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Barry H III, Child I L & Bacon M K. Relation of child training to subsistence economy. *Amer. Anthropol.* 61:51-63, 1959.
[Yale University, New Haven, CT]

In a world sample of more than 100 mostly nonliterate societies, children are trained to develop the traits needed in adulthood. Child training emphasizes compliance in societies with high accumulation of food and assertion in societies with low accumulation of food. [The *Social Sciences Citation Index*® (SSCI)® indicates that this paper has been cited in over 125 publications.]

Herbert Barry III
School of Pharmacy
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15261

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This cross-cultural study, begun in 1952, extended a pioneering study by Whiting and Child.¹ John Whiting was the advisor for my senior honors thesis in social relations at Harvard in 1951-1952.² Irvin Child, who directed our project, was professor of psychology at Yale. Margaret Bacon was a part-time postdoctoral research assistant. I was a part-time predoctoral research assistant, devoting the majority of my time to theories of learning tested by the behavior of rats.

I felt worried that my coauthors and other colleagues would dispute my groupings of the measures and my labels for these groupings. Responsibility, obedience, and nurturance were labeled *compliance*; achievement, self-reliance, and independence were labeled *assertion*. Animal husbandry and agriculture were labeled *high accumulation of food*; hunting and fishing were labeled *low*

accumulation of food. These groupings and labels probably contributed to the gratifying citation record by simplifying and clarifying the large amount of complex information.

The impact of this article, in an anthropological journal, was enhanced by our initial article two years earlier, in a psychology journal.³ Both articles were early contributions to the interdisciplinary topic of cross-cultural research, applying anthropological materials to psychological topics. They have been reprinted in many books of readings on child development and social psychology. Both benefited from suggestions, information, and support from Pete Murdock, the foremost anthropologist contributing to cross-cultural research. His office was in our building, and Whiting had been one of his students.

We subsequently studied motivational satisfactions in adulthood⁴ and extended our cross-cultural research to a study of alcohol use.⁵ After I joined the Pharmacology Department at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 1963, I became an adjunct professor in the Department of Anthropology, which Murdock had joined in 1960. I participated in a very productive research project directed by him.⁶

Further evidence that the method of food procurement affects many other cultural characteristics was supplied in a recent article by Alice Schlegel and me that reported that sexual freedom in adolescence is associated with different cultural customs, depending on the type of subsistence economy.⁷

1. Whiting J W M & Child I L. Child training and personality: a cross-cultural study. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1951. 353 p.
2. Barry H III. Relationships between child training and the pictorial arts. *J. Abnormal Soc. Psychol.* 54:380-3, 1957.
3. Barry H III, Bacon M K & Child I L. A cross-cultural survey of some sex differences in socialization. *J. Abnormal Soc. Psychol.* 55:327-32, 1957. (Cited 135 times.)
4. Barry H III & Child I L. Cultural variations in motivational satisfactions for men and women. *Behav. Sci. Res.* 18:306-22, 1983.
5. Bacon M K, Barry H III, Buchwald C, Child I L & Snyder C R. A cross-cultural study of drinking. *Quart. J. Stud. Alcohol Suppl.* (3):1-114, 1965.
6. Barry H III & Schlegel A. *Cross-cultural samples and codes*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1980. 458 p.
7. ———. Cultural customs that influence sexual freedom in adolescence. *Ethnology* 25:151-62, 1986.