Fathers and Fathering in Contemporary Contexts
2012 Research Conference Abstract

REFLECTIONS ON RESIDENT FATHERING:
MEANINGS, TRAJECTORIES, PLACE, AND NURTURANCE
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Publications Most Relevant to Presentation

Books


Journal Articles/Chapters


Sample Research Questions for Men’s Experiences as Prospective Fathers


- Prenatal involvement with partner [PIP]
- Child-focused prenatal activity [CFPA]
- Prospective father identity construction [PFIC]

1. To what extent and how did the prospective father discuss his partner’s pregnancy experience with her? [PIP]

2. To what extent did the prospective father discuss breastfeeding, including its benefits for child health, with his partner? [CFPA, PIP]

3. What proportion of the prenatal doctor’s visits did the prospective father attend? [PIP, CFPA]

4. To what extent did the prospective father participate in childbirth preparation classes (general, breast-feeding, car safety, infant care, etc. [PIP, CFPA]

5. To what extent did the prospective father help pay for the prenatal doctor’s visits? [PIP, CFPA]

6. Did the prospective father view a fetal sonogram or four-dimensional image? If so, what was his reaction? [CFPA, PIP]

7. Did the prospective father hear the baby’s heart beat? If so, what was his reaction? [CFPA, PIP]

8. To what extent did the prospective father have a chance to feel the baby’s movements during pregnancy? If so, what was his reaction? [CFPA, PIP]

9. To what extent did the prospective father talk/sing to the baby? [CFPA, PIP]

10. Did the prospective father participate in a baby shower? [PIP]

11. How involved was the prospective father in choosing a name for the child? [CFPA, PIP]

12. To what extent did the prospective father spend money on items for the baby prior to the child’s birth? [CFPA]

13. To what extent during the prenatal period did the prospective father discuss the baby with persons other than his partner? [CFPA, PFIC]

14. To what extent did the prospective father want others to know about his impending paternity? [PFIC, CFPA]
15. To what extent did the prospective father read literature about pregnancy, child development, and fathering? [CFPA, PFIC]

16. Prior to birth, how often and what types of images did the prospective father have of his baby? Was the gender known, and if so, how did this influence images? [CFPA]

17. Prior to birth, how often and what type of images did the prospective father have of interacting with his child? [CFPA]

18. To what extent and how did the father participate in his partner’s labor and the child’s birth? [PIP, CFPA]

Sample Research Questions Relevant to Situated Fathering Perspective

Conceptual Framework—Key Properties

- Primary (5)
  - Physical Conditions
  - Temporal Dynamics
  - Social Structural
  - Private/Public
  - Symbolic/Perceptual

- Secondary (5)
  - Institutional/Cultural Conditions
  - Transitional Elements
  - Personal Power and Control
  - Gender Attributes
  - Fatherhood Discourses

Examples of General Qualitative Questions

1. Would you describe the spaces/places where you spend time with your child? Life course/now?

2. Where are your favorite spaces/places to spend time with your child? Inside/outside home? Why?

3. What sorts of things do you experience when you’re with your child in [specific space/place]? How do you feel? Bonds?

4. What are some unique ways that your child’s behavior changes in different spaces/places?

5. To what extent do you have arguments with your child related to specific spaces/places? Talk to me about them?

6. How do you view your neighborhood and in what ways do your perceptions influence your fathering?

7. What are your most vivid memories of times you spent with your father/stepfather that took place in specific spaces/places?
Examples of Qualitative Questions focused on Context and Transitions (Prison/Deployment and Family/Community Re-Entry)

Note: With a few modifications, this list of questions could be altered to apply to fathers who migrate away from their families/children for work and then return.

1. How did you feel and adapt to coming back to your house/apartment after being (in prison, deployed)?

2. How was being in the apartment or house different from your experiences while you were away (prison, deployment)?

3. During the first month after you returned home from (prison/deployment), how did you adjust to sharing living space with your children?

4. To what extent and how did you get involved in redecorating or rearranging your house/apartment once you returned from (prison/deployment)?