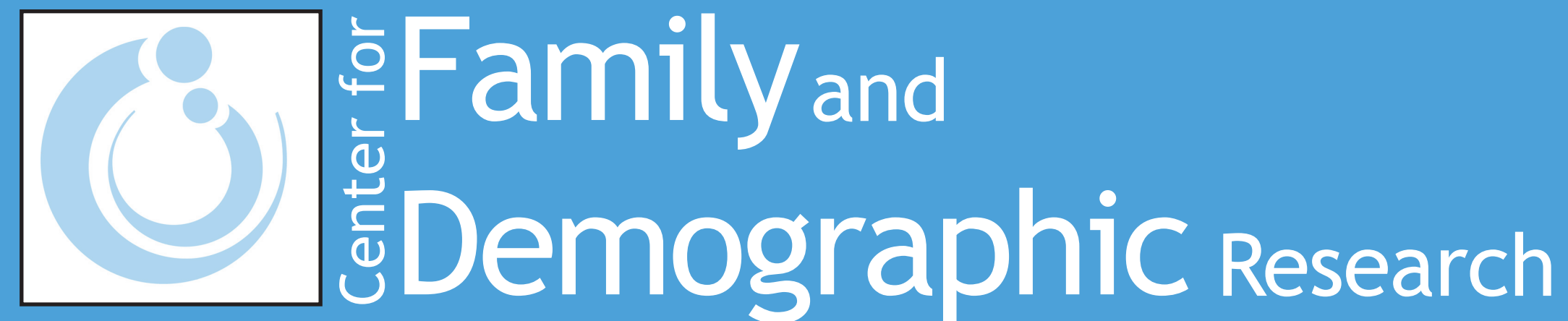


The Role of Father's Masculinity on Relationship Transitions



Kristy Krivickas
Department of Sociology
Bowling Green State University
kmkrivi@bgsu.edu



Current Study

Objectives:

- Use cluster analysis to examine diverging masculinity
- Describe different types of relationship transitions by multiple forms of masculinity
- Examine if masculinity predicts transitioning into less committed relationships
- Test whether race or participation in various social institutions mediates the association between masculinity and relationship transitions

Theoretical Framework

Masculinity and family research:

- Traditional account
 - All-encompassing, ahistorical approach (Nock 1998; Townsend 2002)
 - Idealized view of masculinity
 - Marker of comparison
 - “Package deal” of masculinity: work, marriage, home and children (Townsend 2002)
- Critical feminist account
 - Change over time: intersects with race and class (Connell 2005; Hamer 2001; Kimmell 2006)
 - Hyper-masculine: violent, controlling behavior
 - Contemporary: nurture, material caregiving

Masculinity in Previous Fragile Families Research

- Majority of research only examines a few individual measures. For example:
 - Supportive attitudes towards fathering (Cabrera et al. 2008; Carlson et al. 2008; Wildeman 2008)
 - Emotional control (Woldoff & Cina 2007; Woldoff & Washington 2008)
 - Gender mistrust (Carlson et al. 2004; Waller & Swisher 2006)
- But, no research to date has combined variables to classify men into multiple forms of masculinity

Factors Associated with Relationship Transitions

- Race: Blacks less likely to marry than Whites (Carlson et al. 2004)
- Income: Higher levels of economic security increase likelihood of marrying among cohabiting couples and reduce chances of separation (Osborne 2005; Osborne et al. 2007)
- Incarceration: Reduces chances of co-residing with baby's mother by about half (Western & McLanahan 2000)
- Religious Participation: Father's church attendance increases the likelihood of being married to the baby's mother (Wilcox & Wolfinger 2006)
- Military: Increases likelihood of being married (Lundquist 2004; Teachman 2007)
- Relationship Status at Birth: Children born to married parents have greater parental stability compared to unmarried parents (Osborne et al. 2007; Osborne & McLanahan 2007)
- Parental Relationship Quality: Higher quality relationships less likely to separate and more likely to transition into a more committed relationship (Carlson et al. 2004)

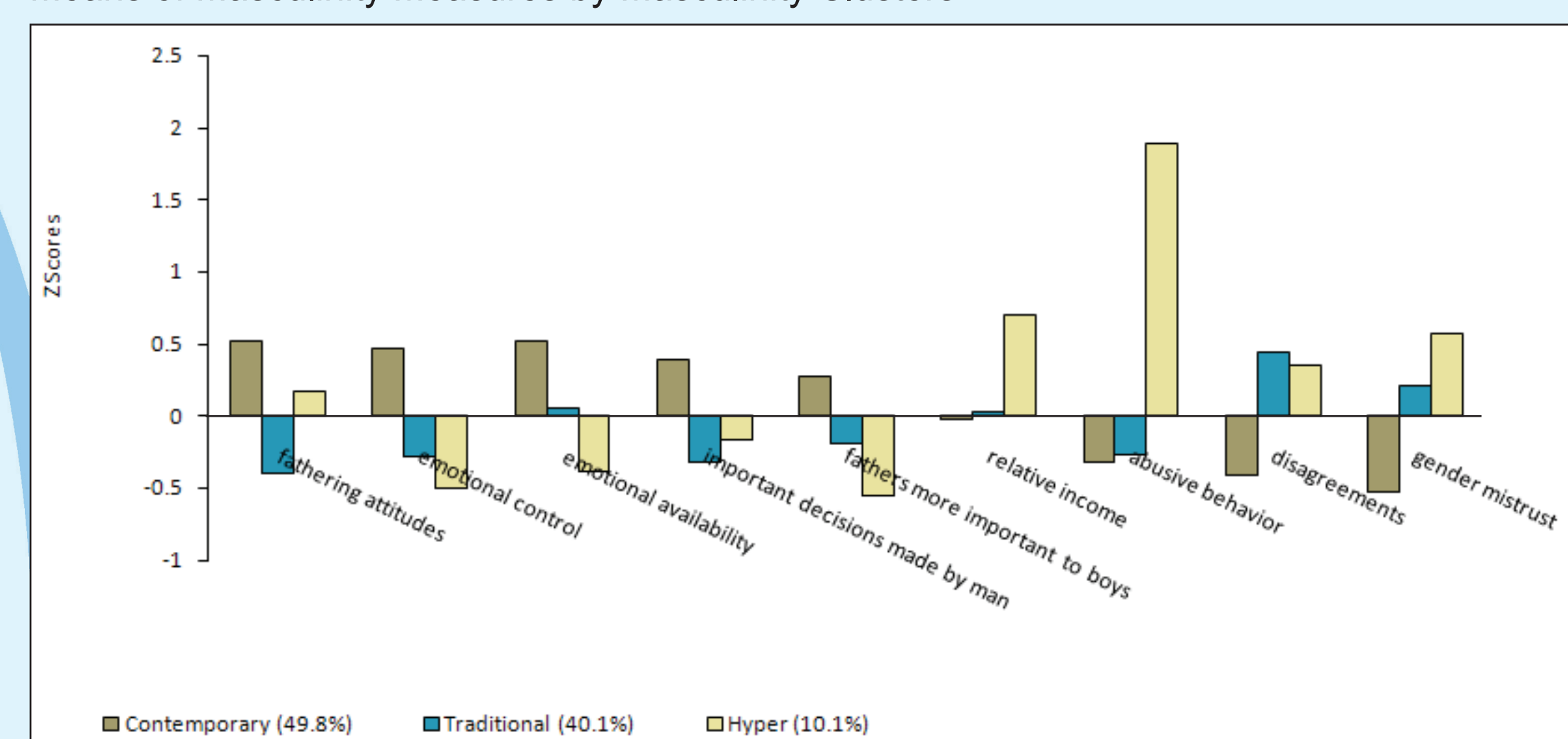
Data and Method

- Fragile Families and Child Well-Being Study (N=1,303)
 - Cohort study of 5,000 children born in large U.S. cities, baseline collected 1998 - 2000
- Restricted to Black and White fathers only with baseline, year one and five interviews
- Method
 - Cluster analysis to create masculinity typologies
 - Logistic regression
 - Predicting those who transitioned into a lesser committed relationship
 - Excluded category fathers who did not transition and fathers who transitioned into a relationship marked by greater commitment

Masculinity Measures

- Supportive attitudes towards fathering
- Emotional control
- Emotional availability to baby's mother
- Egalitarian gender role attitudes
 - Important decisions in family should be made by man of the house
 - Fathers play more important role in raising boys than raising girls
- Mother's relative earnings
- Gender mistrust
- Abusive behavior
- Conflict – number of disagreements

Figure 1
Means of Masculinity Measures by Masculinity Clusters



Cluster Analysis Results

- Contemporary masculinity: group of fathers characterized by what may be considered “positive” aspects of masculinity
 - Those that are emotionally available, have supportive attitudes towards fathering, have few disagreements with their baby's mother, have little to no abusive behavior, and are not distrustful of women
- Hyper-masculine masculinity: group of fathers characterized by “negative” aspects of masculinity
 - Those who exert abusive/controlling behavior towards women, are highly distrusting of women, and show little signs of emotional control or emotional availability
- Traditional masculinity: group of fathers showing slightly more complicated pattern of masculinity
 - Majority of masculinity measures fall in between contemporary and hyper-masculine

Relationship Transitions Results

Figure 2
Relationship Transitions by Masculinity Cluster and Baseline Relationship Status

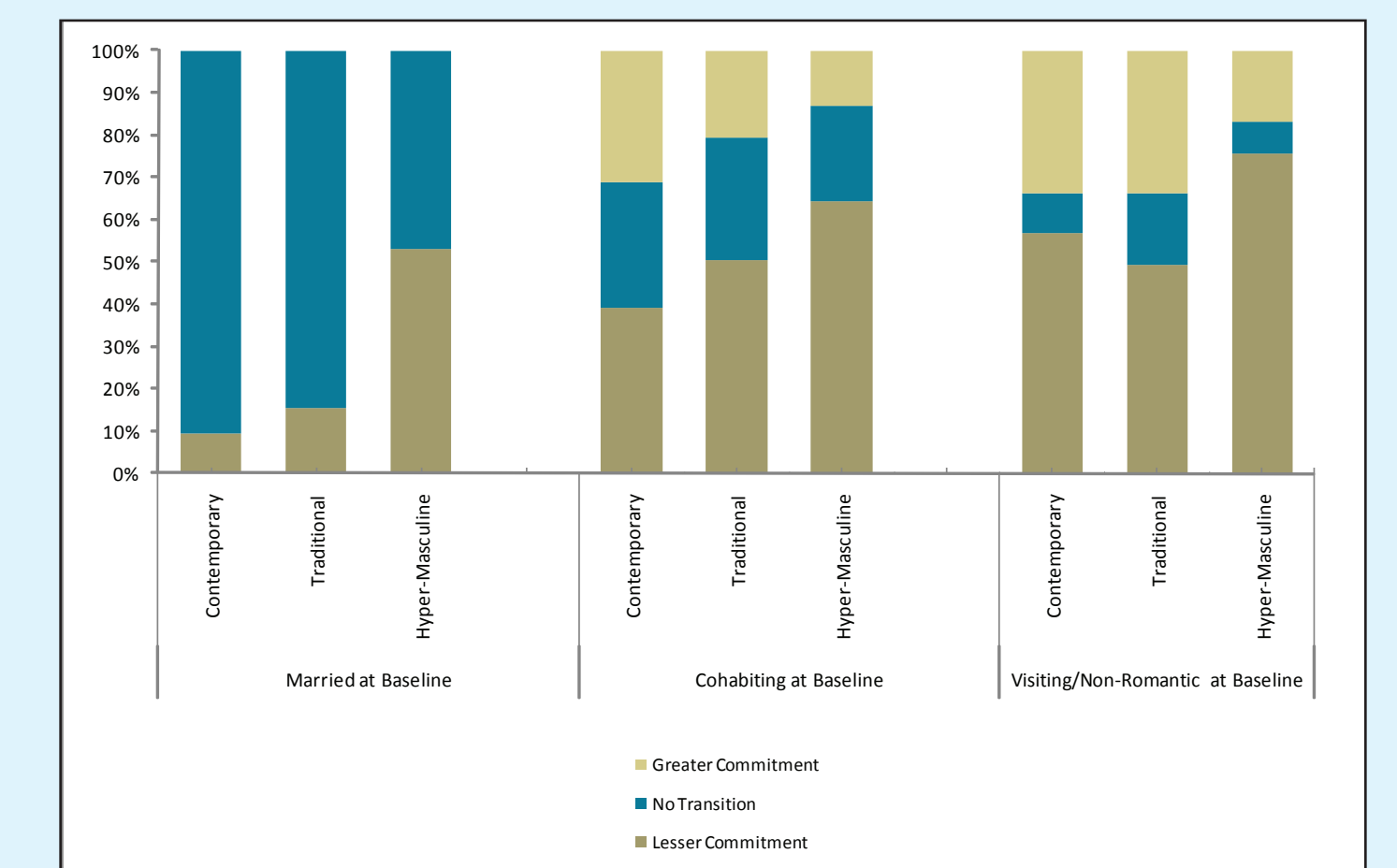


Table 1
Percentages of Types of Relationships from Baseline to 5th Year Follow-Up by Masculinity

Type of Relationship	Overall	Contemporary	Traditional	Hyper-Masculine
Continuously Married	30.90% (403)	43.20% (284)	21.30% (111)	6.50% (8)
Continuously Cohabiting	11.40% (149)	10.80% (71)	12.60% (66)	9.80% (12)
Continuously Visiting or Non-Romantic	10.30% (134)	7.10% (47)	12.90% (67)	16.30% (20)
Married to Lesser Committed	4.50% (58)	4.40% (29)	3.80% (20)	7.30% (9)
Cohabiting to Married	9.90% (129)	11.40% (75)	9.00% (47)	5.70% (7)
Cohabiting to Lesser Committed	18.60% (242)	14.10% (93)	22.00% (115)	27.60% (34)
Visiting or Non-Romantic to More Committed	7.70% (100)	5.50% (36)	10.50% (55)	7.30% (9)
Visiting or Non-Romantic to Lesser Committed	6.70% (88)	3.50% (23)	7.90% (41)	19.50% (24)
Total	100.00% (1303)	100.00% (658)	100.00% (322)	100.00% (123)

Notes: Data source - Fragile Families and Child Well-Being Data Set Baseline and Fifth Year Follow-Up
N's are in parentheses

Table 2
Logistic Models of Lower Commitment Transitions 1 Regressed on Father's Masculinity and Other Covariates

Predictor	Model 1			Model 2			Model 3			Model 4		
Masculinity	B	SE B	e ²	B	SE B	e ²	B	SE B	e ²	B	SE B	e ²
Hyper-Masculinity ^a	1.69 ***	0.21	5.43	0.93 ***	0.23	2.53	0.66 **	0.25	1.93	0.66 **	0.25	1.93
Traditional Masculinity	0.61 ***	0.13	1.83	0.05	0.14	1.06	-0.13	0.15	0.88	-0.13	0.15	0.88
Race and Institutional Participation												
Black non-Hispanic ^c	0.69 ***	0.15	2.00	0.66 ***	0.15	1.94	0.26	0.17	1.30	0.26	0.17	1.30
Ever Incarceration	0.21	0.14	1.23	0.14	0.15	1.15	-0.01	0.16	0.99	-0.01	0.16	0.99
Ever in Military	-0.17	0.21	0.84	-0.14	0.21	0.87	0.04	0.22	1.04	0.04	0.22	1.04
Religious Participation	-0.07	0.05	0.93	-0.07	0.05	0.93	0.04	0.05	1.04	0.04	0.05	1.04
Economic Hardship	1.49 ***	0.21	4.45	1.43 ***	0.21	4.18	1.08 ***	0.22	2.94	1.08 ***	0.22	2.94
Less than High School ^d	-0.02	0.16	0.98	-0.09	0.16	0.92	-0.12	0.18	0.89	-0.12	0.18	0.89
Some College	-0.36 ***	0.16	0.57	-0.36 **	0.16	0.57	-0.46 **	0.17	0.63	-0.46 **	0.17	0.63
College Graduate	-2.05 ***	0.33	0.13	-2.01 ***	0.33	0.14	-1.40 ****	0.35	0.25	-1.40 ****	0.35	0.25
Relationship with Mother												
Relationship Quality							-0.42 ***	0.07	0.66	-0.42 ***	0.07	0.66
Cohabiting with Mother at Birth ^e							0.95 ***	0.20	2.60	0.95 ***	0.20	2.60
Visiting/Non-Romantic Relationship with Mother at Birth							1.00 ***	0.23	2.73	1.00 ***	0.23	2.73
Sociodemographic Controls												
Age							-0.02 *	0.01	0.98	-0.02 *	0.01	0.98
Satisfied with Life							-0.41 ***	0.10	0.67	-0.41 ***	0.10	0.67
Constant	-0.96 ***	0.38		-0.75 ***	0.47		-0.82 ***			-2.13 ***		

Notes: Data source - Fragile Families and Child Well-Being Data Set Baseline and Fifth Year Follow-Up

^a Excluded category for dependent variable is fathers who have no change in their relationship status and those who transitioned into a more committed relationship.

^b Excluded category is Contemporary Masculinity ^c Excluded category is White non-Hispanic ^d Excluded category is High School Graduate

^e Excluded category is Married at Birth

*p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001.

N=1303

Major Findings

- Most common type of relationship is continuously married, with contemporary fathers being most likely to be continuously married at baseline and year-five
- Dramatic variation in relationship types across masculinity
- Hyper-masculinity positively predicts transitioning into a lower committed relationship
- Education and economic hardship are the only measures of social institutional ties associated with moving into a lower committed relationship

Conclusions

- Relationships do differ by type of masculinity
- Hyper-masculine fathers are more likely to transition into lesser committed relationships
- Race and social institutions do not fully mediate the association between masculinity and relationship transitions

Limitations

- Small number of hyper-masculine fathers transitioning into more committed relationships
- Collapsing of relationship categories

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