

## Visiting Speaker Series 2017-18 Term 2

# The New Childhood Studies: Reflections on Some Recent Collaborations between Anthropologists and Psychologists

## Alma GOTTLIEB

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**16 Apr 2018 (Monday)**

**4:30 – 6:00pm**

**Room 1118, 11/F,**

**Yasumoto International Academic Park**

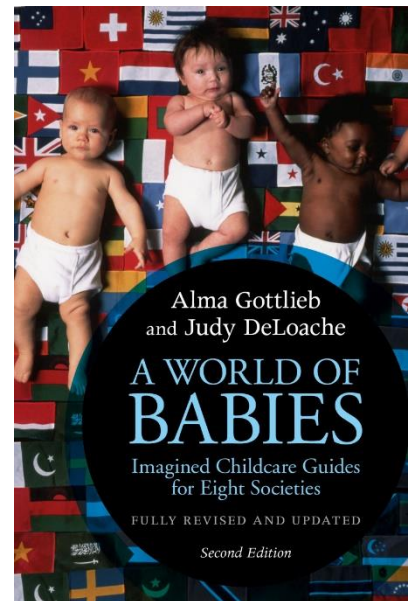


### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Alma Gottlieb is Professor Emerita of Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a Visiting Scholar in Anthropology at Brown University. She has (co-)authored or (co-)edited nine books and dozens of articles, and pioneered several directions, including the anthropology of menstruation, the anthropology of infancy, and creative approaches to writing ethnography. Her interests include childhood/parenting, gender, religion, and migration. Her latest acclaimed edited volume *A World of Babies* (2nd edition) covers eight engaging case studies of childrearing in Denmark, Israel, Palestine, China, Peru, Côte d'Ivoire, as well as African immigrants in Portugal and the US.

### ABOUT THE TALK

Anthropologists and psychologists share a passion for understanding all things human. Given this critical common interest, one might expect a great deal of productive collaboration. Unfortunately, basic theoretical and methodological differences long discouraged the two disciplines from sustaining productive dialogues that might produce research enriched by both sets of perspectives. Happily, the time for such conversations has now arrived. In this talk, I will survey recent work by practitioners of both disciplines that has begun to take account of the other. Jumping off from my own research with infants in West Africa, I will focus, especially, on the study of early childhood as addressed by anthropologists and psychologists. Moving past the point where each discipline critiques the other for what it perceives as fatal gaps and misguided assumptions, I will highlight some recent and ongoing collaborative work that shows great promise for how the classic anthropological focus on the local, the social, the historical, and the political might productively engage with the classic psychological focus on the individual, the universal, the cerebral, and the emotional. To date, particular topics of interest in this group concern the scope and relevance of attachment theory, and the ethics of parenting intervention programs both in impoverished communities of the global North, and across the global South.



**Free Admission**

**The seminar is conducted in English**

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