

Contents

Chapter One

Anthropological Play	1
Play, Culture, and Anthropology	4
Play: Definitions, Classifications, and Reductions	7
Playing Anthropologist	7

Chapter Two

The Invention of Childhood	9
Conceiving Childhood: The First Invention	9
Reinventions of Childhood	13
The American Cultivation of Childhood: 1830–1945	14
<i>The Cult of Childhood: 1945–1970</i>	17
The Culture of Childhood and Anthropologists' Metaphors for Children	20
<i>The Child as Primitive</i>	21
<i>The Child as Copycat</i>	23
<i>The Child as Personality Trainee</i>	23
<i>The Child as Monkey</i>	24
<i>The Child as Critic</i>	25
The Great Pretenders	26

Chapter Three

Describing Play: Ethnographic Reports	27
Asia	30
Oceania	31

Central and South America	33
North America	35
Africa	37
Near East	38
Europe	38
Summary	39

Chapter Four

Staging Play: Evolutionary and Developmental Studies	41
Stages and Survivals	42
Recapitulation: G. Stanley Hall	46
On Morals and Marbles: Jean Piaget	50
The Ontogeny of Play	52
Staging Play: Comment and Critique	54
Summary	59

Chapter Five

Preserving Play: Diffusionism and Particularism	61
Game Diffusion and the <i>Patolli-Pachisi</i> Debate	62
Particularism: The Facts of Play	66
William Wells Newell: American Children's Games and Songs	67
Early Collections and Classifications	69
Walter Roth: Australian Aborigine Games	74
Elsdon Best: Maori Children's Games	77
Paul G. Brewster: Game Collections and Classifications	79
Brian Sutton-Smith: New Zealand and American Children's Games	82
Dorothy Howard: Australian Children's Games	85
Iona and Peter Opie: English Children's Games and Rhymes	87
Favorite Collectors' Items	91
Summary	92

Chapter Six

Socializing Play: Functional Analysis	98
A. R. Radcliffe-Brown and Bronisław Malinowski	98
Functionalists and Play	99
Socializing Play: The Kibbutz	106
Socializing Play: The Australian Aborigine	108
Socializing Play: The Kpelle	108
Play and Sex Roles	110
Games and Power Roles	115
Imitation, Imagination, and Culture	116

Play: Socialization, Satirization, or Innovation?	124
Summary	133
 <i>Chapter Seven</i>	
Projecting Play: Culture and Personality	135
Configurationists	136
Psychocultural Analysis	141
Freud on Play	145
Projecting Play: The Pilagá	150
Projecting Play: The Duau	153
New Methodologies: The Hopi and the Balinese	155
African Children's Play: The Luba, Sanga, and Yeke	166
Freudians on Play	174
Statistics and Culture: Freud and Learning Theory	179
Projecting Play in Six Cultures	184
Games and Culture	196
Summary	207
 <i>Chapter Eight</i>	
Saying Play: Communication Studies	210
The Difference That Makes a Difference: Gregory Bateson	211
Play and Paradox: The Message "This Is Play"	214
The Single Signal	220
Winking or Blinking? Text and Context	221
Saying Play: The Mescalero Apache Child	228
Saying Play: The American Preschool Child	228
<i>Children's Play in a Research Laboratory: Organizing Transformations</i>	229
<i>Children's Play in a Day-Care Center: Sideways Transformations</i>	232
Summary	245
 <i>Chapter Nine</i>	
Minding Play: Structural and Cognitive Studies	248
The Player's Perspective	252
The Researcher's Perspective	257
Minding Play: Piaget versus Sutton-Smith	268
Piaget's Assimilation of Play	269
Play and Learning	272
Rhymes and Reasons: Children's Verbal Play	283
<i>Play Languages</i>	291
<i>Verbal Dueling</i>	293
<i>Riddles</i>	296

<i>Vocabulary Games</i>	297
<i>Narratives</i>	298
<i>Summary</i>	299
<i>Chapter Ten</i>	
Defining Play: Ecology, Ethology, and Experiments	302
Environmental Definitions: Toys and Niches	303
Behavioral Definitions: Child Ethology	308
Play and Exploration	315
Behavioral Definitions: Experimental Studies	318
Play and Creativity	321
Summary	323
<i>Chapter Eleven</i>	
Conclusion: New Metaphors for Old	325
<i>Chapter Twelve</i>	
Selected References and Films	332
Films on Children's Play	334
Other Films of Interest to Play Researchers	339
References	344
Index	375