



***REFLECTIONS ON RESIDENT FATHERING:
MEANINGS, TRAJECTORIES, PLACE, AND NURTURANCE***

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I selectively illustrate how my theoretical and empirical scholarship informs the social psychological understanding of resident fathers' experiences. My work assumes that efforts to advance fatherhood research and public/private initiatives to promote positive fathering should be anchored in a broad understanding of men's varied and interrelated experiences with conception, pregnancy, children, and romantic partnerships. Thus, I emphasize the value of defining fatherhood broadly while highlighting creative ways to think about and study fathering. My insights are framed by my qualitative interviews with men in the United States and several conceptual frameworks I've generated: *procreative identity framework*, *trajectory model of fathering* (self-as-father, father-child, coparental, and copartner), *situated fathering* (framing fathers' identities and experiences as being affected by space/place properties), and *nurturing fathering as a social arrangement*. With an eye towards showing how these models are relevant to resident fathers, I specifically highlight: a) aspects of stepfathering (paternal claiming and father allies), b) the intersection of fathering and youth work, and c) fathers' nurturance. I conclude by offering suggestions for advancing an interdisciplinary, policy-relevant research agenda on resident fathering and comment on qualitative research issues related to it.