Erikson on Development in Adulthood: New Insights from the Unpublished Papers

Based on the work of one of the most famous and popular psychologists of the 20th century, this volume presents material in Erikson's unpublished papers for the first time.

Erik Erikson (1902-1994) was one of the most eminent and prolific psychologists of the 20th century. Over his long career he published a dozen books, including classics such as Childhood and Society; Identity, Youth, and Crisis; and Young Man Luther. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award in 1970 for his biography Ghandi's Truth. It was also in 1970, when he retired from Harvard University, that Erikson began to rethink his earlier theories of development. He became increasingly occupied with the conflicts and challenges of adulthood—a shift from his earlier writings on the “identity crises” of adolescence.

For the past twenty years, Carol Hoare has written extensively on various aspects of Erikson’s work. She has been aided by access to Erikson’s unpublished papers at Harvard, as well as cooperation with Joan Erikson, the psychologist’s wife and longtime collaborator. By reconstructing Erikson’s theory of adulthood from his unpublished papers, Hoare provides not only a much-needed revision of Erikson’s work, but also a glimpse into the mind of one of the 20th century’s most profound thinkers.