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Attachment theory and culture: parenting in Latin America and rural Peru from an attachment theory perspective

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

Attachment Theory and Culture

Parenting in Latin America and rural Peru from an Attachment Theory perspective

Katherine Fourment Sifuentes

1. Attachment theory's universality claims receive some support from research in Latin America and specifically in a rural Peruvian Andean area (this dissertation).
2. Highly sensitive mothers in the rural Andes in Peru do not necessarily show behaviors related to positive affect, facilitation of exploration and learning, or social and playful interactions that are commonly used to characterize sensitive interactions in Western research (this dissertation).
3. Rural Andean children display less secure base behaviors in the interactions with their mothers than other Global North and urban Peruvian samples (this dissertation).
4. Mothers' ability to respond sensitively to their child's signals is related to developing child secure base behaviors in rural Peru (this dissertation).
5. Gold standard measures on maternal sensitivity and secure child behaviors need to develop culturally sensitive criterion sorts to compare to participants' behavioral profiles in specific contexts.
6. More studies with samples in the Global South and rural areas are required to contribute to the universality versus culture-specificity debate in attachment research.
7. Including understudied populations in the study of attachment theory contributes to questioning the normativity of culturally hegemonic parenting practices.
8. It is worth including ethnographic data collection techniques when studying parenting practices to have broader information to understand the possible mechanisms behind specific behavioral patterns.
9. The quality of parenting is essential for child development; therefore, intervention programs that improve parenting are vital.
10. The pandemic represented a unique opportunity for children to spend plenty of time with their caregivers; unfortunately, it also represented a demanding and stressful situation for caregivers.