
Preface

The *Handbook of Developmental Psychopathology* presents cutting-edge theory and research in the field of developmental psychopathology; as such, it is one of the primary resources for the field. It has been 10 years since the publication of the second edition of the *Handbook*. During this time, there has been a burgeoning of work in the field of developmental psychopathology. The dynamic nature of the field necessitates an updated volume that considers advancements in theory, research methodology, and empirical findings. The first edition of the *Handbook* sought to combine the fields of developmental science and psychopathology, arguing that the origins of psychopathology in adulthood could be found in childhood. A primary focus was placed on traditional psychiatric diagnostic schemes, drawn primarily from adult psychiatry, to parse the field of psychopathology into particular disorders. As the field grew, emphasis changed from a primary focus on diagnostic categories to a focus on developmental perspectives on the emergence and growth of psychopathology. This shift in emphasis required a more comprehensive volume that considered multiple perspectives on psychopathology as reflected in biological, psychological, and contextual frameworks. The second edition met this challenge by supplementing descriptions of the presentation, course, and etiology of particular disorders with chapters devoted to varying conceptual paradigms, such as biological, cognitive, social, and ecological perspectives. This edition underscored the idea that psychopathology cannot merely be viewed in terms of developing individual characteristics but also must be considered within the dynamic framework of shifts in children's developmental contexts across the life span.

Since the publication of the second edition, the field has continued to mature such that theory and research emphasize not only the importance of understanding varying levels of development but also the need for integrative multilevel models reflecting interactions and transactions among multiple vulnerabilities, risks, and protective factors that shape development trajectories of health and psychopathology. Perhaps one of the fastest growing areas of the field in recent years is the intersection of neuroscience and psychopathology. This rapid growth is reflected in recent research on molecular genetics and epigenetics, brain imaging, and the role of early experience in the development of biological systems. Cutting-edge developments in this area are reflected in two new chapters, with an eye toward considering how developing biological systems are influenced by, and influence, psychological and social processes underlying risk for psychopathology. Also reflecting this

interface between biology and context, new chapters include a focus on the effect of early deprivation on cognitive, emotional, and biological systems and on the role of pubertal development in psychopathology. Another growing area in the field is a greater integration of theory and research on early temperament, personality, and psychopathology, as well as new work exploring early indicators of personality pathology during childhood and adolescence. A third area of rapid growth is the development of sophisticated statistical procedures for tracking change, allowing for a more nuanced understanding of continuity and change in psychopathology over time; these advances are reflected in a chapter on research methodology. Providing a balanced view of the field, this edition considers processes underlying resilience from psychopathology in high-risk youth, with an integration of contemporary theory and research on positive psychology. The sections on specific disorders are updated and expanded to include chapters on substance use and suicide. In sum, the third edition strives to retain the strengths of the earlier editions while integrating state-of-the-art theory and empirical research that reflect contemporary multidisciplinary perspectives on developmental psychopathology.

This edition is divided into nine Parts. The first concerns general issues and theories. The second focuses on environmental contexts, including family, schooling, peers, life stress, and culture. The third Part brings together cutting-edge work on individual-level processes involved in psychopathology, including genetics and neuroscience, the interactive role of early experience and biology, as well as temperament and pubertal development. The next three Parts focus on specific disorders, including early childhood disorders, disruptive behavior disorders (ADHD, aggression, conduct problems), and emotional disorders (depression, suicide, anxiety, and obsessions and compulsions). Control disorders are presented in the seventh Part. Part 8, Chronic Developmental Disorders, includes chapters on autism spectrum disorders, intellectual disability, gender dysphoria, and personality pathologies. Last, Part 9 covers Trauma Disorders, including maltreatment, posttraumatic stress, and dissociative disorders.

Finally, a word in regard to the new DSM manual. Although the first edition of the *Handbook* utilized the DSM classification system, the second edition of the *Handbook* moved more toward a developmental perspective. This emphasis has continued in this third edition. When necessary, the new and revised chapters have taken the new DSM manual into account. The commitment of the NIMH to move the field of psychopathology from symptom-based toward a more dynamic classification system mirrors our belief that a more research-oriented system of psychopathology is especially relevant to studying the development of psychopathology.

New Brunswick, NJ, USA
Champaign, IL, USA

Michael Lewis
Karen D. Rudolph

Handbook of Developmental Psychopathology

Lewis, M.; Rudolph, K.D. (Eds.)

2014, XV, 852 p. 29 illus., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4614-9607-6