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## Review of *Valuing Children: Rethinking the Economics of the Family*. Nancy Folbre. Reviewed by Lorelei Mitchell

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empowered if their culture is not properly understood. Yet, it should be noted that the recommended additional readings do consider cultural differences. The author acknowledges that the interventions do not target all vulnerable groups and recommends their possible applications to other groups. Through the use of the author's recommended functional assessments, clinicians implementing these interventions may ensure the inclusion of cultural considerations. Perhaps researchers hoping to answer the limitations of this book will ensure greater diversity in their studies.

Taken as a whole, the book has managed to demonstrate that cognitive behavioral interventions can empower vulnerable individuals. It is an excellent introduction to cognitive behavioral interventions for empowering vulnerable populations, and it is the first of its kind. A foundation has been created for the identification of useful interventions and recommendations for future research have been outlined. Future researchers may build upon this work by identifying and evaluating other interventions and groups not discussed in this book or by finding the means to strengthen these interventions.

*Maria Y. Hernandez, University of California, Berkeley*

Nancy Folbre, *Valuing Children: Rethinking the Economics of the Family*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2008. \$45.00 hardcover.

Calls for acknowledging the economic value of so-called "women's work" were heard in the United States as far back as the days of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. More recently, popular works have highlighted the high "price" of motherhood paid by women and children in a society that discounts the economic contributions made by caregivers. At the same time, other authors bemoan the commodification of family life and outsourcing of caregiving activities to paid providers such as housekeepers, nannies, and dry cleaners. Is it possible to place a dollar value on caregiving without denigrating the importance of "giving" within families?

After reading Nancy Folbre's new book, this reviewer came away thinking, "Yes, it is!" Indeed, Folbre argues that because

modern parenting is inherently irrational (rarely involving an accounting of the costs and benefits of childrearing—yet fundamentally influencing the distribution of resources in society), it is crucial that we incorporate a real understanding of “family work” into current macroeconomic theory. Most economists today conceptualize parenting as a form of consumption and children as something akin to “pets,” conceived and reared for private satisfaction. As Folbre points out, however, whatever the motivations for having children, the reality remains that parents also “produce” the next generation of productive citizens who are also responsible for financing the old age of increasing numbers of Americans. Those without children reap the social benefits of parenting, yet contribute relatively little to the private costs of childrearing, something Folbre refers to as “reproductive free riding.” As a consequence, parents and especially mothers are far more likely to end up in poverty, arguably an unjust reward for the time, energy, and finances involved in raising a child in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Inadequate models and lack of data have long been faulted for the failure of economic theory to account for the importance of family work to the overall economy. Folbre answers these challenges by providing a thorough, detailed, and sophisticated analysis of how current models are lacking, and what could be done to rectify the shortcomings. Her book advances the discussion of family work well beyond previous thinking, and is meticulously argued and documented. The primary question that remains is, “Who will actually listen? Where is the political will to implement such recommendations?” Indeed, the book seems to come up a bit short in the concluding chapter, with little analysis of the resistance to the ideas presented and very few recommendations for how to influence policy. The suggestion that youth be given the vote is an interesting one, yet also reinforces the notion of generational warfare and contradicts Folbre’s call for greater cooperation between ostensibly competing groups, comprised respectively of the young and the aging. Likewise, the so-called “sandwich generation” of women caring both for their own children and for their aging parents seems almost entirely overlooked by this work. Despite this weakness, Folbre presents a much-needed critique of current economic models of the family, and offers a

compelling vision for retooling such models to reflect the reality of parental “sacrifice.”

*Lorelei Mitchell, Portland State University*

Scott H. Decker and Margaret Townsend Chapman, *Drug Smugglers on Drug Smuggling: Lessons from the Inside*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2008. \$23.95 papercover.

Scott H. Decker is Professor and Director of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University; Margaret Chapman is an associate at Abt Associates. They have written an informative account about cocaine and marijuana smugglers incarcerated in U.S. penitentiaries. They write “drug use is a major issue in the United States,” but note that to date most knowledge about smuggling comes from a few sources. Here they examine cocaine and marijuana smuggling—from Colombia to the U.S. from the perspective of drug smugglers. The book reflects the world of those engaged in the enterprise from an “emic” (or native) perspective. They do a credible job of capturing that perspective.

The book has seven chapters, two appendices, notes and references. Chapters follow a similar structure, offering a brief overview of the material and a summary of the major points. The first chapter provides an introduction to the book, its rationale, and its relationship to other work. The authors provide an understanding of the dynamics of drug smuggling and a description of interdiction efforts. Chapter 2 explains the organization of the study and its funders. The authors describe how their sample was drawn, factors they considered and how they wound up interviewing 34 drug traffickers out of 415 cases. They describe how these 34 subjects were involved in the drug trade which provided insight into how operations were organized and how they assessed risk. Here this reviewer would have appreciated hearing a bit more about human subjects concerns, given the nature of the incarcerated subjects.

Chapters 3, 4 and 5 address dynamics of drug smuggling, movement of drugs and roles, recruitment and career(s) involved in drug smuggling. Some findings are surprising given