



**Karen L. Kramer is Assistant Professor of Anthropology, SUNY Stony Brook.**

# **MAYA CHILDREN**

**Helpers at the Farm**

**Karen L. Kramer**

“This is an original and important contribution to the cultural anthropological field of sociodemography and family studies. Overall it gives us a critical addition to demographic transition studies by providing an explanatory framework for the maintenance of high fertility in a subsistence agricultural context . In Karen Kramer’s hands life history theory provides a powerful critique of standard wealth flow theory. Just as important, her methods of measuring child productivity set a new standard and probably invalidate or at least call into question traditional measures of net child productivity.”

—Raymond Hames, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

“The empirical contribution of this book is very solid. Karen Kramer contributes a dataset regarding children’s work and their place in family systems to the few that have been published. The detail of her study in terms of time allocation, production, and consumption is exemplary and will be avidly received by scholars of childhood. Not only are her methods of data collection and analysis very sound, but the qualitative component of her data collection provides context that is often missing in studies rooted in the theoretical perspectives utilized here.”

—John Bock, California State University, Fullerton

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