

# Sociology of Children and Youth Comprehensive Exam Reading List

## I. Classic Works in Child and Youth Studies

### *Textbooks / Works for Reference in Preparation for the Exam*

1. Corsaro, William A. 2017. *The Sociology of Childhood*. 5th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.
2. Handel, Gerald, Spencer Cahill, and Frederick Elkin. 2007. *Children and Society: The Sociology of Children and Childhood Socialization*. New York: Oxford University Press.
3. James, Allison, Chris Jenks, and Alan Prout. 1998. *Theorizing Childhood*. Oxford, England: Polity Press.
4. Mayall, Berry. 2002. *Towards a Sociology of Childhood: Thinking from Children's Lives*. Buckingham, England: Open University Press.
5. Oeur, Freedren Blume, and C. J. Pascoe, eds. 2023. *Gender Replay: On Kids, Schools, and Feminism*. New York: New York University Press.
6. Qvortrup, Jens, William A. Corsaro, and Michael-Sebastian Honig, eds. 2009. *The Palgrave Handbook of Childhood Studies*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

### *Classic / Widely Read Empirical Books*

1. Carter, Prudence L. 2007. *Keepin' It Real: School Success Beyond Black and White*. New York: Oxford University Press.
2. Hagerman, Margaret A. 2020. *White Kids: Growing Up with Privilege in a Racially Divided America*. New York: New York University Press.
3. Lareau, Annette. 2011. *Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life*. 2nd ed. Berkeley: University of California Press.
4. Lewis, Amanda. 2003. *Race in the Schoolyard: Negotiating the Color Line in Classrooms and Communities*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
5. Mintz, Steven. 2006. *Huck's Raft: A History of American Childhood*. London, England: Belknap Press.
6. Pascoe, C. J. 2011. *Dude, You're a Fag: Masculinity and Sexuality in High School*. 2nd ed. Berkeley: University of California Press.
7. Thorne, Barrie. 1993. *Gender Play: Girls and Boys in School*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
8. Zelizer, Viviana A. 1994. *Pricing the Priceless Child: The Changing Social Value of Children*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

## II. Theory and General Children and Youth Readings

1. Bass, Loretta E., and M. Nicole Warehime. 2011. "Family Structure and Child Health Outcomes in the United States." *Sociological Inquiry* 81(4): 527–548.
2. Dornbusch, Sanford M. 1989. "The Sociology of Adolescence." *Annual Review of Sociology* 15(1): 233–259
3. Elder, Glen H., Jr. 1998. "The Life Course as Developmental Theory." *Child Development* 69(1): 1–12.

4. France, Alan, Steve Roberts, and Bronwyn Wood. 2018. "Youth, Social Class and Privilege in the Antipodes: Towards a New Research Agenda for Youth Sociology." *Journal of Sociology (Melbourne, Vic.)* 54(3): 362–380.
5. Furstenberg, Frank F. 2000. "The Sociology of Adolescence and Youth in the 1990s: A Critical Commentary." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 62(4): 896–910.
6. Matthews, Sarah. 2007. "A Window on the 'New' Sociology of Childhood." *Sociology Compass* 1(1): 322–334.
7. Pugh, Allison J. 2014. "The Theoretical Costs of Ignoring Childhood: Rethinking Independence, Insecurity, and Inequality." *Theory and Society* 43(1): 71–89.
8. Shanahan, Suzanne. 2007. "Lost and Found: The Sociological Ambivalence toward Childhood." *Annual Review of Sociology* 33(1): 407–428.
9. Uprichard, Emma. 2008. "Children as 'Being and Becomings': Children, Childhood and Temporality." *Children & Society* 22(4): 303–313.

### III. Children, Inequality, and Education

1. Baker, Garrett, David S. Kirk, and Robert J. Sampson. 2026. "The Great Leveler? Juvenile Arrest, College Attainment, and the Future of American Inequality." *Sociology of Education* 99(1): 1-19.
2. Calarco, Jessica McCrory. 2011. "'I Need Help!' Social Class and Children's Help-Seeking in Elementary School." *American Sociological Review* 76(6): 862–882.
3. Calarco, Jessica McCrory. 2014. "Coached for the Classroom: Parents' Cultural Transmission and Children's Reproduction of Educational Inequalities." *American Sociological Review* 79(5): 1015–1037.
4. Crosnoe, Robert. 2021. "Contextualizing the Social and Educational Journeys of Adolescents within the Life Course." *Journal of Research on Adolescence: The Official Journal of the Society for Research on Adolescence* 31(4): 1135–1151.
5. Dinsmore, Brooke, and Allison J. Pugh. 2021. "The Paradox of Constrained Well-being: Childhood Autonomy, Surveillance and Inequality." *Sociological Forum (Randolph, N.J.)* 36(2): 448–470.
6. Gansen, Heidi. 2017. "Reproducing (and Disrupting) Heteronormativity: Gendered Sexual Socialization in Preschool Classrooms." *Sociology of Education* 90(3): 255-272.
7. Lareau, Annette. 1987. "Social Class Differences in Family-School Relationships: The Importance of Cultural Capital." *Sociology of Education* 60(2): 73.
8. Lareau, Annette. 2002. "Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Childrearing in Black Families and White Families." *American Sociological Review* 67(5): 747.
9. Mollborn, Stefanie and Elizabeth Lawrence. 2018. "Family, Peer, and School Influences on Children's Developing Health Lifestyles." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 59(1): 133–50.
10. Patterson, Sarah E., Ashton M. Verdery, and Jonathan Daw. 2020. "Linked Lives and Childhood Experience of Family Death on Educational Attainment." *Socius : Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 6: 237802312097559.
11. Stockstill, Casey. 2023. "The 'Stuff' of Class: How Property Access in Preschool Reproduces Class Inequality." *Social Problems* 70(1): 1-21.

#### **IV. Family Contexts of Childhood/Adolescence**

1. Amato, Paul. 2005. "The Impact of Family Formation Change on the Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Well-Being of the Next Generation." *The Future of Children* 15(2): 75-96.
2. Gonzalez, Shannon Malone. 2022. "Black Girls and the Talk? Policing, Parenting, and the Politics of Protection." *Social Problems* 69(1): 22-38.
3. McLanahan, Sara and Christine Percheski. 2008. "Family Structure and the Reproduction of Inequalities." *Annual Review of Sociology* 34: 257-276.
4. Zhou, Min. 1997. "Growing up American: The Challenge Confronting Immigrant Children and Children of Immigrants." *Annual Review of Sociology* 23: 63-95.
5. Zhou, Min and Susan Kim. 2006. "Community Forces, Social Capital, and Educational Achievement: The Case of Supplementary Education in the Chinese and Korean Immigrant Communities." *Harvard Educational Review* 76(1): 1-29.

#### **V. Children, Crises, and Disasters**

1. Fothergill, Alice, and Lori A. Peek. 2015. *Children of Katrina*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.
2. Masten, Ann S. 2011. "Resilience in Children Threatened by Extreme Adversity: Frameworks for Research, Practice, and Translational Synergy." *Development and Psychopathology* 23(2): 493–506.
3. McDonald-Harker, Caroline, Julie L. Drolet, Anika Sehgal, Matthew R. G. Brown, Peter H. Silverstone, Pamela Brett-MacLean, and Vincent I. O. Agyapong. 2021. "Social-Ecological Factors Associated with Higher Levels of Resilience in Children and Youth after Disaster: The Importance of Caregiver and Peer Support." *Frontiers in Public Health* 9: 682634.
4. Peek, Lori. 2008. "Children and Disasters: Understanding Vulnerability, Developing Capacities, and Promoting Resilience — an Introduction." *Children, Youth and Environments* 18(1): 1–29.
5. Peek, Lori, David M. Abramson, Robin S. Cox, Alice Fothergill, and Jennifer Tobin. 2018. "Children and Disasters." Pp. 243–62 in *Handbook of Disaster Research*. Cham: Springer International Publishing.
6. Prager, Jeffrey. 2003. "Lost Childhood, Lost Generations: The Intergenerational Transmission of Trauma." *Journal of Human Rights* 2(2): 173–81.

#### **VI. Children, Health, Well-Being, and Life Chances**

1. Baruch, Geoffrey. 1981. "Moral Tales: Parents' Stories of Encounters with the Health Professions." *Sociology of Health & Illness* 3(3): 275–95.
2. Bass, Loretta E. 2011. "Social Focus on Health and Children's Well-Being: Focus on Health and Children's Well-Being." *Sociological Inquiry* 81(4): 495–98.
3. Morrow, Virginia. 1999. "Conceptualising Social Capital in Relation to the Well-Being of Children and Young People: A Critical Review." *The Sociological Review* 47(4): 744–65.

4. Pilnick, Alison, Jon Hindmarsh, and Virginia Teas Gill. 2009. "Beyond 'Doctor and Patient': Developments in the Study of Healthcare Interactions." *Sociology of Health & Illness* 31(6): 787–802.
5. Turney, Kristin. 2014. "Stress Proliferation across Generations? Examining the Relationship between Parental Incarceration and Childhood Health." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 55(3): 302-319.
6. Wagmiller, Robert L., Jr, Mary Clare Lennon, Li Kuang, Philip M. Alberti, and J. Lawrence Aber. 2006. "The Dynamics of Economic Disadvantage and Children's Life Chances." *American Sociological Review* 71(5): 847–66.

## VII. Youth Crime, Violence, and Victimization

1. Finkelhor, David. 2008. *Childhood Victimization: Crime, Violence, and Abuse in the Lives of Young People*. Oxford University Press.
2. Giordano, Peggy C. 2010. *Legacies of Crime: A Follow-Up of the Children of Highly Delinquent Girls and Boys*. Cambridge University Press.
3. Rios, Victor. 2011. *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys*. New York: New York University Press.
4. Talaugon, Alyssa R. and Jillian J. Turanovic. 2025. "Childhood Exposure to Family Violence, Residential Instability, and Parental Incarceration: Compounding Household Adversities and Adolescent Delinquency." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 62(3): 387-428.
5. Turanovic, Jillian J. 2022. "Exposure to Violence and Victimization: Reflections on 25 Years of Research from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health." *Journal of Adolescent Health* 71(6S): S14-S23.
6. Hagan, John and Holly Foster. 2001. "Youth Violence and the End of Adolescence." *American Sociological Review* 66(6): 874-899.
7. Wright, Emily M. and Abigail A. Fagan. 2013. "The Cycle of Violence in Context: Exploring the Moderating Roles of Neighborhood Disadvantage and Cultural Norms." *Criminology* 51(2): 217-249.
8. Sharkey, Patrick and Robert J. Sampson. 2010. "Destination Effects: Residential Mobility and Trajectories of Adolescent Violence in a Stratified Metropolis." *Criminology* 48(3): 639-681.

## VIII. Ethics and Methods of Studying Children and Their Caregivers

1. Best, Amy L., ed. 2007. *Representing Youth: Methodological Issues in Critical Youth Studies*. New York: New York University Press.
2. Christensen, Pia, ed. 1999. *Research with Children: Perspectives and Practices*. London, England: Routledge Falmer.
3. Christensen, Pia Haudrup. 2004. "Children's Participation in Ethnographic Research: Issues of Power and Representation." *Children & Society* 18(2):165–76.
4. Clark, Cindy Dell. 2011. *In a Younger Voice: Doing Child-Centered Qualitative Research*. Cary, NC: Oxford University Press.
5. Fothergill, Alice and Lori A. Peek. 2015. "Appendix B. Studying Children and Youth in Disaster: A Note on Methods." Pp. 225–68 in *Children of Katrina*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

6. Irwin, Lori G., and Joy Johnson. 2005. "Interviewing Young Children: Explicating Our Practices and Dilemmas." *Qualitative Health Research* 15(6): 821–31.
7. Moody, Zoe, and Frédéric Darbellay. 2019. "Studying Childhood, Children, and Their Rights: The Challenge of Interdisciplinarity." *Childhood* 26(1): 8–21.
8. Peek, Lori, and Alice Fothergill. 2009. "Using Focus Groups: Lessons from Studying Daycare Centers, 9/11, and Hurricane Katrina." *Qualitative Research* 9(1):31–59.

*\*\*List last updated by Lori Peek and Jillian Turanovic, 2/21/2026.*

*\*Original list created by Theresa Edwards-Capen and Lori Peek, in consultation with several leading sociologists in this area of study.*