analysis of Susan and her mother

12 Summary of findings on relational-historical changeLaws of change: implications for theory and practice; References; Author Index; Subject Index

Sommario/riassunto

Just as each person develops from infancy to adulthood, all interpersonal relationships have a life history that encompasses the changes in how people communicate with each other. This book is about how a relationship transforms itself from one pattern of communication to another. The authors present a unique research method called 'relational-historical research', based on advances in dynamic systems theory in developmental psychology, and qualitative methods in life history research. It rests on three premises: that the developing relationship (not the individual) is the unit of analysis; that change emerges from, but is not entirely constrained by, the patterns of the past; and that the developmental process is best revealed by making frequent observations within a particular case before, during, and after a key developmental transition. Looking specifically at the mother-infant relationship, this is a compelling piece of research that will appeal to an international audience of intellectuals and practitioners.
