Elkind's "Giants in the Nursery" (Book Review)

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The author outlines ways to integrate science and ethics in the management of complex sustainability issues and explores several cases where religious communities have helped make that connection. Jenkins notes that professionals who develop science-based solutions need to include religious communities to help rethink ideas and invent new approaches that take moral values into account. The book also considers the relation of religious ethics and global capitalism by examining faith-based projects to overcome impoverishment. The concluding chapter looks at our obligations to future generations by considering four models of intergenerational ethics.

Each chapter is an in-depth discussion of many aspects of Christian ethics and sustainability that draws on the research of religious ethicists, theologians and scholars in a variety of fields. The scope is wide-ranging, including topics such as environmental justice, global ethics, human poverty, Christian social ethics, international human rights law, and the loss of biodiversity. The treatment is scholarly, and each section is well-documented. This work is best suited for upper division undergraduates and graduate students and is recommended for academic libraries supporting programs in religious studies, ethics, and environmental studies.

Giants in the Nursery,
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Reviewed by Cathie L. Chatmon, Library Director, Piedmont International University, Winston-Salem, NC

David Elkind is regarded as an expert in the field of early childhood education, and this volume does not disappoint. He has chosen to trace the development of the education of young children by presenting a chronology of educators, philosophers, and psychologists who most strongly impacted the field. He discusses life history of each individual and the strengths and weaknesses of each individual’s philosophy regarding the education of young children. He follows up with the common themes linking these individuals together: the nature of the child, the aims of education, and the role of play. He also shows the link between the educational philosophies and developmentally appropriate practice as cited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This volume would be a nice addition to libraries of institutions with majors or minors in the field of early childhood education.