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1. The Changing Nature of Power, Control, and Influence in Sibling Relationships  
*Nicole Campione-Barr*  
Chapter 1 reviews the previous theorizing and research literature regarding how and why power, control, and therefore sibling influence, change over the course of the first couple of decades, and introduces the goals and advancements made by the new research presented in this issue.

2. Siblings’ Power and Influence in Polyadic Family Conflict During Early Childhood  
*Sandra Della Porta, Nina Howe*  
Chapter 2 examines sibling behavior during polyadic family conflicts (involving three or more family members) by identifying operational conflict elements (i.e., roles, topic), power strategies, effective influence of power, and social domain argumentation.

3. Family Perspectives on Siblings’ Conflict Goals in Middle Childhood: Links to Hierarchical and Affective Features of Sibling Relationships  
*Holly E. Recchia, Ma-ab Witwit*  
Chapter 3 examines parents’ and children’s descriptions of older and younger siblings’ conflict goals in the late preschool and middle childhood years, and how these attributions are related to sibling relationship quality.

4. Relative Power in Sibling Relationships Across Adolescence  
*Anna K. Lindell, Nicole Campione-Barr*  
Chapter 4 examines longitudinal changes in adolescents’ and their siblings’ perceptions of sibling relative power from age 12 to 18 (n = 145 dyads), and whether different levels of sibling relationship positivity and negativity, as well as sibling structural variables, indicate different over-time changes in relative power.
5. Sibling Influences on Risky Behaviors from Adolescence to Young Adulthood: Vertical Socialization or Bidirectional Effects?

Shawn D. Whiteman, Alexander C. Jensen, Susan M. McHale

Chapter 5 builds on research on sibling influences by assessing potential bidirectional effects of older and younger siblings’ risky behaviors on one another’s risky behaviors. Additionally, whether the strength and/or direction of effects of siblings’ risky behaviors changes from middle adolescence to young adulthood is examined.

6. Cross-Cultural Differences in Sibling Power Balance and Its Concomitants Across Three Age Periods

Kirsten L. Buist, Aysegül Metindogan, Selma Coban, Sujala Watve, Analpa Paranjpe, Hans M. Koot, Pol van Lier, Susan J. T. Branje, Wim H. J. Mees

Chapter 6 examines cross-cultural differences in (1) sibling power balance and (2) the associations between sibling power balance and internalizing and externalizing problems in three separate cross-cultural studies (early childhood, late childhood, and adolescence).

Invited Commentaries

7. Commentary 1: The Challenging Task of Addressing Power, Control, and Influence in Sibling Relationships After the First Two Decades of Life

Victoria Hilkevitch Bedford

Comments in this commentary address the challenges presented when considering the trajectory of these dynamics in adult sibling relationships as well as the difficulties sibling dynamics present in carrying out tasks for which an egalitarian relationship is not ideal.


Kimberly A. Updegraff

Grounded within an ecological framework, this commentary offers directions for future research to expand our understanding of sibling power dynamics in diverse family and sociocultural contexts.

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