

# Celebrating the Family: Ethnicity, Consumer Culture, and Family Rituals, 2000

9780674002791 Elizabeth Hafkin Pleck Harvard University Press, 2000 328 pages

Creating a Positive Family Culture: The Importance of Establishing Family Traditions. Here's a bit of trivia about me: My great-great-grandmother on my dad's side was a full-blooded Mexicana. To celebrate our family's Mexican heritage, on Christmas Eve we would eat tamales, enchiladas, sopapillas, and pozole. Researchers have found that family traditions and rituals can provide comfort and security to children, even if a main source of their stress originates from within the family itself. In her book *Ask the Children*, Ellen Galinsky, cofounder of the Families and Work Institute, describes a survey in which she asked children what they would remember most about their childhood. Academic journal article *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Celebrating the Family: Ethnicity, Consumer Culture and Family Ritual. By Smith, Naima Brown. Read preview. Academic journal article *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Celebrating the Family: Ethnicity, Consumer Culture and Family Ritual. By Smith, Naima Brown. Read preview. Article excerpt. The carnival era began in colonial America with most family rituals involving outdoor celebrations characterized by uninhibited eating, drinking, parading, game playing and masquerading. Although most middle-class families viewed such celebrations as unruly and corrupt, it was popular culture, Pleck argues, that was most influential in stamping out this era and ushering in the next. The book notes that by the early nineteenth century, celebrations outside the home were becoming sentimental occasions that used consumer culture and displays of status and wealth to celebrate the idea of home and family. After World War I but especially increasing in the 1970s, a post-sentimental attitude celebrating family diversity, ethnicity, and racial pluralism. The book demonstrates that Americans have invented and reinvented family rituals several times since the Victorians and have used consumer and popular culture both as symbols to rail against and as tools to enhance their celebrations. (Each chapter contains references.) (KB). Celebrating the Family is significant, thorough, and eminently readable. Pleck is especially interested in the way that celebrations have been transformed from 'carnavalesque' qualities, involving various types of social inversion and disorder, into 'domestic' rituals that reinforce women's roles and child-centeredness. She treats each holiday and ritual with impressive sensitivity. She acknowledges the 'dark side,' the social critiques of various celebrations and understands the effects holidays have had on those at the margin of the family--single people, g Costa R.P. Family rituals: mapping the postmodern family through time, space and emotion // *Journal of comparative family studies*. 2013. Vol. 44. Iss. N. Y.: Basic Books, 1994. 333 p. Morgan D.H.J. Rethinking family practices. 422 p. Pleck E.H. Celebrating the family ethnicity, consumer culture, and family rituals. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000. 338 p. Wolin S.J., Bennett L.A. Family rituals // *Family Process*. 1984. Vol. 23. Iss. 3. P. 401-420. doi: 10.1111/j.1545-5300.1984.00401.x. Yoon Y. The role of family routines and rituals in the psychological well being of emerging adults: thesis | Master of Science. University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA, 2012.