



***FATHERING BEHAVIOR:
MOTIVATION, CHANGE, AND CONSEQUENCES***

SANDRA HOFFERTH, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

In this presentation, I lay out the critical dimensions influencing father involvement in children's lives. I then examine change in fathering over time and critically evaluate research on the impact of fathering behavior. Finally, I describe two new studies suggesting that father involvement and its impact on children's behavior over time depend upon factors such as his gender role attitudes and the child's level of self-regulation. The findings reported are based upon multiple studies conducted over the past decade that used data drawn from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, Young Adult Study, and from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics Child Development Supplement.