



Transition to Parenthood: How Infants Change Families (Sage Publications, 1981).

Ralph LaRossa and Maureen Mulligan LaRossa

A close-up view of the social realities of fatherhood and motherhood at the dawn of the postmodern age.

Merging a conflict and power perspective with a symbolic interactionist and social exchange perspective, *Transition to Parenthood* documents how the demands of an infant transform a family into a continuous coverage social system, and how a scarcity of free time resulting from the transition leads to gendered conflicts of interest and conflict behavior.

Relying on both a comparative and a case-study methodology, the book offers a theoretical analysis of the disjunction between the culture and the conduct of parenthood, and provides a social structural and interactional explanation for the traditionalization of the division of labor--with women increasingly doing the lion share of the work after a baby's birth.

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