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**Title/Título:** An Ambiguous Relationship: Challenges and Contradictions in the field of Family-School-Community Partnership. Questioning the discourse of partnership

Una relación ambigua. Retos y controversias en la relación Familias-Centros docentes-Entidades sociales y comunitarias

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### **Abstract**

Parental involvement whether at home or at school has become normative; virtually a truism. Behind this truism too often lies hidden what rationales or reasons constitute the framework whether political, educational or psychological. The author sees three rationales linked with different policy discourses and local cultural context in the Western countries: 1) a pedagogical rationale leading to an educational partnership – expecting parents to be accountable to the education system, 2) a humanistic rationale leading to a democratic partnership - expecting parents and teachers to be accountable to society and 3) an economic rationale leading to a consumer partnership - expecting teachers to be accountable to the parents. A consequence of not paying attention to these ideologies when doing research into this field – however much they overlap – can easily result in non sustainable partnerships or do not lead to the expected results.