

Class & Child-Rearing

Sociology

Lareau's contrast between two child-rearing logics, and how far it generalises.

Concerted cultivation

- Organised activities fill the week
- Reasoning and negotiation at home
- Adults addressed as near-equals
- Institutions approached with confidence
- Produces a sense of entitlement

Natural growth

- More unstructured time with kin
- Directives rather than negotiation
- Clearer boundary between adult and child
- Institutions treated with deference
- Produces a sense of constraint

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Lareau's claim is about advantage in institutions, not about which upbringing is better for a child.

Educational reference. Based on twelve intensively studied families; replication across countries and periods is limited.