Exploring Townsend’s ‘Package Deal’ among Disadvantaged Fathers: Integrating Mainstream Sociological and Critical Gender Theories of Masculinity on Fatherhood

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Background

- Universal Masculinity
  - Townsend’s “Package Deal” (1998)
  - Inequality, structural power, and gender

- Noh’s Institutional Masculinity
  - Power, gender, and institutional

- Multiple Forms of Masculinity (Carval, 1987)
  - Marginalized masculinities
    - The cultural ideal form of masculinity
    - Alternative masculinities
      - Arise as either fast at alienating or reinterpret the ideal type of masculinity and construct other masculinities.

Models of Fatherhood

- Generational Men as the Hegemonic Ideal
  - Noh’s Institutional Masculinity (2006)
  - Townsend (1998)
  - Social integration

- Continuity of Masculinities in Fatherhood
  - Log-linear men’s acquisition and societal expectations results in potential forms of masculinity (Fif and Twen, 2008)

- Class Differences in Fatherhood (Spence and Giller, 2003)
  - Fathers who are most likely to revalue egalitarian ideas are the most likely to engage in “active” parenting

- Social Contexts’ Influences on Fatherhood
  - Marsiglio and Pleck (2005)
  - Townsend (2002)

Guiding Hypotheses

1. Men reporting advantageous positions (either earning at least a bachelor’s degree, earning at least $35,000 per year, and owning a home) are more likely to be generative than those less advantaged.

2. Men with disadvantaged demographic characteristics (i.e., racial minorities) are more likely to be other traditional or marginalized than generative men

3. Researchers report a greater attachment to fatherhood, more egalitarian attitudes, and higher relationship quality with the birth mother are more likely to be generative men

Data and Methods

- Fragile Families and Child Well-being Study
- Prominently Data
- Data File: T CH6
- N=743

- Multinomial Logistic Regression Techniques
  - Model 1: “The Package Deal” (Father’s SES Characteristics)
  - Model 2: Model 1 + Demographic Controls
  - Model 3: Model 2 + Attribute Controls

Measures

- Type of Masculinity: Generative, Traditional, and Marginalized
- Social Independent Variables: Relationship with birth mother
  - Type of Masculinity: Generative, Traditional, and Marginalized
  - Father’s SES Characteristics
  - Marginalized men are the most heterogeneous

- I find evidence supporting three theoretically distinct forms of masculinity
  - Institutional masculinity: The cultural ideal form of masculinity
  - Alternative masculinities: Arise as either fast at alienating or reinterpret the ideal type of masculinity and construct other masculinities.

- Alternative Masculinities
  - Townsend’s “Package Deal” (2002)
  - Nock’s Institutional Masculinity
  - Universal Masculinity
    - The cultural ideal form of masculinity

Typology of Masculinities

- Theoretically motivated through research in fathering masculinity
  - Townsend’s “Package Deal” (1998)
  - Inequality, structural power, and gender

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Current Study

- Do men’s positions across sociodemographic characteristics vary across attitudes?
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Conclusions

- I find evidence supporting three theoretically distinct forms of masculinity
  - Institutional masculinity: The cultural ideal form of masculinity
  - Alternative masculinities: Arise as either fast at alienating or reinterpret the ideal type of masculinity and construct other masculinities.

- Marginalized men are the most heterogeneous
  - Less advantaged Black men who “settle” for caregiving

- Relatively advantaged Hispanic men who might proselytize

Table 1: “The Package Deal” by Masculinity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Sample</th>
<th>Generative Men (n=2215)</th>
<th>Traditional Men (n=642)</th>
<th>Marginalized Men (n=613)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Odds Ratios Predicting Type of Masculinity

- Model 1: “The Package Deal” (Father’s SES Characteristics)
- Model 2: Model 1 + Demographic Controls
- Model 3: Model 2 + Attribute Controls

Figure 1: Predicted Probabilities for Ideal Types

Note.  Demographic and Attitude Controls excluded from table

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