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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.
