

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xv
<i>Using this book</i>	xvii
1 Family lives	1
Introduction	1
The meaning of 'the family'	2
The power of 'the family'	3
Sociology	4
Biology and universality	6
History	7
Does 'the family' exist?	9
Are all families 'nuclear' for a brief period?	10
Variation and diversity in families	11
International comparisons and developments	13
Contemporary trends in families	15
Population	15
Cohabitation	15
Marriage	16
Childbearing	16
Divorce and remarriage	17

Stepfamilies	17
Single parents	18
Family poverty	18
Social class	19
Families and work	20
<i>Paid work</i>	20
<i>Unpaid work</i>	20
Ageing population	21
Multi-racial societies	21
Convergence to diversity	22
Why study family lives	23
Suggested reading	24

2 Theorising family lives 27

Introduction	27
The difficulty of theorising families	28
Why have theory?	29
Theoretical difficulties: family ideology	30
Seeing ourselves as individuals	32
Seeing ourselves as different	32
Deceiving ourselves	33
The social construction of realities	33
Social structure	34
Modernist theorising: ‘the family’	36
Functionalism	37
Postmodernist theorising: family pathways	38
Variation and diversity	40
Marxism	41
Feminism	42
Family discourses and practices	45
Family pathways	46
Suggested reading	49

3 Family Studies 51

Introduction	51
Practical difficulties: methodology	53

Shopping	88
Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs	88
Family practices: constructing families	90
Mealtimes	91
Photographs and albums	91
Toys, games and play	92
Television and video	93
Home computing	94
Bedtimes	95
Nagging	95
Family lives and health	97
Health and marriage	97
Mid-life and menopause	98
Family pathways and disability	99
Child health	100
Ill health in later life	102
Death and bereavement	102
Widowhood	103
Suggested reading	104

5 Children in families 105

Introduction	105
The sociology of childhood	106
Images of childhood	107
The concept of childhood	108
Nature or nurture?	110
Socialisation	110
Who socialises who?	112
Childrearing	112
Experiences of children	115
Children and fun	115
The secret worlds of children	116
Celebrations and gifts	117
Children and child care	118
Childhood, family and education	119
Divorce	119
Children: paid and unpaid work	121
Delinquency	122

Poverty and wealth	123
Childhood health	124
The future of childhood	125
Suggested reading	126
6 Partnering	127
Introduction	127
Towards partnering	128
Singlehood	129
Dating	130
Partnering and intimacy	131
Sexuality	132
Intimacy	133
Love and ethnicity	134
Cohabitation	135
Marriages	137
Teenage marriages	138
Types of marriages	138
Later life marriage	139
Inside partnerships	140
Communication in partnerships	141
Preparation for partnering?	142
De-partnering	143
Divorce	143
Adultery and sexuality	146
Re-marriage	146
The future of partnering	147
Suggested reading	148
7 Parenting	149
Introduction	149
Diversity in parenting	150
Single parenthood	151
Black single motherhood	152
The practice of parenting	153
The costs of parenting	153

Our own closeness	54
Models of normality	54
Our own language	55
Invisibility	56
Privacy	56
Responsibilities in postmodern sociology	57
Our ignorance	58
Value freedom examined	58
Confronting responsibility	59
Exploring values	59
The values of sociologists	60
Developing a new Family Studies	62
Family practices and Family Citizenship	63
Family practices as distributive systems	66
Child care or simply care?	67
Family Associations	68
A Family Studies perspective	69
Suggested reading	70

4 Families in society	71
Introduction	71
Family abuse	72
What is family abuse?	73
Hidden social structure	76
Paid and unpaid work	77
Gender: unpaid and paid work	77
Housework	77
Caring work	79
Paid work roles	80
Paid work for what?	80
Dual career/dual work	81
Unemployment	82
Workplace family policies	83
Paid work, retirement and gender	84
Environments beyond families	85
Gender: private and public space	85
Culture and ethnicity	86
Outside family members or extended kin	87

Preparation for parenthood	154
Parenting practices and pathways	156
Childlessness and pronatalism	157
Contraception, abortion, miscarriage, stillbirth and Sudden Infant Death	158
Pregnancy and childbirth	159
Breast feeding	160
The transition to parenting	161
Parents and adolescents	162
De-parenting	163
Stepparenting	164
Grandparenting	165
Divorce and grandparenting	167
Motherhood	167
Teenage motherhood	168
Mothering and paid work	169
Fatherhood	170
Can men mother?	170
The future of parenting	171
Suggested reading	172

8 Putting families first	173
Introduction	173
Why put families first?	174
Importance of family living	174
Value placed on family living	175
Logic of Family Studies	175
Need to address family issues	176
Preliminaries	176
Policies for families rather than family policy	177
Short-, medium- and long-term perspectives	178
Comparative and European perspective	178
Built environment	178
Discrimination and inequality	179
Work, paid and unpaid	179
Parenting and housework	180
Caring in families	180

Child care	181
Care of the elderly	182
Business and industry	183
Gender and paid work	184
Workplace family policies	185
Production	185
Wages and benefits	186
Family relations	187
Men and women	187
Adults and children	187
Gender inequality and parenting	187
Conflict and abuse	188
Marriage and divorce	189
Human services: prevention	189
Family life education	190
Health	190
Social work	191
Law and crime	192
Family Associations	192
Family lives in the future	193
Suggested reading	195
<i>Glossary</i>	197
<i>Bibliography</i>	201
<i>Index</i>	219