

Dr. Barbara Rogoff

USCS Foundation Distinguished Professor of Psychology

April 2nd, 2014

5:30pm

In the SoE

Auditorium



Learning by Observing and Pitching-In: Cultural Aspects of Learning

Barbara Rogoff is a UCSC Foundation Distinguished Professor of Psychology. She received the 2013 Award for Distinguished Lifetime Contributions to Cultural and Contextual Factors in Child Development, from the Society for Research in Child Development.

How do children learn when they have the opportunity to contribute to the range of endeavors of their family and community? In some communities, children commonly observe the activities around them and pitch-in to help. This approach to learning seems to be especially prevalent in many Mexican and Indigenous-heritage communities of the Americas, and less common in communities that segregate children from the range of activities of their community.

In this presentation, Barbara Rogoff will discuss key aspects that seem to characterize this way of learning:

- ◆ Children have opportunities to contribute and take initiative
- ◆ Children and adults engage collaboratively
- ◆ Goals of learning include becoming a responsible contributor
- ◆ Children are attentive to surrounding activities and considerate of the direction of the group
- ◆ Communication is based on shared engagement in the activity
- ◆ Evaluation serves to support children's learning and contributing

These ideas will be illustrated with research on cultural differences among children from Guatemalan Mayan, Mexican-heritage, and European-heritage US communities as well as observations in an innovative US school.

Recent Publications

Learning Together: Children and Adults in a School Community (Oxford, 2001, Finalist for the Maccoby Award of Division 7 of the American Psychological Association)

The Cultural Nature of Human Development (Oxford, 2003; William James Book Award of Division 1 of the American Psychological Association)

Developing Destinies: A Mayan Midwife and Town (Oxford, 2011; Maccoby Award of Division 7 of the American Psychological Association)