

FATHER INVOLVEMENT RESEARCH 2008 CONFERENCE

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◎ “It Takes A Village.” Exploring the Role of Otherfathers in African Communities in the Diaspora

Whilst we see much in the literature about the role of Black mothers in raising their sons, there is little written about the role of fathers. Furthermore, much of what is found often pathologizes and marginalizes the experiences of Black men, especially fathers. In addition to systemic racism, the most significant impact on the psyche of Black men within the last 20 years has been the distortion and misrepresentation of Black men and ‘blackness’ within the mass media. It is within this genre of information gathering, assumption making and information sharing that the images of Black men as fathers gets scripted and distorted. This new linear narrative of Black masculinity then becomes the normative view of Black men and fathers, a view that often gets internalized by members of the Black community, especially Black adolescents.

This keynote address challenges many of those assumptions, through an examination of the role of Black fathers, otherfathers and community fathers in African communities in the Diaspora. Using a reflective analysis of data gathered in several projects about Black fathers, this keynote will share ideas on the significance of otherfathers in Black communities. Highlighting the challenges and successes, from the perspectives of Black sons, we will hear about the role of fathers and otherfathers in these men’s lives, focusing on stories these men told about their fathers and their experiences with other men in their lives. I assert that otherfathers and community fathers are a critical component for healthy parenting in African-Canadian communities and for building capacity in those communities.

THOMAS BERNARD, WANDA
Dalhousie University

◎ Promoting Father Involvement Through National Policies: Assessing What Matters

With reference to studies of father involvement in different countries over the past four decades, Coltrane asks what has changed in fathers’ participation in parenting and domestic work and raises questions about how social policies are related to behavioral and demographic shifts. Do most family-friendly or child-friendly policies encourage men to spend more time with children? Which policies and programs are associated with higher levels of father

involvement? Which forms of father involvement should we be promoting? How do we know if promoting father involvement works? And finally, do father-friendly policies really promote more involvement, or are they the result of cultural shifts that have already occurred? Coltrane will summarize new collaborative efforts to answer some of these questions using Time Use data from Europe and North America, and cross-national social policy comparisons.

COLTRANE, SCOTT
University of Oregon

◎ “I’m still their mother.” Fathers, Mothering and Maternal Gatekeeping

DOUCET, ANDREA
Carleton University

In this keynote address, I explore two questions: what role do mothers play in the facilitation or inhibiting of fathering involvement and how do we theorize and understand the interplay between mothering and fathering practices and identities? To address these queries, I revisit and rework a concept that was first introduced ten years ago and which has received increasing attention in the past five years: that of maternal gatekeeping. I call for greater attention to the intersections between gender differences, time, embodiment, and the ‘moral’ and relational identities of mothering and fathering and I argue for a wider, deeper, and intrinsically social conceptualization of gatekeeping that is not

only domestic but also community-based. I also highlight how maternal gates are both opened and closed within households and communities, I address whether paternal gatekeeping occurs, and I ask whether maternal gatekeeping exists for gay father couples. My reflections on men, mothering, and maternal gatekeeping are rooted in a decade-long research program on changing fatherhood in Canada and, specifically, two qualitative research studies which include interviews with 42 couples (including three gay couples) and over 100 highly involved fathers (stay-at-home fathers, fathers who took parental leave, and single fathers).

◎ Developmental Consequences of Father Involvement for Men and Their Children

PALKOVITZ, ROB
University of Delaware

As both fathers and children mature across time and contexts, father-child relationships represent unique opportunities for men and their children to experience developmental changes. Patterns of early interaction, fathering in challenging circumstances, distinctive paternal contributions to child development, transitions within fathering, and gender differences in care represent topics that provide windows for exploring the interactive unfolding of father-child relationships across time. Focusing on fathers’ involvement with their

children thereby affords unique opportunities for understanding the intricacies of intergenerational relationships and development. This presentation covers a diverse range of father involvement patterns in varied contexts of engagement with their children and developmental outcomes associated with interaction histories over time. Program participants will be challenged to develop applied perspectives from theoretical and empirical views of father-child relationships across time.



Why Does Father Involvement Promote Child and Adolescent Development: Addressing an Under-Theorized Issues

Supporting the fatherhood practitioner community's work to encourage father involvement, fatherhood scholars in recent years have made important theoretical advances. In addition, researchers have used increasingly sophisticated designs to document the benefits of great father involvement for children, in particular showing that father involvement has effects independent of mother involvement. However, missing in both recent theoretical advances and empirical research is progress on the most under-theorized issue concerning father involvement today: exactly why father involvement does or should promote development.

This paper critically analyzes four theoretical perspectives, used explicitly or implicitly in current work, about the processes of paternal influence: attachment theory, 'essential father' theory, Bronfenbrenner's ecological theory with its concept of 'proximal process', and social capital theory. The promise that attachment theory

holds for the conceptualization of paternal influence is limited to the rather small attachment research community. 'Essential father' theory is widely accepted by the lay public and even among professionals, but empirical support for fathers' making an 'essential' and unique contribution to development is at present quite weak. Bronfenbrenner's concept of proximal process and the social capital framework provide the best available foundation for theory about exactly how fathering promotes, or does not promote, development.

The paper concludes by developing an integrated, ecological-parental capital, theory of paternal influences on development. In developing this integrated theory, the paper addresses how practitioners can best provide strong support for greater father involvement without making essentialist assumptions about fathers' unique contributions.

PLECK, JOSEPH
University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign



Similarity of Parents' Beliefs and Later Father Involvement

ADAMSONS, KARI

University of Connecticut

Research suggests that the birth of a child represents a 'magic moment' for fathers, when fathers are present and report a strong desire to be involved in future childrearing. However, research also demonstrates that fathers vary dramatically in their levels of involvement following their child's birth. One explanation is that when mothers encourage fathers' involvement, fathers tend to be more involved. Identity theory suggests that encouragement/discouragement could stem from the degree of similarity/dissimilarity between mothers' and fathers' fathering expectations. This paper hypothesizes that when parents hold similar beliefs regarding the importance of various fathering roles when their child is born, fathers will tend to be more involved 1 and 3 years later. I further test whether this association holds for

diverse groups of fathers by testing for moderating influences of race, relationship status, and first-time parenting status. Results indicate that greater overall congruence between parents' initial beliefs positively predicts fathers' reports of involvement at both years, and such congruence is particularly important for non-first-time parents. For mothers' reports, only agreement on which roles are most/least important predicted involvement, and only at Year 1. Further, initial incongruence in beliefs also predicted differences between mothers' and fathers' reports of father involvement at Year 3, but not Year 1, and particularly for married parents. Implications are discussed in terms of the importance of relationship education programs specifically for parents-to-be that emphasize the importance of communication between prospective coparents.



Responsiveness in Father-Child Relationships

ASHBOURNE, LYNDA

University of Guelph

DALY, KERRY

University of Guelph

BROWN, JAIME-LEE

University of Guelph

Qualitative interviews with 215 fathers, collected by the Father Involvement Research Alliance, describe the emergent and responsive nature of the father-child relationship and its consequent influence on fathers themselves. Fathers' responsiveness can best be understood in the context of (a) children's needs, how they are expressed by children and understood by fathers; and (b) fathers' values and priorities. Responsiveness to children's expressed needs requires direct attention and interaction with a child "in the moment". One father remarked that it was "amazing" what a child under three could teach him about being a father, and that it was his responsibility to "pay attention". Fathers also make unique responses based on the personality and developmental stage of the child, learning over time what each child needs and making adjustments as necessary.

These fathers identified the challenge of determining what infants need and their increased competency at puzzle-solving over time. A critical element of responsiveness to children's expressed needs is that it requires shared time between fathers and their children. Fathers' values and priorities are enacted in the context of father-child interaction. Attention to children's needs is augmented by fathers' decision-making, long-term goals, and the overall context of fathering with intention. This type of responsiveness is frequently described in relation to discipline and learning. Fathers talk about knowing when to "draw the line", and the value of being able to "teach" or "help" their children in specific ways. In interaction with their children, men are learning about and redefining themselves as fathers.



Divorced Fathers and Moral Reasoning

This paper discusses divorced fatherhood from the viewpoint of morality and moral reasoning. Decisions concerning children and parenting after divorce are negotiated between ex-spouses, but these negotiations are often combined with public opinions, professional regulation and interventions. Moral reasoning, which is connected to norms, values and evaluation of social situations has a central position in various contested family situations like the divorce. In Finland it is now emphasised that children have the right to maintain contact and relationship with both biological parents after divorce and joint custody is prioritized. However, authorities have strongly been criticised of discrimination against fathers in custodial decisions. Thus, men have become more active in demanding for their rights. This paper is based on the on-going study

of how various activist groups promote and argue the issues of divorced fathers. The data will be gathered through Finnish non-governmental, grass-roots organizations, which deal with issues of divorce, post-divorce parenting or men's well-being after divorce. The data will consist of organizational reports, newsletters, web pages, campaign procedures and interviews by the activists. It will be analysed by qualitative methods. The paper addresses how to capture moral reasoning related to divorced fatherhood in the claim makings of activist groups. What kind of moral arguments and rhetorical strategies are being used and how divorced fatherhood is being constructed in these accounts? The task is to explore moral principles, values and rights and the possible plurality of moral reasoning related to divorced fatherhood.


**AUTONEN-VAARANIEMI,
LEENA**
University of Tampere



Four Poster Sessions

The four poster sessions will include information on workbooks and videos which will be of value to professionals with new and expectant fathers. Dr Jamal Gharavi, M.D. will display "What a Difference a Dad Makes!" a workbook now in ten languages used with the multicultural communities. Dr William Watson, M.D. will display the "Working with Families" workbook primarily used with family physicians. Two young fathers will show the video recently produced by the Young Fathers Cluster, and a DADSCAN representative will show videos from Dr Neil Campbell's series "Dads Under Construction".

BADER, EDWARD
Catholic Community Services
York Region

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



Evaluation of Four Ontario Programs for Fathers

BADER, EDWARD

Catholic Community Services
York Region

RUSSELL, CAROL CRILL

Invest in Kids

PAQUETTE, TIM

Father Involvement Initiative
Ontario Network

MAJONIS, BONITA

Children's Aid Society

SCOTT, KATREENA

OISE/U of T Evaluation of
Caring Dads, London

A panel on New Fathers Community-based Research will include three well-established programs (Invest in Kids in Toronto, Dads Classes in London, and Caring Dads in London) combined with a new program, (Reconnecting Fathers-a joint program of Catholic Community Services of York Region and Children's Aid Society of York region). All panellists are members of the New Fathers Cluster.



Fatherhood as a Transformative Experience in the Life Course: Comparing Young and Mature Fathers on Themes of Generativity and Identity Change

BALL, JESSICA

University of Victoria

PRATT, MICHAEL

Wilfred Laurier University

LAWFORD, HEATHER

Wilfred Laurier University

DIENHART, ANNA

University of Guelph

DEVAULT, ANNIE

University of Quebec
in Outaouais

In this paper, we use a life story framework to consider the experience of fathering within the life course. We first summarize the literature on generativity as a midlife phenomenon from Erikson and others, and consider what aspects of early generativity may be represented among very young fathers, despite stereotypes of their undeservingness. We use the FIRA thematic interview data, including nearly 200 cases (with 25 or so from young fathers), to examine themes of life and identity change, based on an open coding approach. We use this qualitative empirical evidence to show how young fathers can express a sense of generativity or care for their child, in contrast to models of generativity as present only in midlife. We discuss four sub-themes of personal transformation around the

past "problems" or issues recounted by young dads and the way these life positions were transformed or "redeemed" by fatherhood: finding a purpose, settling down, overcoming past hurt, and growing up. We also identify these themes in interviews from other FIRA clusters and show how they are similar, but often less dramatic, in more mature fathers in this same sample. We also examine some boundary cases of men who report more minimal change from the experience of fatherhood. Ultimately, we highlight the clarity of these generative feelings of transformation among young dads, how they are similar to other fathers, and what that says about early generativity and the capacity for and potential meaning of early fatherhood.



Supporting Indigenous Fathers' Journeys

Indigenous fathers may be the most socially excluded population of fathers around the globe. Research and practice suggest that some aspects of Indigenous men's fatherhood journeys are similar to experiences of non-Indigenous fathers. Yet, personal and community histories of interventions by colonial governments targeting Indigenous peoples have disrupted Indigenous families and dismantled cultural and language communities. Combined with ongoing social inequities, these conditions create unique challenges for Indigenous fathers. Many Indigenous fathers encounter obstacles to accepting or registering their paternity, navigating the transition to parenthood, and sustaining connections across changing and often difficult circumstances. This panel brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of research and community program teams working in several countries to support the revitalization of Indigenous men's


positive involvements in the care of children. The panel will describe why community-based programs may initially need to assist fathers to access needed resources that are generally understood as pre-requisites for positive and sustained fathers' involvement, such as food security, housing, income-generation, child care, services to support personal healing and wellness, and programs to strengthen relationship and communication skills. Other approaches that the panel will describe include: promoting father friendly policies in child care, school, and maternal-child health programs; disseminating positive media images of Indigenous fathers; supporting positively involved Indigenous fathers as role models; offering training for Indigenous fathers to work in programs; and innovating accessible and flexible community-based programs with father-friendly and culturally sensitive policies and staff.


BALL, JESSICA
University of Victoria


FLETCHER, RICHARD
University of Newcastle

HODGINS, DENISE
University of Victoria

JOHNSON, SHELLY
Surrounded By Cedar
Child and Family Services

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



The Generative Legacy of Fathering: Examining Themes of Future Concern, Progress and Audience Among Indigenous and Other Fathers

BALL, JESSICA
University of Victoria

PRATT, MICHAEL
Wilfred Laurier University

LAWFORD, HEATHER
Wilfred Laurier University

DIENHART, ANNA
University of Guelph

In this paper, Erikson's (1950) and McAdams's (2001) ideas about generativity, defined as care and concern for the next generation as a legacy of the self, are used to consider themes of fathering goals and purpose in a sample of Indigenous and other fathers. The idea of legacy here draws together a sense of passing on the heritage of the past and of making progress toward a better future for the child. Based on an open-coding approach, we use FIRA thematic interview data, including nearly 200 cases (30 from Indigenous fathers), to examine themes of:

- a. concern for the child's long-term future,
- b. cultural legacy and personal and generational "progress," and
- c. audience "validation" for the effectiveness of the father's parenting. Indigenous fathers articulated clear long-term concerns for the child's future.

Progress encompassed subthemes of hopes for the child's future relative to the father's current situation, comparisons of the father's own parenting and that which he experienced growing up, and a sense of generational change in community strength. Audiences that supported the father's sense of efficacy in childrearing included the self, child, family, and community. We show how themes of future concern, progress and regard in interviews with Indigenous fathers are parallel as well as somewhat distinctive from those with fathers of other FIRA clusters. Ultimately, we highlight the clarity of these feelings of care for the future of the child in Indigenous fathers, and what that says about generativity and the meaning of legacy within the context of Indigenous fathering.



Who Benefits from a Brief Educational Program for First-time Fathers of Healthy Infants?

BENZIES, KAREN
University of Calgary

MAGILL-EVANS, JOYCE
University of Alberta

HARRISON, MARGARET J.
University of Alberta

First time fathers experience unique challenges with early parenting. Fathers want to be involved with their infants but there are few educational programs specifically designed to support their early parenting. The purpose of this study was to determine the utility of a parenting education program designed for first-time fathers of infants, and to determine which fathers benefited from the program. A community sample of 81 adult, English-speaking, primarily European-Canadian, first-time fathers of 5-month-old infants participated. When infants were 5 and 6 months old, videotaped self-modeling and positive feedback about father-infant interaction was provided by specially trained home visitors. Father-infant interaction was assessed at baseline (5 months) and outcome (8 months) using the Nursing Child Assessment Teaching Scale protocol.

Fathers' perceptions of the program's utility were captured in a brief, structured interview at the end of the 8 month visit. Fathers found the program useful and indicated that their needs for educational programs are different from mothers. Fathers had suggestions for other useful supports. A multiple regression, controlling for baseline interactions, indicated that demographic variables did not significantly predict fathers' outcome interactions. Therefore, the program was useful for fathers with differing education levels, marital status, and prior experiences with children. The program may prove useful in public health settings where implementing programs for fathers of infants is a priority. Future research needs to explore other predictors to identify fathers who will benefit from the program, such as fathers of infants who are born preterm.

○ Needs Assessment of Father Involvement Programs in the Black Community

Although there is a general consensus amongst social and health researchers that involved fathers play very important roles in the healthy development of children, there is a perceived lack of father involvement (FI) in Toronto's Black community, and town hall meetings reverberate this notion. A rigorous needs assessment focusing on service demands and perceived service needs on the importance of father involvement in the healthy development of children is being conducted by a Master's of Public Health student working in the Black community. This research will also provide agencies the necessary tools to respond to the lack of FI programs/projects, services, activities and resources (PSAR). Service demands are being assessed through focus group discussions with Black fathers of children

0–12 years of age on perception of fatherhood, and availability and accessibility of PSAR for involvement. Service needs are being assessed through open-ended questionnaires sent to community based organizations providing PSAR to families. The questionnaires inquire into FI PSAR availability, its accessibility or lack thereof, and allow organizations to illuminate possible barriers hindering the provision of FI PSAR. As a result of this assessment, a decision making tool kit to assess general FI needs in any community will be produced to aid organizations and interested stakeholders. The tool kit will include an inventory of FI programs classified in four different categories: father, child, family and community centred.


BOAKYE-YIADOM, NOAH
Lakehead University

○ Fathers' Experiences in Support Services: In Their Own Words


Over the past decade, there has been growing awareness of the role of fathers in families. As research has shown that father involvement is connected to healthy child development, it is necessary for programs and services to look at ways of supporting fathers in their role. In creating programs that are directed at fathers, it is important to consider the experiences of fathers in service, the needs of fathers, as well as ways of implementing successful programs that will support fathers. This presentation will focus on the results of a qualitative study examining the experiences of fathers in three early intervention programs in Ontario.

Early Intervention Programs have been successful at meeting the needs of many parents, however, access to services and participation by fathers is usually limited, as mothers are often the primary contacts for service delivery. Factors influencing father involvement in services, the experiences of fathers in having a child with special needs, as well as their experiences in support services were examined. The results of this study will be shared during this presentation, with a focus on the types of services that may benefit fathers and promote the healthy development of their children.

BODOLAI, PHILIPPA
Infant and Child
Development
Services Peel

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



Malaspina University-College/Nanaimo Men’s Resource Centre Research Project

BOERE, THEO
Nanaimo Men’s
Resource Centre (NMRC)

The Community Research Group-Psychology Department, Malaspina University-College and NMRC are conducting research on men’s experience of separation/ divorce, specifically depression and social support systems accessed by them. There is a need to obtain greater clarity to address issues related to separation/ divorce and available support services. Focusing on both gender’s perspectives, differences among different categories of divorcees may be identified. While it is well documented that both genders suffer emotionally during separation/divorce, a tendency to minimize the emotional suffering of men remains evident. This research will raise awareness surrounding the different needs of both genders during this process. There’s a lack of awareness surrounding men’s emotions

post-divorce. We hope to gain insight into the emotional impact of divorce on men and the support they seek. Additional benefits may have implications for treatment of individuals going through this process.

We are looking at the differences between couples with an internal locus of control versus couples with an external locus of control. We are also looking at fathers who receive more perceived support or encouragement to continue their father-role from their ex-spouses. Additionally, we will also look at divorced couples with children versus those with no children and the correlation with depression. Lastly, we are looking at the correlation of divorcees who have joint or sole custody.



Dads Make A Difference Program

BOERE, THEO
Nanaimo Men’s
Resource Centre (NMRC)

WISEHART, GARDNER
“Dad’s Make a
Difference”
San Angelo

NMRC started a program in October 2006, to provide skills to young fathers (under 25 years), new and prenatal fathers. In October 2007, BC Gaming decided to fund the program and we expanded it to include any father who needed support. In the year prior to the program we conducted a needs assessment survey in the community asking: “Is there a need for fathering programs in the following areas.”

The results shown below were rated in the top ten of 30 different choices given (scale 1 to 5; 5 being urgent need and based on approximately 200 participants):

Basic parenting skills	3.83
Building relationship skills	3.80
Support for new fathers	3.82
Communication/negotiation skills	3.94
Support for young fathers	3.91
Financial uncertainty	3.80

PROGRAM GOAL: *Fathers* would be better equipped to be parents; *Mothers* would be better supported by fathers; *Children* would have the involvement of BOTH parents. The ultimate goal is to keep children connected with their fathers long term. We accomplish this by:

- » Dads attending weekly classes & learning parenting skills
- » Dads being linked with a trained mentor

This project is innovative as we are the first organization to offer this in BC. Other agencies’ primary focus up until now has been on pre/postnatal mothers. We have produced a 22 page booklet for dads. Vancouver Island Health Authority has collaborated with us on the booklet and provides a room for meeting.



Nanaimo Men’s Resource Centre

The Nanaimo Men’s Resource Centre (NMRC) is a non-profit charitable organization offering support, referral and educational services to men and their families. The centre promotes community awareness of men’s needs and provides programs for individuals and groups. According to Denise L. Whitehead, Researcher at the University of Guelph, NMRC is the only centre in Canada that runs 10 programs as follows:

1. Referral And Resource Centre
2. Parental Alienation Awareness Program
3. Personal Education And Development Workshops
4. Fathering Programs
5. Divorce And Separation Support Program
6. Family Crisis Support Services
7. Calming Your Anger Program
8. Community Education Program
9. Lgbtq Youth Group
10. Family Maintenance Support Program

NMRC also provides various workshops and forums on such subjects as Family Court process, Understanding FMEP, Dads Make a Difference, Drumming, Transformational Breath, Calming Your Anger and more. NMRC stands as a one of a kind resource for men in the country. There are other programs that come and go, but NMRC has existed since 2001. Despite our name, NMRC is not just for men. We have female clients, staff, Board members, and volunteers.

NMRC is continually in dialogue with private funders and government of all levels to help create funding for men’s resources in this country. For example, in 2006 the BC Government applied more than 46 million dollars to women’s programs in the province. Men’s resources received virtually nothing. NMRC does not believe that women’s resources should receive less funding; we believe that men’s resources should receive funding AS WELL AS women’s resources.


BOERE, THEO
Nanaimo Men’s Resource Centre (NMRC)





When Dad Becomes Mom, Exploring Trans Parenting

Every year heterosexual relationships turn into same sex relationships and Dad becomes Mom. This workshop explores the challenges of assuming the title of “Mom”, the advantages and the disadvantages; child custody questions; birth certificates; research that is available, and the effect it has on the children. When a parent transitions from male to female where do they fit into the parent spectrum? Do they get Father’s Day? Mother’s Day? Or are they like so many that just never get a day anymore? Where is the ‘best interest of the child’, and where do the courts see the ‘Biological Father’ in relation to the ‘Birth Mother’?

BOYCE, MICHELLE
Diversity Training Live

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



“It’s Different with Dad!”: An Innovative Public Health Initiative to Include Fathers in Early Intervention Programs

BRETON, STÉPHANIE

Université de Sherbrooke

PUENTES-NEUMAN,

GUADALUPE

Université de Sherbrooke

In spite of growing evidence of fathers’ specific contributions to children’s socioemotional and cognitive development, fathers are practically absent from early intervention initiatives. Recent conceptualizations of early father-child relationships suggest the need to include fathers in early intervention programs. However, such programs do not exist. This poster presents “*It’s different with dad!*” an early intervention program which is devised specifically for the father and his young child. Based on empirical research addressing the specific needs and interactive preferences of fathers of young children, this program aims at attaining the general goals of early intervention programs delivered by Quebec’s public

health system in economically disadvantaged areas. The program comprises 15 father-infant group-delivered workshops centered on active and dynamic father-child interactions that aim at developing the father-child relationship around the core concepts of stimulation, protection/control and warmth/soothing. The program is characterized by a flexible participation schedule and by the intervention’s philosophy centered on the “here and now” of ongoing father-child interactions. Implemented in community health centers in Québec for the last three years, the program stimulates child development and consolidates father involvement.



Parenting Needs Assessment

BURNEMAN, LAREN

York Region Community and Health Services Dept

SIN, HEIDI

York Region Community and Health Services Dept

In response to increasing diversity, the impact of social trends, and to provide evidence based programming, York Region Community and Health Services Department conducted a parenting needs assessment. The assessment addressed the overall parenting needs, mothers versus fathers, and ethno cultural needs of York Region parents with children under age six. The survey used both quantitative and qualitative data, collected through paper, web-based and focus group methods. Overall, a convenience sample of 1,211 parents of children from birth to six participated. Mothers and fathers were most interested in learning about child nutrition and helping their children feel good about themselves. Mothers and fathers differed in their method of delivery for receiving information. Fifty percent of fathers preferred to receive

information via the Internet. Both mothers and fathers preferred to access parenting information at home. The preferred person from whom to receive parenting information for both mothers and fathers was a health professional but fathers’ second choice was family/friends. The barriers to attending programs were identical for mothers and fathers except that 16% of fathers indicated ‘no interest’ as a barrier to attendance. Further, fathers were not aware of what constitutes a parenting program. The findings of this parenting needs assessment will enable York Region Community and Health Services Department, other Public Health Units and community organizations to support the needs of parents and improve their parenting skills, thus enhancing the healthy development of children.



Low-Income Nonresident Father Involvement with their Toddler

Using data from a racially and ethnically diverse sample of low-income mothers of two-year-old children participating in the Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project (N = 883), fathers' education and employment, mother-father relationship, and mothers' relationships with kin in the household will be examined to explain variation in nonresident father involvement across racial and ethnic groups. Nonresident White fathers are generally less involved with their children than African-American and Latino fathers. This difference is usually explained by the status of mother-father relationships. White nonresident fathers are less likely than minority nonresident fathers to maintain

romantic relationships with their child's mother and mothers in the White father group are also more likely to re-partner, which is negatively related to biological fathers' involvement. In this paper we examine whether a positive coparenting relationship between mother and father improves father involvement even when the romantic relationship ends. Because of the differences in the nature of the mother-father relationship and in the types of father involvement with their children, the sources of coparenting and the relationship between coparenting and father involvement needs to be explored in detail across race-ethnic groups. Implications for public policy will be explored.

CABRERA, NATASHA
University of Maryland




AAAFTER: Mentoring Teen Fathers in a Community Intervention

The purpose of this paper is to present the African American Adolescent Fatherhood Training and Empowerment for Responsibility (AAAFTER) intervention program. AAAFTER is a culturally consistent aimed to promote fatherhood involvement during early childhood development, provide parenting and life skills, and implement a group mentoring model for fathering facilitated in inner city United States. Although several interventions exist that address the physical and emotional needs of teen mothers offerings to teen fathers is scant. Considering the well established reality that many teen fathers are fatherless themselves the need for fatherhood training of these boys is significant if the cycle of father absence is to be broken. This presentation outlines AAAFTER's empirically driven psycho-educational curriculum, the evaluation methodology, and preliminary findings. AAAFTER utilizes African centered principles established from

Rites of Passage processes, employs established African American fathers as mentors, and establishes community sanctioned fatherhood rituals (i.e., baby showers). AAAFTER recruits established fathers from faith- and community- based organizations, historically Black fraternities, and other social networks to receive training in African American masculinity and fatherhood identity formation; helping skills; life span development; and implementation of the AAAFTER curriculum. Established fathers ('Coaches') receive training and are charged with implementing the AAAFTER in a group mentoring format in their natural settings. The outcomes of AAAFTER are to increase adolescent father involvement and parenting self-efficacy; to increase efficacy of mentors; and to break the cycle of father absence by providing nurturance early in the life transition from adolescent to father.

CALDWELL, LEON
University of Memphis

REESE, LEROY
Morehouse School of Medicine

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



Father Involvement and Child Outcomes in Nonmarital Families

CHOI, JEONG-KYU
University of California

SPJELDNES, SOLVEIG
University of Pittsburgh

Father Involvement and Child Outcomes in African American Nonmarital Families Purposes: Literature indicates that children adjust best when their parents have a healthy, cooperative relationship. Few studies investigate the connection between father involvement and child outcomes in African American nonmarital families. We hypothesized that father involvement would be directly and indirectly associated with child behaviour problems and language development (PPVT) through maternal psychological and parenting functioning. Methods: Using longitudinal data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing study, we analyzed factors from 2,118 African American single mothers and their children born between 1998 and 2000.

Our model included maternal education, family income, and economic hardship measured at child birth; maternal depressive symptoms, father involvement, parenting stress, and parenting activities at age one; and child behavior problems and language development at age three. For missing responses, we used Bayesian multiple imputation. Results: The structural equation model indicated that socioeconomic circumstances predicted child behaviour problems and PPVT mediated through maternal depressive symptoms, parenting stress and activities, and father involvement. Father involvement was directly and indirectly associated with child behavior problems (direct effect = -.05, p)



Sodai Gomi (I.E., Large Trash): An Integrative Analysis of Japanese Fathers

CHRISTIANSEN, SHAWN
Southern Utah University

Fathers in Japan are sometimes characterized by stereotypes such as “sodai gomi” or large trash (i.e., the father who occupies a space in the home with no defined role). There has been a gradual interest in Japanese fathering over the last two decades particularly as marriage and birth rates have declined and divorce rates have increased. Attention has also been focused on fatherhood because of the increased numbers of women in the workforce and new attention to gender roles. With this new attention on fatherhood, there has been increasing public and political discourse on the role of fathers in Japanese families. This paper discusses the current research on Japanese fathers’ involvement in their families, as well as the benefits and barriers of paternal involvement on fathers and their families. This paper considers the familial, cultural, and politi-

cal supports for increasing the level of involvement and engagement of Japanese fathers in their families. This paper concludes with the possible impact of how changes or resistance to changes in Japanese fathering may impact the future of Japanese society.

- » Participants will learn how Japanese fathers’ involvement compares to other father involvement
- » Participants will learn factors that increase Japanese fathers’ involvement in family life
- » Participants will learn possible implications of the current state of Japanese fatherhood on fathers, their families, and on Japanese society



Parental Postnatal License: A Permission for New Father Involvement

In Chile, paternity has been challenged by the processes of modernization. Diverse national instances and public policies emphasize the need to facilitate the participation of the father in the socialization and the upbringing of children. The present exploratory study provides the first elements in the construction of a theoretical model on the beliefs of paternity, in parents with newborn children who make use of parental postnatal leave. It is an exploratory study of an analytical- descriptive nature, and uses qualitative methodology based on the Grounded Theory approach. For treating this slightly studied phenomenon in our country, covering paternal subjectivity with a sense of gender equity, for the importance of the repercussions of bonding with the newborn child, and

the need to measure paternity, the research topic is relevant. The principal result is paternity as an emergent phenomena in the affective recursive relation with the baby and with the coordinated behaviour of the triad father / mother / son (a), and demands for more presence in taking care in the upbringing as condition of paternity. While changing the equation between reproduction and production for the new fatherhood, reproduction appears as an inclusive category of the father and increases the valuation of fathers' participation in reproductive process. The father enters the reproductive domain (pregnancy, childbirth and post natal), questions the vision of providing the sole domain from which to exercise fatherhood, and favours bonding with the progeny.

CLAPS, FORRAY CATERINA
Psicoclin, Via del Mar, Chile




Gay Dads in the UK: Rewriting the Fatherhood Manual

In the UK, recent family literature has employed the notion of 'family practices' to unpick traditional notions about gendered roles and 'the family' as an institution. A growing body of research has begun to shed light on ways in which 'families of choice' headed by non-heterosexual men and women are reconceptualising 'family life' into new forms. However, so far there has been little empirical research about non-heterosexual fathers and their 'doing' of fatherhood. I have completed a study of 32 non-heterosexual British fathers who took a variety of routes to fatherhood for my PhD (based in the Department of Politics at the University of Manchester, UK). This asked participants to outline what percentage of various parenting tasks

they did and what percentage each of the other significant adults in their children's lives did. It also involved semi-structured interviews with 15 non-heterosexual fathers (10 of whom had become fathers via heterosexual relationships – half had later separated from their wives; and 5 of whom were donor/foster fathers who were 'out' when they became fathers). I found that proximity to children through co-residence with the mother was a key factor in shaping the fathers' 'doing' of fatherhood; that all the fathers (regardless of the route to fatherhood) had to a greater or lesser extent based their doing of fatherhood on widely accepted scripts of (heterosexual) fatherhood; and that many had experienced various forms of exclusion from active fatherhood.

DAVIES, JEREMY
University of Manchester

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



Parental Behavioral Involvement as a Predictor of Negative and Positive Behaviors

DAY, RANDAL

Brigham Young University

The purpose of the current study was to examine how fathers and mothers differentially and collectively influence the lives of their children. More specifically, we asked how fathers' and mothers' behavioral involvement influenced both problem behaviors (externalizing and internalizing behaviors) and positive outcomes (prosocial behaviors and hope) during early adolescence. Data for this study was taken from the Flourishing Families Project, from which 349 mothers and fathers were selected, along with their early adolescent child (M age = 11.23 years, SD = .96). Hierarchical regression analyses revealed (even after controlling for attachment

and child temperament) that mothers' and fathers' contributions differed as a function of child outcome. Namely, father (but not mother) involvement was negatively related to adolescents' internalizing and externalizing behaviors, while mother (but not father) involvement was positively related to adolescents' prosocial behaviors and hope. We also examined the interaction between mother and father involvement, and found father involvement (as it related to internalizing behaviors) to protect against low levels of mother involvement. Implications for future parenting research and for intervention are discussed.



Father Involvement in the Context of Breastfeeding

DE MONTIGNY, FRANCINE

University of Quebec
in Outaouais

GERVAIS, CHRISTINE

University of Quebec
in Outaouais

DEVAULT, ANNIE

University of Quebec
in Outaouais

GROULX, ANNIE-PIER

University of Quebec
in Outaouais

LACHARITÉ, CARL

University of Quebec
in Trois Rivières

Men become fathers in a context where mothers are strongly encouraged to breastfeed their infant. The effects of breastfeeding on the child's physical and psychological development as well as its repercussions on mother-infant attachment are well known. Although fathers are noted by authors from across the world as an important factor in mothers' decisions to continue breastfeeding, they have only rarely been investigated as key players in the experience, with research focusing mainly on the mother-infant pair (Arora et al, 2000; Earle, 2002; Scott & Binns, 1997, 1999; Sharma & Petosa, 1997). When fathers are questioned, they are generally found to be well informed about the effects of breastfeeding on the infant (Pollock et al, 2002). But rarely are they allowed the opportunity to share how the breastfeeding experience has impacted on their involvement with their child.

The objective was to explore the experience of two groups of fathers in establishing a relationship with their child in the context of breastfeeding. Twelve immigrant fathers from Maghreb and twelve non immigrant fathers whose partner had breastfed more than six months were invited to share their experience through semi-structured interviews. Father involvement was highly valued in both groups. Both groups of fathers reported using various strategies to develop a relationship with their infant. Fathers in the non-immigrant group were more likely to report feelings of helplessness than immigrant fathers. Better knowledge of fathers' experience will sustain improvement of community services towards families, research, policy development and education.

○ From Research to Curriculum Development

Nursing educators have long recognized that families are an important target of care, and as such, multiple family nursing courses have been developed internationally. Fathers being important members of the family, a significant number of scholars have paid attention to the development of the father's role in the family, particularly in regards to father involvement. However, an examination of the curricula in nursing carried out in 2003 by members of the Fathers' Initiative in Educational Institutions (FI-EI, Bélanger, Este, StAmand, Devault, deMontigny & Lozier) revealed that within 81 institutions offering undergraduate nursing programs, very few courses referred specifically or indirectly to fathers and fatherhood.

A qualitative study carried out from 2005-2007, with 35 undergraduate nursing, midwives and social work students revealed that students did not feel at ease in their interactions with fathers and required additional theory and models of interaction to sustain their feelings of adequacy. In 2007 a group of researchers from Quebec developed an online graduate course pertaining to fatherhood, within an interdisciplinary perspective. The presentation will highlight the method used to construct this course, the main objectives and themes. The implications for further curriculum development pertaining to fatherhood will be discussed.

DE MONTIGNY, FRANCINE

University of Quebec
in Outaouais

DEVAULT, ANNIE

University of Quebec
in Outaouais

DUBEAU, DIANE

University of Quebec
in Outaouais

LACHARITÉ, CARL

University of Quebec
in Trois Rivières

QUENIART, ANNE

University of Quebec
in Montreal


○ Social Services and Fathers at Risk: Understanding the Misunderstood

Despite the public discourse about the importance of targeting fathers in social services, at risk fathers remain absent from programs and practices. This exclusion not only deprives at risk fathers of much-needed support but, more importantly, limits the possible outcomes of family intervention. To include fathers, especially at risk fathers, we need to dare to ask difficult questions, so that we can better understand the factors that conspire to exclude them. One possible factor is the way men are socialized, which may inhibit their help-seeking and make them less inclined to seek out available services. Another element that may contribute to their exclusion is the uneasy encounter between at-risk fathers and the largely female staff working in the services for vulnerable families and


fathers. In addition, it is important to consider the degree to which the father's economic, social and cultural impoverishment clashes with the values espoused by staff who view parenting through middle-class lenses. This situation can be exacerbated further by unresolved conflicts when the father is separated from the mother. Another question to ask is if the absence of at risk fathers is related to the conflicting approaches between systemic and feminist frameworks with regards to including fathers in social services? It is important to broach this topic. By opening the discussion, and seeking to understand the misunderstandings that prevent inclusion of at risk fathers in social services, we can begin to reformulate our solutions, and move from discussion to corrective action.

DESLAURIERS, JEAN-MARTIN

University of Ottawa

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



Believe in me!/Je suis là!

The purpose of the poster session will be to present the DVD and the practitioner’s guide on young fathers called “Believe in me!” The members of the young fathers cluster (practitioners and young fathers) will by the same occasion give information on what it is to be a young father, the challenges and obstacles they face and the kind of support they need. This information is based on a research conducted with young fathers (n=43). The members of the young fathers cluster will also be able to talk about their experience of being part of a community-university research group and to participate in the elaboration of an intervention tool kit.

DEVAULT, ANNIE
DESJARDINS, BRIAN
CHAPMAN, UKO
CHARTRAND, MATT
PAQUETTE, TIM
MIRABELLI, ALAN
EARLE, PETER
DESLAURIERS, JEAN-MARTIN
WORMSER, TAMAS
ELDER, DAV
SPRINGER, GREG
GROULX, ANNIE-PIER
SÉVIGNY, RICHARD



Vulnerability Versus Social Integration. The Complex Lives of Young Fathers

Young men who become fathers seem to live a certain paradox. On one hand, becoming a parent gives them a new social role that can help them feel more integrated into the society. But on the other hand, their new parenting role puts them in face of some of their own limitations in terms of having what it takes to get integrated, that is work, money and education. This presentation will convey the participant to a reflection on young men who become fathers between 15 and 25 years old. It will be based on analysis of interviews and focus groups conducted with young fathers (n=43). When we met with fathers for this research, we discussed with them what fatherhood changed in their lives, their relation-

ships with the mother of the child, the obstacles they face in assuming their father role and the support they receive. Qualitative analysis of the results show that most young men want to get involved with their child and they are willing to make important changes in their lives (i.e., be more responsible, reduce substance abuse, get a job) in order to achieve this result. The arrival of the child gives them a great hope to get out of a certain marginalization but at the same time it puts a lot of pressure on them to respond to the needs of their new family. This presentation will focus on what helps young fathers play their role as much as they want.

DEVAULT, ANNIE
University of Quebec
in Outaouais



The Relative Visibility and Invisibility of Fathering

This paper looks into men’s experience of being ‘seen’ and valued as fathers across multiple contexts of the family, couple relationships, community and society. Analyzing qualitative data from the FIRA-CURA project, with nearly 200 cases, a social constructionist interpretative lens highlights men’s experiences of a variety of audiences for their fathering activities and fathering identity. The analysis moves beyond binary possibilities of visibility or invisibility to reveal a continuum of experiences of fathering and fatherhood, from relatively invisible, to visible, to highly visible, to too visible and perhaps subject to extra scrutiny. Across all 7 clusters of FIRA-CURA data, men described experiences of being seen or not seen, being valued and not valued as fathers. The experience of being seen, or the

visibility of fathering, was complex and varied across several contextual factors. The theme of relative ‘invisibility’ was particularly salient for men who experienced some disruption in the ‘culturally dominant’ views/structures of family-life. This included separated/divorced fathers, young fathers, indigenous fathers, gay fathers, and fathers with special needs children. When fathers encountered being devalued and/or marginalized in their role as fathers, they developed strategies to enhance their connection to their children and increase their visibility as important figures in their child’s life. Strategies of ‘intensifying’ their visibility include: challenging gender myths, taking personal risks and responsibility, challenging institutional practices, and breaking the silence by going public.

DIENHART, ANNA
University of Guelph




Baby and Daddy’s First Year: Exploring Challenges


This paper explores the first year of fathering, focusing specifically on issues of personal and relational transition, gendered narratives around embodiment and care, maternal gate-keeping, and evolving ‘moral’ identities associated with fathering. Drawing on research conducted for the New Fathers cluster, we argue that the first year of becoming a parent poses particular social and relational challenges for men in relation to paid work, their partnership/marriage, health institutions, and community programs and resources. While all fathers face varying degree of such challenges, particular configurations exist for teen dads, low income-fathers, immigrant fathers, and gay fathers. The paper will also highlight areas of positive change in Canada, owing largely to an increased father-focus in parental leave policy and in parenting programs in the past five years.


DOUCET, ANDREA
Carlton University

BADER, EDWARD
Catholic Community Services
York Region

HOWLETT, OREN

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



Paternal Engagement in Sudanese and Russian Newcomer Families

ESTE, DAVID
University of Calgary

Immigrant and refugee male adults come to Canada with multiple identities, one of which may be being a father. Until very recently, research on refugee and immigrant men as fathers is quite limited in the Canadian context. Through a qualitative research study involving in-depth interviews with 20 Sudanese refugee and 14 Russian immigrant men in a large urban centre in Canada, this paper examines their perceptions and experiences as fathers. Insights on the meaning of fatherhood, values that guide their behaviour, their aspirations for and interactions with their children and the challenges they face as fathers in Canadian society form the specific content that will be presented. Implications for human service providers such as social work practitioners will also be discussed.



Implications of Fathers' and Mothers' Responsibility for Parenting

FAUCHIER, ANGELE
Family Research Laboratory/
University of New Hampshire

Despite the historical increase in father involvement, little is known about the implications of the different ways that fathers and mothers delegate versus share responsibility for child-rearing. This study examines mothers' and fathers' shared versus delegated responsibility for parenting. Over 1000 university students reported retrospectively on their fathers' and mothers' parenting and discipline behaviors when the students were pre-adolescents. They rated seven child-rearing tasks for the extent to which fathers were primarily responsible, mothers were primarily responsible, or parents shared responsibility. More than half of participants reported that parents shared some responsibilities equally, but most families also showed a pattern of differentiated responsibility in which fathers were responsible for some tasks and mothers for others. We also examined other char-

acteristics of parenting based on responsibility patterns, and we found important differences between families who shared versus delegated responsibility. For example, fathers and mothers who share responsibility for discipline are both much less likely to use corporal punishment or psychological aggression than parents in families with delegated responsibility for discipline. In general, the parent with greater responsibility has the larger role in discipline, except when it comes to corporal punishment: in families in which mothers have primary discipline responsibilities, fathers use corporal punishment just as often as mothers. These results suggest that the different arrangements that fathers and mothers strike for sharing parenting responsibility can impact the types of parenting they exhibit, and that mothers' and fathers' parenting may be affected in different ways.



Linking Research and Policy on Father Involvement

This paper reports on a Realist Review of the evidence relating to father involvement and family wellbeing. In late 2007 the South Australian Health Department commissioned a review of the research evidence linking fathers' involvement with their children under five years and family wellbeing. Specifically, the Department sought advice on the evidential base for seeking to include fathers in the proposed establishment of 20 new Children's Centres to provide integrated education, family support and health services across the state. In health-related policy areas randomised control trials (RCTs) have become accepted as the gold standard for evidence and there are established protocols for researchers conducting systematic reviews of evidence pertaining to treatments and interven-

tions. However, there is also growing recognition that interventions addressing complex social issues cannot be properly evaluated by RCTs which, by their nature, minimize complexity and, even when taken together, cannot explain why the intervention worked or under what circumstances it is likely to work again. An alternative approach to the use of evidence to inform policy is a Realist Review which seeks to unpack the multiple assumptions which are implied in complex social interventions to allow each element to be tested by reference to evidence. In this paper the processes involved in the Realist Review of fathers' involvement and family wellbeing as well as the conclusions reached by the project will be described.

FLETCHER, RICHARD
University of Newcastle





Strengths of Indigenous Fathers Posters


Posters were developed with six Indigenous communities to reflect what they valued about their fathers, uncles, pops and brothers. Communities included regional and urban indigenous from north and south of Australia.

HAMMOND, CRAIG
University of Newcastle

FLETCHER, RICHARD
University of Newcastle

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



Relais-Pères, Working With Vulnerable Fathers in Four Communities

FORGET, GILLES

Public Health Department
of Montreal

TURCOTTE, GENEVIÈVE

Public Health Department
of Montreal

OUELLET, FRANCINE

Public Health Department
of Montreal

SANCHEZ, ISABELLE

Public Health Department
of Montreal

Outreaching vulnerable fathers has always been a challenge for services. Relais-Pères, a participatory research project implemented in four communities of Montreal builds upon a partnership between funders, researchers, social and health service providers and non-profit organizations to meet this challenge by implementing and evaluating an innovative program. The main objectives of this program are to include fathers in their family context, to ensure a harmonious development of their children, to reinforce their involvement and to facilitate their social and professional inclusion. The workshop will present how practitioners were able to instil, reinforce or sustain the involvement of vulnerable fathers – young, migrants or economically disadvantaged, with different activities, outreaching, home visiting, accompanying the fathers to services or resources or group activities – and the methodological and results of the participatory assessment of this innovative practice.



Paternal Involvement with Special Needs Children

FURST, EMILY

University of Tennessee

FOX, GREER LITTON

University of Tennessee

NORDQUIST, VEY

University of Tennessee

The involvement of fathers with their special needs children is the focus of this project. Father role salience and role satisfaction are hypothesized to mediate the relationship between family socioeconomic status and father involvement. This process is investigated among 144 fathers of special needs children who participated in an evaluation of Tennessee's Early Intervention System (TEIS). TEIS provides services to families with special needs children under the age of three. The children in the sample were diagnosed with cerebral palsy, autism, spina bifida, Down syndrome, developmental delays, and speech and/or hearing delays. Because of the source of the data, the researchers were able to obtain fathers' sense of empowerment as a result of their participation in the project. Therefore this project presents the opportunity to examine how

empowerment may uniquely affect the processes of father involvement. Specifically, we will investigate whether empowerment has an additive or interactive effect along with socioeconomic status on men's involvement with their children. The researchers hypothesized that families with higher socioeconomic status would report a greater sense of empowerment in knowing how to help their children and advocate for their needs. The researchers also hypothesized that the greater sense of empowerment fathers report, the more satisfied men will be with their role as a father and the more involved fathers will be with their special needs children in a variety of tasks. This project is in the early stages of data analysis, but will be completed by September of 2008.



How Children Affect Father’s Health and Health Behaviours

Background: Parental behaviors directly influence child outcomes. Yet, little research has identified how children influence parental behaviors. Even less is known about how fatherhood may impact men’s health.

Objective: Using a diverse, urban sample of new fathers, we examine how fatherhood impacts men’s’ health attitudes and behaviors.

Methods: Participants were a qualitative subsample of fathers from the U.S. nationally representative Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study interviewed in Milwaukee and Chicago for 1.5 hours when their child was ~3 yrs old on the effect of having children and their health behaviors. Content and narrative analysis methods were used to analyze the data.

Results: Our response rate was 94%; the 31 fathers in our sample had a mean age of 31; 56% were African American; 55% were non-married; 61% were residential; 41% had an income of ≤ \$34,999; and 61% obtained ≤ a high school diploma. The majority of fathers described

positive changes to their health as a result of having a child. “Staying healthy” in order “to be around” for their child’s future and modeling positive health behaviors motivated many fathers. Fathers reported eating healthier, exercising more, and decreasing alcohol consumption. Smaller numbers of fathers described “less partying” and trying to lose weight. Though most fathers reported having a doctor, many fathers had not been in >1 year. Most reported negative attitudes toward seeing a doctor. Common themes included “hating” going, fearing they would “find something wrong,” and having to be “very sick” before seeing a doctor.

Conclusions: Becoming a father is a time to re-examine health priorities and make positive changes. Initial negative help-seeking attitudes may lead to more health-conscious behaviors. As children influence fathers’ health, fathers may influence child health. Acknowledging and supporting the role of fathers in modeling healthy behaviors for children may be a unique way of influencing positive child and father outcomes.

GARFIELD, CRAIG
Northwestern University

ISACCO, ANTHONY
Northwestern University



More than a Haircut: Engaging Black Fathers


Macaulay Child Development Centre, established in 1932, is a multi-service, charitable organization that helps children reach their full potential. The agency provides programs for children, parents and caregivers to develop skills and build nurturing communities where children and families can thrive. Macaulay is committed to including children with special needs and to reflecting the diversity of our community. In 2006, Macaulay initiated The Barbershop Project: More Than a Haircut. The project uses a community development approach to engage fathers/father figures in the Afro-Caribbean community. Facilitators and barbers work with Macaulay staff and an Advisory Committee to plan and lead regular discussions about fathering and related issues in 3 local barbershops. The project has developed and disseminated culture-


specific fathering resources. The main goal of the project is to promote healthy, positive fathering as an important priority in the Black community. The panel will include the Program Manager, a barber, facilitator, and a representative from the Advisory Committee. We will discuss: the background and rationale for the project; why and how it began; a typical Barbershop session; innovative methods to engage participants; evaluation data; impact of the project on participants and community; lessons learned; and future directions.


Learning goals for participants are to:

- » Deepen understanding of the issues affecting Black fathers
- » Identify successful strategies for program development and father engagement

GOWANS, SUSAN
Macaulay Child
Development Centre

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



Faces of Fatherhood Initiative

HAUER, CAROL

Families Matter Society

Over the last 2 years, Families Matter has had an intentional focus on engaging dads through existing programs and development of some new learning opportunities. Given the opportunity, men show a strong desire to connect with their children, have an innate understanding of what they can offer their children, but feel disempowered from being able to show this. As Dads have engaged with us and each other, they are reporting increased acceptance amongst each other, increased confidence in their understanding and abilities as a parent, and increased attachment to their children. They are engaged with us in defining the types of learning opportunities that best meet their needs, they are marketing our programs in the community, they feel empowered and are spreading the word

through their networks, and they are taking opportunities to advocate for men in parenting and caregiving roles.

Conference participants will gain knowledge and share information in the challenges and learning of the 3 goals defined for our Faces of Fatherhood Initiative:

1. Enhance men's personal learning and development (i.e., self-knowledge, capacity).
2. Be a catalyst for positive social change in individual, group and community settings related to the roles of men in the family.
3. Strengthen Families Matter's leadership role in building strong, resilient families and community.



'Being There Makes A Good Dad': Fathers' Views From Jail

HERNANDEZ, DAPHNE

Pennsylvania State University

One area that lacks visibility in the father literature is incarcerated fathers. Previous research has detailed the hardships that incarceration has on employment abilities (Holzer et al., 2004). However, we know very little about how economic hardships (or lack of) during childhood have influenced men's beliefs on what children need. The aim of the paper is to provide insight on how incarcerated fathers' childhood experiences influence their fathering beliefs. Thirty incarcerated fathers, between the ages of 20-35, were interviewed in Midwestern jail.

Face-to-face qualitative interviews were used to gather information regarding their childhood, employment and children, father involvement, and relationship quality with the mother of their child. Interviews were semi-structured, but the

temp and order of conversation flow followed the respondent's lead. Content analysis, a method of coding and analyzing qualitative data in order to develop central themes, was used. Preliminary analysis suggests that some men grew up without a father, while others grew up in a 2-parent household but were spoiled. These men believe that 'less material items' and more 'being there' makes a good dad. Others are convinced that had they had money, they would not have been forced to sell drugs. Thus, street money can provide a better lifestyle, but they do not want this lifestyle for their children. The findings will capture incarcerated fathers complex perspective on fathering and strategies to increase father involvement will be discussed.



Father Involvement Content in Parent Education Programs in BC

This paper presents data retrieved through a content analysis of 17 formal parent education programs offered in BC that was conducted in 2007 at the University of Victoria, in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Program directors answered contextual questions about their program in a telephone interview and shared program materials for analysis. The program materials were analyzed for content regarding father involvement in parenting young children. While one of the limitations of the study is that the analysis was made on the intended curriculum rather than what happens during program delivery, it is an important analysis that points to the intentionality of formal parent education programs to include father involvement in the

many issues that are related to parenting young children. The key finding of the project was that father involvement content was not significantly included in most programs, even though all were offered to fathers. Four programs, however, did include specific content regarding father involvement and this paper focuses on those programs: the content that was included; the differences between the four programs; and how those four programs hold the possibility of being models for other parent education programs to include father involvement information directly. A brief review of the research project methodology, as well as highlights regarding the implications of the lack of father involvement content found and suggestions for future research will be included.

HODGINS, DENISE
University of Victoria





Long-term Implications of Father's Parental Leave


The Nordic welfare state family policies stress on shared parenthood and involved fathering. In Finland, fathers received their paternity leave right in 1978 and since 1987 fathers have had the possibility to share the six months parental leave with mother. However, only 5 - 10% of fathers use their option of parental leave, and moreover, eventual outcomes of fathers' parental leave are very poorly documented. The aim of the study was to explore the current family life circumstances and father-child relationship of such Finnish fathers who had previously utilized their statutory right for parental leave. This survey focused on men who had been at least four months as stay-at-home fathers 12 years ago when their child was 6 - 30 months old.

These men belonged to the very small group of fathers in Finland who had taken not only the 'normal' 1 - 3 weeks paternity leave but also shared parental leave with the mother of their child. The study material consists of data from two questionnaires: the first comprised of stay-at-home fathers (n = 364) who were spending their parental leave in 1993, and the second is follow-up data gathered in 2005 (n = 121). Consequently, 33% of the fathers answered to the follow-up questionnaire. In my paper I introduce the main results of the study, and furthermore, I try to discuss some conclusions concerning the potential affiliations of father's use of parental leave and later father-child relationships.

HUTTUNEN, JOUKO
University of Jyväskylä

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



The Relationship Context of Early Fatherhood

JOYNER, KARA
Bowling Green
State University

Using data from a racially and ethnically diverse sample of low-income mothers of two-year-old children participating in the Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project (N = 883), fathers' education and employment, mother-father relationship, and mothers' relationships with kin in the household will be examined to explain variation in nonresident father involvement across racial and ethnic groups. Nonresident White fathers are generally less involved with their children than African-American and Latino fathers. This difference is usually explained by the status of mother-father relationships. White nonresident fathers are less likely than minority nonresident fathers to maintain romantic relationships with their

child's mother and mothers in the White father group are also more likely to re-partner, which is negatively related to biological fathers' involvement. In this paper we examine whether a positive co-parenting relationship between mother and father improves father involvement even when the romantic relationship ends. Because of the differences in the nature of the mother-father relationship and in the types of father involvement with their children, the sources of co-parenting and the relationship between co-parenting and father involvement needs to be explored in detail across race-ethnic groups. Implications for public policy will be explored.



Paternal Responsibility and Parenting After Divorce: The Search for a Just and Equitable Approach to Child Custody Determination

KRUK, EDWARD
University of British Columbia

The focus of this paper is the determination of child custody when parents cannot agree on post-separation parenting arrangements, and negotiation efforts have failed in this regard. The paper will critically examine the viability of a rebuttable legal presumption of shared parenting responsibility, applying a social analytical perspective to the Canadian child custody debate. It will be argued that the responsibilities of social institutions to support parents in the fulfillment of their parenting responsibilities is a largely overlooked issue in the debate; in this regard, the problem of fathers who wish to maintain an active role in the care of their children and are discouraged from doing so as non-residential parents, must be considered. A child-focused framework of

child custody determination focused on children's needs, parental responsibilities in regard to these needs, and social institutional responsibilities to support parents in the fulfillment of their parental responsibilities may offer a fresh approach to the issue, beyond the dominant "rights-based" child custody discourse. A "four pillar" framework to child custody determination will be discussed, which incorporates prevention (shared parenting education), treatment (parenting plans, mediation, and intervention in high conflict cases), harm reduction (a rebuttable legal presumption of shared parental responsibility), and enforcement (judicial determination in cases of established abuse).



Anticipating Fatherhood: Men’s Meanings and Ideals

The transition to parenthood challenges new parents’ ability to manage family and paid work demands in ways that enhance family well-being. Most research has overlooked men’s experiences as fathers, implicitly reinforcing a “parenting as women’s work” ideal. There is limited understanding of the intersection of gender ideals about family roles and culture for fathers. This critical ethnographic study examined the meanings and context of fatherhood as men prepared to become fathers for the first time. Canadian and immigrant Chinese expectant fathers’ perspectives were compared. Questions addressed were: a) What does becoming a father mean? and b) How do men’s views of fathering relate to social ideals of fatherhood? Eighteen men (12 Canadian and 6 Chinese immigrant) living in Western Canada, reflecting diverse socio-demographic circumstances, were interviewed during their partner’s last

pregnancy trimester. Interviews were recorded and transcribed verbatim. Thematic content analysis identified emerging patterns in men’s experiences. Common to both groups, men’s meanings of fathering focused on roles (e.g., teacher, provider); personal characteristics (e.g., being responsible, “hands-on”); feelings (e.g., excitement, uncertainty); and actions and outcomes (e.g., preparing child for the world). For immigrant Chinese men, fatherhood also meant becoming a man and their continuity in the “cycle of life”. Men anticipated tensions in resolving personal idea(l)s of themselves as fathers, social and cultural ideals of fatherhood, and workplace ideals and conditions related to managing paid and family work. Research findings highlight men’s experiences and challenges related to dominant assumptions about men’s family roles and responsibilities.

KUSHNER, KAYSI EASTLICK
University of Alberta

WILLIAMSON, DEANNA
University of Alberta

REMPEL, GWEN
University of Alberta

BREITKREUZ, RHONDA
University of Alberta

LETOURNEAU, NICOLE
University of New Brunswick

CHARCHUK, MARGO
University of Alberta



Invisibility of Fathers in Family-friendly Work Environment

This study attempts to explore direct and indirect influence of family-friendly work environment (number of family-friendly policies in the company, weekly working hours) and fathers’ emotional status (work-family conflict, self confidence in fathering) on paternal involvement. The sample for this study consists of 237 young Korean fathers. Mplus5.0 was employed for testing the hypothesized structural model. The findings suggest that number of family-friendly policies has direct influence on paternal involvement. However, number of family-friendly policies shows a negative relationship with paternal involvement. In other words, the more family-friendly policies fathers reported, the less involved they were with children. This might be due to fathers’ invisibility


in family-friendly policies. Most family-friendly policies target mothers and those policies might give fathers a message to concentrate more on their work. Relationship between working hours and paternal involvement was mediated by work-family conflict. That is, working hours influence paternal involvement by increasing work-family conflict. Self-confidence in fathering has direct impact on paternal involvement. However, relationship between those two variables was also negative. This could be due to fathers’ awareness of their involvement. If fathers are unaware of their level of involvement, they could feel confident about their fathering and consider their fathering as ‘good enough’.

KWON, YOUNG-IN
Yonsei University


LEE, SOOKHYUM
Yonsei University

LEE, SEIN
Yonsei University

LEE, JEE-YOUNG
Yonsei University

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



Paternal Involvement as Determined by Paternal Motivation

LADAGE, JESSICA

Old Dominion University

KELLY, MICHELLE L.

Old Dominion University

The purpose of the present study was to test four global determinants (i.e., motivation to be involved, stress and social support in the fathering role, skills and self-confidence in fathering, institutional practices of the workplace) hypothesized to influence fathers' involvement in the day-to-day care of their children (Lamb, Pleck, Charnov, & Levine, 1985; 1985; Lamb & Tamis-Lemonda 1997). Participants were 114 dual-earner couples. All couples had a child between the ages of 1 and 4 that attended a licensed childcare center in southeastern Virginia. Three multiple regressions were conducted to examine the degree to which the hypothesized determinants of father involvement predicted three types of father involvement:

(a) engagement (i.e., one-on-one interaction with the child, such as reading or playing with the child), (b) accessibility (i.e., availability to the child without direct interaction, such as making dinner while the child is playing in the next room), and (c) responsibility (i.e., performing childcare tasks such as scheduling appointments for the child or buying clothing). Increased satisfaction in the parenting role predicted higher reports of engagement (one-on-one interaction with one's child). Increased work hours predicted less paternal accessibility. Results of the present study suggest that different determinants discussed by Lamb and colleagues are related to forms of father involvement.



African American Fathers' Relationship Quality and Fathering

LA TAILLADE, JASLEAN

University of Maryland

Research suggests that African American fathers and mothers often maintain a good quality relationship, and that the quality of this couple relationship is associated with consistency and quality of father involvement among nonresidential as well as residential fathers (Gavin et al., 2002). However, to date few have investigated how relational factors predict changes in father involvement over time among African American families. Given the decline in marriage and increase in romantic and co-parenting relationships outside the realm of marriage among African Americans, research focused on predictors of satisfaction and stability in this population is important and sorely needed. The goal of the current presentation is to examine how longitudinal changes in relationship quality and stability impact changes in father involvement

among African American fathers over time. The project draws on longitudinal data from unmarried and economically disadvantaged African American parents identified at the birth of a child, and assessed changes over time in relationship quality, father involvement, marital and residential status using both mothers and fathers' reports. Approximately 1700 African American fathers were recruited in the first wave of the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing study. SEM will be used to model the influence of changes in different aspects of relationship quality (relationship satisfaction, relationship improvement, conflict/disagreement, partner/co-parent support) on four key aspects of father involvement over time: engagement/affection, accessibility to children, financial contribution, and responsibility.



Policy and Policy Areas Influencing Father Involvement

This policy inventory was developed to complement the research and outreach activities of the Father Involvement Research Alliance (FIRA) project. Its key purpose is to begin to identify the various ways current public policies, institutional practices, and community services construct or shape Canadian fathers' rights, responsibilities, and opportunities for involvement with their children. In addition, it serves to identify the diversity that exists among fathers, and the ways in which fathers in diverse economic, social and familial circumstances may be particularly and differentially affected by certain policies and practices. The inventory is divided into two major sections. Part I considers public policies, institutional practices, and service approaches

that affect all fathers, although the effects may vary depending on fathers' economic, social, geographic or cultural characteristics. Part II explicitly considers the policies and issues that most directly affect specific subpopulations of fathers, defined by the nature of familial relationships, personal resources, cultural background and unique circumstances. Our intent in compiling this inventory is to go beyond description to suggest what gaps exist in our thinking about how fathers are affected by current policies and institutional practices, and what opportunities might be considered as desirable policy or program changes to support fathers' efforts to be more effective in their various roles.

LERO, DONNA
University of Guelph

ASHBOURNE, LYNDA
University of Guelph

WHITEHEAD, DENISE
University of Guelph



Supporting Fathers Affected by Postpartum Depression in Their Partner: Results of a Pilot Study

PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES: Qualitative results from a multi-site pilot study that assessed fathers' support needs, resources, barriers to support and preferences for support intervention when their partner was ill with postpartum depression (PPD) will be presented. The pilot research will be supplemented with expert advice from an experienced professional caregiver who works with fathers affected by PPD. Moreover, a father whose partner was affected by PPD, will share his experiences as both a father and a mental health professional.

CONTEXT: PPD is a major health problem for many women, affecting 1 in 7 women, and characterized by the disabling symptoms of dysphoria, emotional lability, insomnia, confusion, significant anxiety, guilt, and suicidal ideation. Only recently have the implications of PPD for fathers come to light. A quarter to a half of

depressed mothers' partners are men who also experience depression, making PPD the most potent predictor of paternal depression. While fathers are regarded as important sources of support for mothers with PPD, research has not been found that explored fathers' support needs for coping with their partners' PPD.


PILOT STUDY: Individual interviews were conducted with 13 fathers (7 in NB and 6 in AB) whose marital partners suffered from PPD. Findings suggest that fathers are unsure of how to identify PPD, how to support their partners when they are experiencing PPD, and feel excluded from treatment. **Implications:** Implications of the pilot for support-intervention programs and policy will be discussed by an affected father and an expert clinician from personal and professional perspectives.

LETOURNEAU, NICOLE
University of New Brunswick


DUFFETT-LEGER, LINDA
University of New Brunswick

HAUER, CAROL
Families Matter

WEEKS, MURRAY
Rivory Valley Health

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



What Do Fathers/Parents Need? Towards an Inclusive Vision for Positive Father/Parent Involvement Initiatives (F/PII) in Canada

LONG, DAVID

The King's University College

This roundtable session will engage participants in critical dialogue to better understand and address the best/wise interpersonal, research, policy and service provision needs of diverse fathers/parents in their community and beyond. The session begins with a brief description and analysis of diverse visions for F/PII involving Aboriginal, immigrant/refugee, and gay/bisexual/transgendered/queer(GBTQ)

fathers/parents in Canada. Included is analysis of a number of problematic cultural assumptions surrounding men, masculinities, men's health and father/parenthood. For the latter part of the session, participants will be invited to discuss, from their own experience and perspective, the question of what fathers/parents in Canada need?



Fatigue in First-time Fathers

LOUTZENHISER, LYNN

University of Regina

THOMPSON, MAUREEN

University of Regina

The transition to parenthood has been identified as a time of significant change in men's and women's roles and responsibilities. One health issue that may impede new parents' abilities to successfully navigate the transition to parenthood is fatigue. As fatigue has been found to be associated with poorer functional performance and cognitive functioning, it may be particularly problematic during the transition to parenthood. However, we know little about fatigue levels in new fathers. Moreover, while researchers linked fatigue in new mothers to the balance of work and family demands, the ways in which new fathers balance work and family demands have been virtually ignored. This longitudinal study examines fatigue and its correlates in 100 new

fathers and mothers prenatally to when their infants are six months of age. This paper will be based on the data from the prenatal and 1-month data collection periods. In terms of research hypotheses, it is expected that fatigue will increase from Time 1 to Time 2 for both men and women in this study, with men showing a greater increase than women during this time period. It is also expected that while physiological and psychological factors will significantly predict fatigue at Time 1 for men and women, their association with fatigue at Time 2 will be moderated by situational factors. These results will be discussed within the context of new fathers' fatigue, roles and responsibilities.



Indigenous Fathers: Breaking the Cycle

The Indigenous Fathers Project set out to explore the roles of fathers in British Columbia's Aboriginal families. The project is aimed to investigate the ways community programs could support Aboriginal fathers' involvement with their children, and increase their participation in family-centered programs. This presentation briefly describes the project and outlines a few of the major findings from the research. This presentation will discuss how colonialism and assimilation practices have caused personal trauma and loss of identity for Aboriginal men. This trauma and loss of identity have perpetuated a generational cycle of trauma, including drug use and alcoholism, family dysfunction, incarceration, physical abuse and has had a devastating impact on father involvement. Based on

the findings from the Indigenous Fathers Project, this presentation explores how embracing Aboriginal spirituality and traditional practices in fathers' support groups allow men who experience the cycle of generational trauma, to create their own identity outside of this cycle. According to participants of the Indigenous Fathers Project, embracing and internalizing Aboriginal spirituality allows Aboriginal men to break the cycle of family dysfunction, alcohol abuse and other issues that have had a negative effect on father involvement. This presentation further suggests that by offering a parent support group that includes spirituality and traditional practices, community programs can support Aboriginal father involvement and potentially increase their participation in family-centered programs.

MANAHAN, CANDICE
University of Victoria

BALL, JESSICA
University of Victoria



Tips and Tricks from the Front Line with High Risk Fathers

Who is a dad? As programs everywhere begin to grapple with what it takes to support fathers, we see that it is also necessary to look at what constitutes a successful parenting support program for fathers. Over the past thirteen years Abbotsford Community Services has focused on facilitating healthy father involvement by developing the father's positive self-identity and his embracement of the role of Father. Unique approaches are usually required to develop a man's identity as a father before he will participate in a more traditional parenting programming.


Our focus is to develop the man's sense of belonging to the community at large, then move him to a connection to the community of men, and then establish his identification with the community of fathers. In achieving a self-identity as a father we are then able to help him develop his role as a parent.

This roundtable will explore the programming components, the front-line experiences and the outreach techniques used by our Father Involvement staff to build the fathering identity of our participants. This workshop will also provide an opportunity for attendees to share specific techniques that have resulted in successful recruitment and retention of fathers into their own communities. In addition, the results from year one of a three year program evaluation will be shared.


Initially Abbotsford Community Services' father involvement programming was targeted to fathers under the age of 25 years. However in 2004, we began to engage with a larger number of fathers by opening up programming to any community father with a child 0 to 6 years. In 2007/2008, our two male Fathers' Support and Resource Workers will have worked with at least 200 fathers.

MCLEAN, JEFF
Abbotsford Community Services

FORER, BARRY
Abbotsford Community Services

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



Children with Special Needs: Unpacking How Mothers and Fathers Parent

MCNEILL, TED

The Hospital for Sick Children

NICHOLAS, DAVID

The Hospital for Sick Children

MONTGOMERY, GERT

Bloorview MacMillan
Children's Centre

BEATON, JOHN

University of Guelph

This presentation, intended primarily for clinicians and researchers, summarizes a program of research aimed at providing an in-depth understanding of mothers' and fathers' experiences of caring for a child with a chronic health condition or disability. An exploration of their experiences as individuals will be presented followed by an examination of how mothers and fathers co-construct their parenting relationship together. Based on a diverse sample, a model will be analyzed and implications for teaching and clinical practice will be discussed.



Emotions in Becoming a Father

MYKKÄNEN, JOHANNA

University of Jyväskylä

HUTTUNEN, JOUKO

University of Jyväskylä

In this poster, we concentrate on the different emotions in becoming a father for the first time. The study material consists of the narratives of 27 men (aged 20 to 42 years) with varying life experiences and situations. The data were gathered through interviews. On the path along to fatherhood, many men had 'emotional surprises', that is, confronting new, awakening, strong and sometimes quiescent emotions. We have extracted four emotion-types that characterize the way men describe their experiences and emotions concerning the pregnancy-test, pregnancy and the delivery. The types are:

1. 'empathizers'
2. 'hesitators'
3. 'reporters'
4. 'humorists'

The '*empathizers*' represent a culturally new, and in this study, reigning male type, which are conscious and certain about their emotions and have the capability of launching into it and talking about it openly. These men are also anxious about and attentive to their spouses' needs. The '*hesitators*' in turn are afraid, uncertain and uneasy about their emotions, but confess their hesitancy openly. The third type, '*reporters*' are those men who describe their experiences in technical detail, dwelling on every little detail and avoiding in this way their own emotion-talk. The fourth type, '*humorists*' means those whose stories are told with 'manly' humor and who in this way avoid facing their own emotions.



Pathways to Fatherhood in Finland

In this paper, I concentrate on the different pathways to becoming a father for the first time. In other words on explanations of when, why and how Finnish men relay the experiences and emotions of becoming a father. The study material consists of the narratives of 27 men (age 20 to 42 years) with varying life experiences and situations. The data were gathered by interviews. Becoming a father seemed to be a turning point in a man's life, which led him to think over his life. On the basis of the interviews, I have extracted three main narratives about becoming a father:

1. 'normative'
2. 'desire'
3. 'recovery'

Men also included an element of agency 'either strong or weak' in their narratives. By agency here is meant men's own activity, opportunities and limits on their choices, actions and emotions regarding beginning fatherhood. 'Normative' represents a culturally typical life-course model which all the men in the data recognized, and reflected on their own paths against this model. The 'recovery' narratives in turn included a tragic event that a man had confronted along the pathway to becoming a father. Most of the men had, however, survived or learned to live with this trauma. The third narrative 'desire' were constructed by men who had earlier postponed their fatherhood, but were at the present moment enthusiastic and capable of making his own choices about starting a family.

MYKKÄNEN, JOHANNA
University of Jyväskylä




Explaining Japanese Exceptionalism in Father Involvement


In Japan's households, most women and nearly half of men now disagree with the traditional division of labour. Practices, too, are changing: even women with small children are increasingly likely to remain in the work force. Social scientists hypothesize that changing gender norms and women's increased income will lead to a more equal division of family work. But Japanese women still do about 90% of household labor, and, despite a visible increase in fathers' child-centered activities, Japanese husbands still do far less than men in other societies. How does Japan's division of family work remain grossly unequal? This paper presents evidence from the lives of a purposive sample of dual-income households with young children. A third of the couples were twin-career: spouses held identical

or nearly identical full-time posts. Observations and conversational interviews reveal, in the participants' own words, how gender power is manifest in spousal social action and negotiations over who-does-what. The lingering influence of customary norms of male domination is related to an under-appreciated dimension of the problem: falling Japanese birthrates have transformed the male demographic so that three-quarters of men between 20 and 49 are first sons, a special position in Japanese family life that symbolizes the continued intergenerational transmission of male primacy. In combination with men's roles as 'ideal workers', their position as first sons 'naturally' justifies minimal participation in housework and childrearing.

NORTH, SCOTT
Osaka University

 paper

 panel

 poster

 roundtable

 workshop



Preventative Intervention from the Supporting Father Involvement Project

COWAN, CAROLYN PAPE

University of California,
Berkeley

COWAN, PHILLIP

University of California,
Berkeley

Presenters from the Supporting Father Involvement (SFI) project describe a randomized clinical trial of a preventive intervention for low income Mexican American and European American families. The curriculum is targeted toward five family risk domains known to be associated with father involvement and children's adaptation. Presenters describe the model, research design, curriculum, and intervention results. They describe lessons learned about recruitment, retention of participants, and establishing a partnership among the California Office of Child Abuse Prevention, the University of California Berkeley, Smith College, Yale University, Family Resource Centres in 5 counties, and County welfare programs. Policy implications of the results are also discussed. The SFI study contrasts a one-session informational meeting about the importance of fathers to children's development (the control condition) with a

16-week fathers group or a 16-week couples group, all led by trained mental health professionals. Two-thirds of the 300 participating families are low income, and all had a case manager over the 18 months of the study. Pre-test, 2-month post-intervention, and 11-month post-intervention assessments revealed that in contrast with control participants, both ongoing intervention groups produced increases in fathers' direct involvement with their children, whose problematic behaviours remained stable. In addition, couples group but not fathers' group participants reported declining parenting stress and stable levels of couple relationship satisfaction. Attendees will learn about the multidimensional family systems model underlying the intervention design, the intervention approach and curriculum, and the evaluation of the outcomes of this randomized clinical trial.



Father Involvement Activities from Canada to Japan

PAQUETTE, TIM

Father Involvement
Initiative Ontario Network

HICKS, MIKE

HyperActive Productions

SAKAMOTO, JUNKO

Niiza Kosodate
Child Care Centre

Japan's fertility rate has fallen to an all-time low (1.26 in 2005) and is predicted to fall even further. With a large proportion of workers soon to retire, with very small immigration numbers, and with very few workers to replace the retiring workers, Japan is facing a looming social crisis. One of the ways that Japan is addressing this social issue is by the creation of new measures to counter the declining birth rate, specifically by promoting and supporting father involvement at all levels of influence. It has been postulated by the Japanese government that by increasing

father involvement, this will decrease the stress faced by Japanese families, primarily shouldered by the mother. This decrease in family stress may increase the probability of families having more children and help increase the nations' fertility rate. This roundtable will examine the ways in which Canadian tools and trainings, including the father toolkit, booklets, and various workshops and trainings have increased the capacity of child care centres and corporations to better support father involvement in Japan.



The Transmission of Fathering from Fathers and Mothers to Sons

While most attention in the media and in work-life scholarship has focused on the challenges and opportunities of working mothers, a shift to understanding fathers experiences is needed. As dual career couples become the norm (women in the US now out-earn their spouse in nearly one out of four couples) and men express greater desire to share caring responsibilities, the time seems right to address this under-researched group. What we seek to understand is how men experience fatherhood with respect to its impact on their identity and self-image. In this study, we explore the ways fathers define themselves in the context of being a working parent. We also look at the how the degree of child involvement,

as well as other external factors both inside and outside their work environment, influence and shape their identity. Finally, we address how the formation of a working father identity influences career attitudes, behaviors and intentions. We will share the results of a pilot study we are conducting with relatively new fathers and follow with a discussion of the practical and scholarly implications of our findings. We will also consider ways that fathers can be assisted as they go through this change process in their own lives and discuss what can be done to help them re-define and better understand what constitutes professional and personal success.

JOSEPH PLECK
University of Illinois
at Urbana-Campaign




Effects of Culture and Ethnicity on Father Involvement

The primary objective of this research was to examine how cultural, economic, and attitudinal barriers may impact fathers' "ability to engage" in their children's lives and how to improve measurement tools for studying fathering and related issues in ethnocultural communities. Four major findings emerged from this study. First, newcomer fathers were disproportionately under-employed. This was associated with being less supportive of their children than employed fathers. Second, fathers were less likely to be aware of their children's emotional and social life inside and outside of the home than were their wives. Third, mothers were not aware of the life and work hardships and emotional distress their husbands reported. Finally, the Canadian version of the Achenbach Scales may not be entirely suit-

able to assess children's health and well-being status in ethnocultural communities. Findings from this study support the need for developing programs and services to help support newcomer fathers in their parenting role without compromising their traditional family roles within their culture. Particularly, interventions must begin to address issues around employment equity and male-oriented support mechanisms to ease the acculturation process for newcomer fathers. Furthermore, a need exists to develop culturally appropriate scales to assess health and development (in particular emotional and mental development) of newcomer children in Canada. We suggest modifying the Achenbach's scales by adding culturally-sensitive items.

POURESLAMI, IRAJ
HELP, UBC

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



From Fathers' Notions of Fatherhood to Early Intervention Strategies: When Research Bridges the Gap Between Theory and Practice

**PUENTES-NEUMAN,
GUADALUPE**

Université de Sherbrooke

BRETON, STEPHANIE

Université de Sherbrooke

Recent research underscores the importance of early paternal involvement for children's development, both cognitive and socioemotional. However, neither research nor theory offers a definitive understanding of the "meaning" of paternal involvement. It is thus very difficult to translate knowledge about the benefits of paternal involvement into effective intervention strategies. Through the analyses of fathers' discourse, our research brings together recent theorization about fatherhood and fathers' own ideas about their role in the lives and development of their children. The emergent conceptualization of the role of the father was

then translated into a framework for the creation of an early intervention program designed to support and strengthen the father-child relationship and to favour paternal involvement early in the life of the child. The resulting program responds to the interactive characteristics of fathers and stimulates child development by emphasizing the specific contributions of the father. The proposed communication will present the development of the program and of the underlying theoretical framework underscoring the importance of research as a way of bridging the gap between theory and practice.



Results of an Early Intervention Program Designed for Fathers and their 12–24 month-old Child

**PUENTES-NEUMAN,
GUADALUPE**

Université de Sherbrooke

BRETON, STEPHANIE

Université de Sherbrooke

Early intervention services are recognized as an effective strategy to avert the negative impact of poverty. Most of these programs center on stimulating child development, strengthening parent-child relations and providing parents with adequate parenting skills. In spite of the growing evidence of the importance of paternal involvement for the child's development, early intervention programs continue to address the relational style and the interests and needs of mothers. As a result, fathers are remarkably absent from these services even though they are often invited to participate. This communication

will present the preliminary results of the evaluation of an early intervention program specifically designed for fathers and their toddlers. Thirty father-child dyads were evaluated before and after their participation in a series of 12 bi-weekly workshops. Assessments covered dimensions of child development, parenting practices, parenting stress, parent-child attachment and co-parenting. In addition, each co-animation team composed of a male-female therapist's tandem provided journal entries following each workshop session.



Father Involvement in the Learning of Children With and Without ADHD

The present study examined parental involvement in children’s learning in mothers and fathers of 101 children between 8 and 12 years of age (53 parents of children with ADHD, 48 parents of children without ADHD). Mothers of children with and without ADHD reported similar types and levels of involvement behaviours in the home. In contrast, fathers of children with ADHD reported being more disengaged from their children’s learning and using more coercive and punitive interactions regarding their children’s achievement compared to fathers of children without ADHD. These findings underscore the challenges facing fathers of children with ADHD in supporting their children’s learning in the home. Implications for the practice of school psychology are discussed in relation to helping fathers of children with ADHD effectively assist their children’s academic development.

ROGERS, MARIA
University of Toronto





Father Closeness and Adult Sons’ School/Work Engagement


Young men move through diverse pathways from adolescence into adulthood, seeking successful engagement with school and work despite substantial risks. Research is limited on how families can help to stabilize their transitions into adulthood. Specifically, what are the effects of early and later paternal involvement on sons’ connection to school and work during young adulthood? We use a sample of young adult men (ages 18-24) (n = 1050) from the NLSY 79 Young Adult study to examine these intergenerational influences. Connection to school or work is measured as a dichotomous variable; if young men work less than 20 hours per week or do not attend school, they receive a score of 0, and if they are employed more than 20 hours per week or attend school, they receive a score of 1. Preliminary

binomial logistic regression analyses indicate that closeness with father in adolescence – but not young adulthood – is associated with young adults’ participation in post-secondary education and in employment. These effects hold even after controlling for involvement with mothers in adolescence and young adulthood. Further analyses will examine how father involvement in adolescence and young adulthood predict highest grade completed in school and young adults’ level of employment, based on number of hours employed and wages earned. Implications for theory and practice will be considered, including effects of timing of paternal involvement; importance of accounting for closeness in measures of father involvement; and conceptualization of paternal involvement over the life course.

ROY, KEVIN
University of Maryland

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



Vital Communities; Vital Support

RUSSELL, CAROL CRILL

Invest in Kids

Invest in Kids completed a year's study of vital communities, where parents of young children feel supported in their parenting role. We commissioned a literature review, conducted key informant interviews and focus groups of fathers and mothers, then fielded a national survey of 3000 parents about what they want and need to be and feel supported in their parenting role. We found parenthood triggers a search for 'community' in parents' physical neighbourhoods. What surfaced is an alarming gap between parents' ideal community and daily reality. The large majority of parents do NOT feel supported by their community, not by programs and most definitely not by the attitudes, beliefs and behaviours of people living around them. The gap frequently manifests itself as an overwhelming sense of detachment, and feelings of isolation in their parenting role.

The survey focuses on important subpopulations of parents: provincial comparisons; high and low income and education; partnered and single parents; older and younger parents; those with older and younger children. This survey uniquely includes 1000 partnered fathers and 100 single fathers.

The presentation examines fathers' involvement in parenting, positive and punitive parenting behaviour, parenting confidence, knowledge about how children grow and develop, as well as barriers to programs and how these relate to supporting fathers. The presentation concludes with strategies community leaders and policymakers can utilize to improve support for fathers.

GOAL OF THE PRESENTATION: to energize audience with knowledge and strategies to provide fathers with the vital support they need to be and feel supported in their fathering role.



The Importance of Infant Sleep for First-time Fathers

SEVIGNY, PHILLIP

University of Regina

BATHGATE, ANGELA

University of Regina

LOUTZENHISER, LYNN

University of Regina

Though it is widely understood that infant sleep patterns can affect the quality of family life, recent research has demonstrated that differences exist between mothers and fathers. Specifically, it appears that infant sleep may be related to fathers' psychological functioning and perceptions of family functioning more so than mothers. This current exploratory study sought to better understand how important infant sleep may be to the psychological and relational well-being of new fathers. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 12 first-time fathers with infants up to 10 months of age. Fathers were asked about their pre-natal expectations of infant sleep patterns, and how well these expectations

matched the reality of their infant's sleep. Fathers were asked how infant sleep and life with their infant was related to their mood and their relationship with their spouse. All fathers reported expecting that their infants would not sleep well and as such, they would be tired. However once their infant was born, their actual experiences varied according to their infants' sleep patterns and daily schedules. Fathers reported that their infants' sleep patterns affected their mood and their relationships with their spouses in a variety of ways. Directions for future research and implications for possible intervention/prevention programmes are discussed.

○ Father Involvement in Parent Education Programs in BC

Recent research which looked at father involvement in parent education programs in BC will be presented. This research revealed that out of 17 identified parent education programs, only 4 had direct father involvement information and many of the others presented a father-deficit/mother-expert paradigm. The focus of the workshop will be:

- » Reviewing the four programs that were providing father involvement in the context of a formal program; the type of content they include, the strengths and challenges seen in those programs, and how those programs hold the possibility of being a model for other parent education programs to consider.
- » Analyzing how one of the programs that included father involvement in the program works.
- » Considering other avenues that support fathers in the absence of formal programs.

The workshop will allow for discussion of the following questions:

1. Should we be developing new programs specifically for fathers?
2. Or should the existing programs be adjusted so that they work with both mothers and fathers? What about additional training for program facilitators in father-friendliness/sensitivity? Or additional content on how important father-involvement is.
3. Or are formal programs not the best way to support father involvement? What other models are working to support fathers in parenting?

SHEFTEL, DAVID
BC Council for Families
Father Involvement
Network of BC

□ The Father's Network: Reaching Out to Fathers in Newfoundland

The Father's Network is a six week parenting program developed and facilitated by male clinicians at the Janeway Family Centre, Eastern Health in St. John's, Newfoundland. With a recognition that fathers' social networks provide them with less encouragement and fewer resources relevant to parenting (Parke, 2002), and that fathers tend to be underrepresented in traditional parenting programs and family therapy sessions, this group was created in 2003 as an innovative way to engage fathers. Combining both supportive and psychoeducational approaches, the program uses a group format to discuss:

1. Research illustrating the importance of fathers;
2. Positive parenting practices; and

3. Father/mother relationships. Images of fathers in popular culture (e.g., Homer Simpson, Bill Cosby, Tony Soprano) are presented in a variety of formats as a unique way to facilitate group discussion of personal experiences, societal attitudes towards fathers, gender stereotypes and the unique experience of fatherhood.

Since its inception, the Father's Network has evolved into a core program with a steady stream of referrals of dads from a variety of backgrounds. Funded by a generous grant provided by Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), we will be training men in rural regions of our province to become facilitators of this program commencing in the Fall of 2008.

SINGLETON, DEREK
Janeway Family Centre
Eastern Health

JEANS, DAVID
Janeway Family Centre
Eastern Health

OLDFORD, JIM
Janeway Family Centre
Eastern Health

□ *paper*

□□ *panel*

□ *poster*

○ *roundtable*

△ *workshop*



Teen Dads' Challenges and Support from a Community Based Research (CBR) Perspective

SOPCAK, NICOLETTE
University of Alberta

It is well documented that children of positively involved fathers show higher levels of cognitive development and social competence, and fewer depressive syndromes (Dubowitz et al., 2001; Lamb, 2004). Moreover, the absence of a positive father figure appears to have a negative impact on children's outcomes, specifically in vulnerable families (Pederson et al., 1979; Reifman et al., 2001). Teen dads are considered to be vulnerable, since they often face economic and educational deprivation (Mollborn, 2007), are more likely to be in unstable relationships with their partners, and struggle to "provide emotional and financial support for their children" (Thornberry et al., 1997, p. 520). In order to improve teen families' welfare and their children's outcomes, teen dads must be involved and supported. Although the need to provide and increase

support for teen fathers has been identified in research and practice (Dudley, 2007), to effectively meet teen fathers' needs and to support them continues to be a challenge for service providing agencies (Long, 2003; Smillie, 2004).

Employing a Community Based Research (CBR) approach, this study explored successful and unsuccessful factors, as viewed by clients and staff, of a non-profit agency in Western Canada that has sustained and expanded its teen dads program over the last nine years despite numerous challenges and barriers, such as insecure and insufficient financial funding and attached social stigma. This study contributes to research and practice in providing a blueprint for other agencies that lack best practices in how to successfully integrate (teen) fathers in their services.



Manufacturing Ghost Fathers: Fathering and Exclusion in Child Welfare

STREGA, SUSAN
University of Victoria

BROWN, LESLIE
University of Victoria

WALMSLEY, CHRISTOPHER
Thompson Rivers University

DOMINELLI, LENA
Durham University

Although there is much talk about the 'involved father' in popular culture, men (including birth/biological fathers, stepfathers and men who provide emotional, financial or social support to children) continue to be curiously absent from child welfare work. In this workshop, we summarize our investigations into child welfare practices, policies and discourse concerning fathers whose children come to the attention of child welfare authorities. We analysed child welfare files, reviewed child welfare and related policies, conducted individual interviews with fathers and focus group interviews with child protection social workers. In common with previous researchers (Featherstone, 2003; Riskey-Curtiss & Heffernan, 2003; Scourfield, 2003), we found that child welfare often fails to engage purposefully with men, either as risks or as

assets, while continuing to hold mothers responsible for most aspects of family functioning. Our research results demonstrate how existing child welfare policies, education and professional practices contribute to this situation. Specific learning objectives for the workshop include: understanding the gender, class and race biases that underpin father absence and mother blame in child welfare; and exploring strategies (in child welfare practice, policy and education contexts) for engaging more purposefully and constructively with fathers and father-figures. Featherstone, B. (2003) Taking fathers seriously. *British Journal of Social Work*, 33(2), 239-254. Riskey-Curtiss, C. & Heffernan, K. (2003) Gender biases in child welfare. *Affilia*, 18(4), 395-410. Scourfield, J. (2003) *Gender and Child Protection*. Palgrave MacMillan, Houndmills, Basingstoke.



Fathering Experiences of Immigrant/Refugee Ethiopian Men

Immigrant fathers have left familiar and cultural settings of their own and pass through a long process of adapting to a new context that requires reorganizing their lives in the new environment. The adaptation process may demand these fathers to make adjustments to their perceived role of a father. These fathers may be ill equipped and appear to be struggling to discharge their roles within the resettlement environment. Despite the increasing number of newcomers from diverse backgrounds to Canada in recent years, there is a limited research-based information and guiding professional literature that explores how immigrant and refugee men practice fatherhood. This appears to have created a knowledge gap as to what the

support needs of these fathers are and as to what modalities of intervention could best fit to their needs. In the absence of this, professionals are left to rely on their own experiences, biases and concerns as to how to deal with these fathers. Based on in-depth interviews with 10 Ethiopian immigrant/refugee men recruited through a criterion sampling process based primarily on length of residency in Canada and age of children, this paper examines their perceptions and experiences of fatherhood in Canadian society. Insights on the parenting styles and obstacles facing these immigrant fathers as well as on the opportunities and the aspirations they have for their children in Canada will be discussed.

TACHBLE, ADMASU
University of Calgary




Father's Experience Fathering Middle School Aged Children


Literature on fathering has generally approached the topic by describing the effects of father's presence, or lack thereof, in the lives of the children. These studies are typically conducted using a quantitative lens, which may reduce the individuality and richness of our understanding of reasons behind fathers' participation in caring for their children. Although research shows that the period of time for children transitioning from elementary to high school can be a challenging time in the child's life, research also shows that this is the period of time where there is the least amount of father participation to support the children. The research project presented here employs a qualitative focus group strategy for exploring the lives of eleven fathers who have

children between the ages of ten to fifteen years old. In the discussion, the participants were asked about their lived experience of fathering children in this stage of life. As anticipated by the Generative Fathering model, the results suggest that fathers do have the skills and abilities required to parent effectively. These results also imply that distancing occurs between father and child during this time because of the uncomfortable and often negative and contemptuous reactions that fathers have to the emotional instability of their children at this age. This research focused in part on the sub-population of fathers who are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, a community that places high value on the relationships within the family.

TIMMS, JAY
Trinity Western University

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



Maintien de l'engagement Paternel Après la Rupture Maintaining Paternal Relationships After Separation

TREMBLAY, GILLES
Université Laval

ALLARD, FRANCINE
Direction de la santé publique
de la Capitale nationale

Les ruptures d'unions touchent un ménage sur deux. Près de la moitié des pères non gardiens au Canada perdent rapidement tout contact significatif avec leurs enfants. À partir du discours de pères séparés vivant en contexte de pauvreté et qui se considèrent comme engagés envers leur enfant, sont étudiés les éléments ayant favorisé le maintien de leur engagement et les stratégies déployées dans un contexte adverse. Des mères séparées vivant aussi en contexte de pauvreté, non appariées aux pères, ont également été interrogées sur ce sujet. L'étude visait à comprendre ce que représentait pour ces mères la notion de père engagé après la rupture. L'analyse révèle en outre comment se construit leur influence en vue de la continuité de l'engagement du père et comment elle se manifeste au quotidien? Parmi les résultats, émerge le besoin d'approfondir l'étude de l'engagement paternel en contexte de violence conjugale. Les enjeux émergeant du discours des pères et des mères sur le maintien de l'engagement paternel après la rupture seront présentés et discutés au cours de la conférence.

Separations affect one in two households. Almost half of all fathers in Canada who do not have custody of their children quickly lose all meaningful contact with them. Based on the views of separated fathers living in poverty who consider themselves to be involved in their children's lives, the factors encouraging the maintenance of relationships and the strategies employed in adverse circumstances were studied. Separated mothers living in poverty, who were not the ex-partners of the fathers interviewed, were also questioned on this subject. One of the aims of the study was to understand what the concept of a father being involved after a separation meant to these mothers. The analysis also revealed how they influenced the father's continuous involvement and how this could be seen in everyday life. It emerged in the findings that a more detailed study of paternal relationships in the context of domestic violence was needed. The issues that arose from the interviews with fathers and mothers regarding the maintenance of paternal relationships after a separation will be presented and discussed during the conference.



Between Political Correctness and Actions

TREMBLAY, JEAN-PHILIPPE
Université du Québec
en Outaouais

This study focuses on the perceptions of practitioners working with vulnerable fathers. The research was conducted with 60 practitioners (having a minimum of 3 years experience) coming from 3 types of institutions: Youth Center (N = 11), CLSC (N = 29) and Community agency (N = 20). The results of quantitative and qualitative analyses suggest the coexistence of diversified perspectives on vulnerable fathers:

identification of unfavourable biases towards the fathers, recognition of the importance of those for the wellbeing of the child, critiques of the cultural and social models for fathers, and critique of the approach of services that traditionally center on the mothers. Consequently, a vast majority of the practitioners have developed strategies for supporting the inclusion of fathers in their interventions.



Shaking The Family Tree: Understanding Obstacles Faced By Gay/Bi/Queer Dads and Their Families Abstract

There is little research on the experiences of Canadian gay/bi/queer men as fathers, and thus little to no discourse around obstacles faced and supports needed for these dads and their families. The Father Involvement Research Alliance's Gay/Bi/Queer Fathers Cluster research project has taken steps to bring some of these experiences and needs to light. In this workshop we will report on emerging themes from the cluster's research, which involved three groupings of gay/bi/queer men – those who had children in the context of heterosexual relationships; those who became fathers in the context of a gay/bi/queer identity; and those who are not yet fathers. From these themes we will explore ideological and practical challenges faced by gay/bi/queer

dads and their families, as well as implications for policy and practice for parenting and fathering institutions. How do we create families? Why are these methods and configurations invisible? How do homophobia and gender stereotyping affect entitlement and support? What supports are these men seeking? What are implications for our children? How are LGBTQ communities organizing to support these men and their families? What commonalities and challenges do these dads bring to father involvement movements? What are implications and recommendations for policy makers, schools, family creation services, and other family support related institutions?

VELDHOVEN, CHRIS
The 519 Church Street
Community Centre

CARR, PAUL
Gay Fathers of Toronto

EPSTEIN, RACHEL
Sherbourne Health Centre



Fathering in the Early Years: How Family Physicians Can Help


An increasing amount of research indicates the importance of fathers in their children's intellectual, emotional and social development in the early years from birth to six years of age. At the same time, there are few programs to assist fathers to develop their parenting skills. Fathers are often unaware of the importance of their regular contact with their child. Community-based programs are limited to English-speaking fathers whose children were between one and six years of age but pilot programs have now been developed with the many multicultural communities, especially recent immigrants. Several of the language programs now invite mothers, grandmothers and grandfathers to attend because grandparents often provide parenting to their grandchildren when both parents are in the work force.

The FOCUS ON FATHERS programs for fathers of children from birth to six years of age were set up in 1999 because of the content of programs includes topics such as attachment, unexpected illness and disability, postpartum depression, effective parenting, dealing with anger, conflict resolution and problem solving. The goals of this workshop include:

1. To review the evidence on the importance of fathers in child development
2. To network with other family physicians on the topic of the challenges of involving fathers child rearing and healthy families
3. To have an open interactive discussion on fathers' programs across Canada, including the FOCUS ON FATHERS program

WATSON, WILLIAM
St. Michael's Hospital, UofT

BADER, EDWARD
Catholic Community Services
York Region

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*



Fathers Forgotten: Swedish Child Health Care Clinics and the Physical Environment

WELLS, MICHAEL
Uppsala University

ENGMAN, JONAS
Uppsala University

SARKADI, ANNA
Uppsala University

In a national survey, the current study examined the physical environment in 31 child health care centers throughout Sweden, from a gender perspective. Digital pictures were taken at each child health care center and critically assessed using semiotic picture analysis. Preliminary results of the manifest and latent analyses of the child health care centers illustrate that although many of the child health care centers have leaflets, brochures, and magazines directed towards children, there is an overly represented sample of leaflets, brochures, and magazines aimed toward

women and motherhood. Additionally, many of the images on the leaflets and brochures show mothers engaged and having fun with their child, while a number of the images of fathers show fathers as non-existent or uninvolved. This study highlights the gender differences in the physical environment in Swedish child health care clinics. Policy makers and child health care staff should keep in mind the important contributions fathers make in their children's lives and reassess how they structure their physical environment so that fathers may feel more welcome.



A Framework for Orienting Services to Separated and Divorced Fathers

WHITEHEAD, DENISE
University of Guelph

ASHBOURNE, LYNDA
University of Guelph

HAWKINS, LINDA
Centre for Families
Work and Well-being

The issues and challenges that fathers face in maintaining a relationship with their children following separation or divorce occur across a number of domains. A useful framework considers how programs and services attend to these various domains: facilitating fathers' parenting, their adaptation to structural changes affecting the entire family, their emotional and legal separation from a partner/significant other or spouse, and their individual emotional and psycho-social needs. Facilitating involvement may, however, require attention to diverse and complex needs. Services might be multifaceted and cover several of these dimensions and may or may not be designed specifically for situations of separation and divorce.

This poster outlines a conceptual framework that outlines how programs and services may address three key domains:

1. supports for psychosocial needs (e.g., depression, loss, self-care);
2. support for parenting (e.g., skills, impact of separation/divorce on children); and
3. support for reconfiguring family structure (e.g., decoupling to co-parenting).

This framework recognizes that the needs of fathers and their families change over time. Children grow and mature, relationships may improve or decline in quality, family structure continues to change, including the incorporation of new (step) family members. We incorporate the importance of time by thinking of the various dimensions as processes rather than static descriptions, and as cyclical or emergent as opposed to stages that are deterministic and describe all fathers' experiences. We also briefly include the systemic issues that determine much of men's experiences of being involved fathers.



Exploring Mothers' Beliefs About Fatherhood

Current research focuses on the benefits of father involvement and how to increase the amount of father involvement within families. Parallel to the father involvement research, is an increased interest in the subject of maternal gate-keeping behaviours, behaviours that mothers engage in which may impede a father's access to his children. Although research in areas of father involvement, maternal gate-keeping and transition to parenthood all seem to agree that maternal beliefs and ideologies are important predictors of paternal involvement in the home, there seems to be little research looking at where mothers' beliefs

and expectations for fathers originate. This study proposes a qualitative study looking at mothers' beliefs about the fathering role and attempts to identify some of the factors that shape these beliefs and subsequent expectations for the fathers of their children. Knowledge generated from this study will potentially have implications for research on father involvement, gender ideology, maternal gate-keeping and transition to parenthood. The results may also impact the development of parent support programs and a greater understanding of the impacts of gender ideologies and socialization.

WILSON, CANDICE
University of Guelph



Fathering When a Parent Travels for Work: Sustaining Connection

In this paper, we will describe father and child relationships in families with school aged children in which a parent works at a job that requires frequent and extensive travel. In a qualitative analysis of a larger, ongoing research project, we will illustrate the diversity and visibility of fathering in these families, as well as point to the extent to which community ties and pressures bear on the family processes we find. In our project of over 30 families thus far, children aged 8-18 were interviewed qualitatively and completed self-report surveys, as did their parents. In this proposed presentation, we will profile firstly the diversity of family patterns when parents are faced with the same work demand, travel. We will next illustrate how such a

work demand puts family processes that are ordinarily taken for granted into the visible sphere of family life. For example, fathers' connections to their children are highly visible when they ensure communication with their children across miles. Furthermore, when mothers' work requires travel, many family members describe fathers delivering children to activities, intentionally scheduling and monitoring these activities. Our data reveal processes of communication, monitoring, and caregiving. For some families, this work is performed by different parents or other adults throughout the work travel cycle, and in such families, it is evident that fathers are highly involved in everyday parenting.

ZVONKOVIC, ANISA
Texas Tech University

RITCHEY, ERIN
Texas Tech University


FOLMER, HOLLY
Texas Tech University


ROJAS, JENNIFER
Texas Tech University


LEE, NAYEON
Texas Tech University

BROOKS, ERIKA
Texas Tech University

MILLS, LINDSEY
Texas Tech University

 *paper*

 *panel*

 *poster*

 *roundtable*

 *workshop*

