



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

TO NEWS EDITOR  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 1994

PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
TO TALK ON HUMAN NURTURE

What are the factors that contribute to the variations in child development? Among all other factors, culture-specific parental priorities which act to optimize certain developmental potentials of children while neglecting others are emphasized by some anthropologists.

An authority in the studies of human development, Professor Robert A. LeVine, will present a public lecture to probe into the above questions. All are welcome to attend the lecture, to be held on November 3 (Thursday) at 4 p.m. in Shaw College Lecture Theatre at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Entitled "**Human Nurture: A View from Psychosocial Anthropology**", the lecture will present recent advances in the study of child rearing and the problem of nature vs. nurture in the psychosocial development of the child.

In his lecture, Prof. LeVine will offer a critique of Western psychology and an anthropological framework for incorporating knowledge from all cultures in the understanding of child development. He will use field data from many cultures in Asia to illustrate his theoretical position. His most interesting example is based on his forty years of field research in Africa as shown in his latest book, *Child Care and Culture: Lessons from Africa*. Comparing the Gusii people of Kenya in Africa with the American White middle class, Prof. LeVine will show how divergent cultural priorities create differing conditions for early childhood development.

Born in New York in 1932, Prof. LeVine obtained his B.A. and M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago, and Ph.D. in Social Anthropology in the Department of Social Relations of Harvard University. He is currently Roy E. Larsen Professor of Education and Human Development and Professor of Anthropology at Harvard University.

Prof. LeVine has devoted the last forty years to the comparative study of parenthood, child development and the life cycle, attempting to integrate social and psychological perspectives through research in cultures throughout the world. He has also made important contributions to psychosocial theory and method through books such as *Culture, Behaviour and Personality* (1982) and *Human Conditions: The Cultural Basis of Educational Development* (1986).

Prof. LeVine's visit to Hong Kong is under the sponsorship of the Wei Lun Foundation. The Wei Lun Visiting Professorship/Fellowship Scheme established through the generous donation by the Wei Lun Foundation Ltd regularly invites eminent scholars in various academic disciplines to give public lectures at the University.