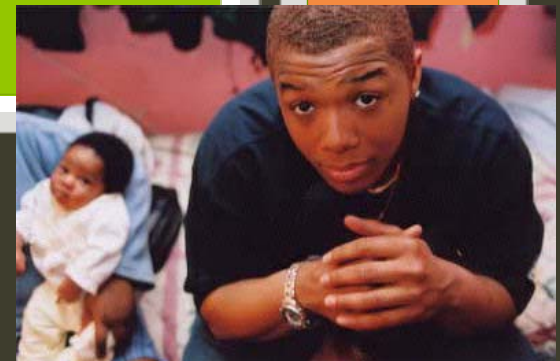
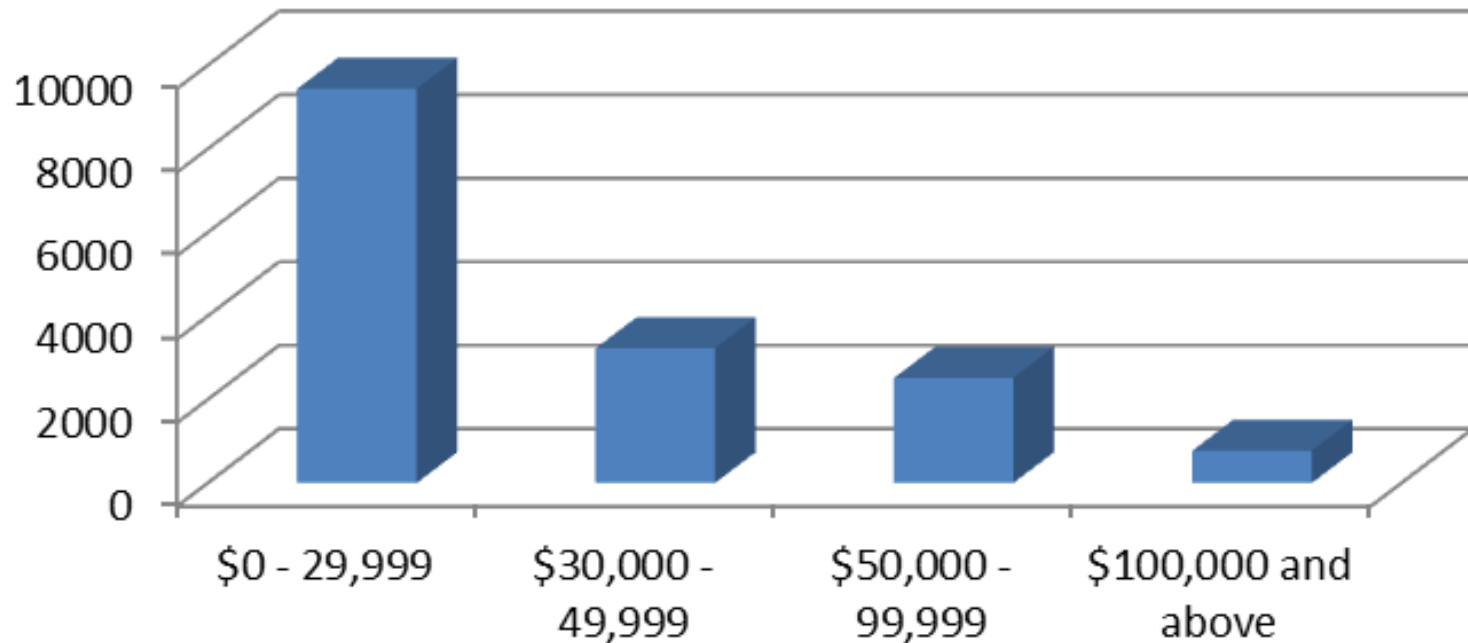


TRANSITORY FATHERING & COMPLEX KIN NETWORKS IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES

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Number of children under 18 living with mother only by family income: 2011



Numbers of children in thousands

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement

Internet Release Date: November 2011

BACKGROUND

- Era of rising inequalities, 1985-2010
 - Inequality in income & resources, employment and educational attainment
 - Incarceration and militarization
 - Immigration
 - “Glocal” economic shifts
 - Family life

QUESTION



- How does fathering on the margins of families and work shape the health and well-being of children, families, and men themselves?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

- Life course (Giele & Elder, 1998)
 - Agency
 - Location in context
 - Linked lives
 - Multiple rhythms of time
 - Individual
 - Generational
 - Cohort



METHODS: SITES AND SAMPLES

Life History Studies

- 150 low-income fathers in 4 community-based projects
 - 40 African American men in a fathering program in Chicago;
 - 40 incarcerated men in a work release correctional facility in Indiana;
 - 35 young African American men in a fathering program in Indianapolis;
 - 35 low-income men from child care programs in Chicago.

Race/ethnicity

66% African American
20% European American
13% Latino

Diversity in age

35%, 18-24 yrs
36%, 25-35 yrs
29%, 36 yrs and older

METHODS: SITES AND SAMPLES



Emerging Adulthood Study

22 African American men, Baltimore GED program

19 Salvadoran men, Langley Park GED program

METHODS

Approach

Processes, contexts, and constructed meanings;
discovery (Denzin & Lincoln, 1994)

Data collection

Fieldwork and participant observation in
community-based programs

Semi-structured retrospective protocol based on
the life history calendar methodology

Analyses

Grounded theory approach with open, axial, and
selective coding

051
 052 (Now usually in that time spent what do you usually do?) In the morning when I pick him up, I usually feed him and change him and things like that and get him to my cousin's, things he needs throughout the day. Spend some time playing with some things or I let him look at a little TV show with some bright colors stimulate him like that then I usually get him ready to go and we go to my cousin's house. When I get there I kind of sit around with him for a little bit before I have to take my mother to work, she has to be at work by 8. So usually get to my cousin's house about 7 and stay till about 7:30 spend a little time with him. Then I take my mother to work and then I begin my day. Then in the afternoon when I go and get him I usually spend at least a good hour and a half at my cousin's house with him. Just seeing how things went throughout the day, playing with him, and playing with my other cousins - she has 3 others. Playing with them and then usually after that I take him over to his mothers. Depending on the time I sit over there for a half-hour or so before going home myself. So it's a pretty good time, he recognizes me, he knows who I am, he acknowledges me, pleased to see me, things like that so I can tell that he distinguishes who I am.

053
 054 (What's that like for you? That he distinguishes you? What does that mean to you?) It means a lot because he's young, and him being able to do that it's developmental and that tells me that genetically, biologically he has an attachment to me being his father and that makes a difference to him as a child he can acknowledge who I am as opposed to other men that he may be around. It's good for the limited time that it is, it's not an all day every day thing that I'm seeing him and for him still being able to make the connection, that means a lot. And as it is that I'm not involved with his mother like that and don't really see it going that way, I'm involved elsewhere right now and that makes a difference as he matures and grows older he'll be able to see who I am in his life.

055
 056 (How is it different? Your relationship with your father? How has that impacted you as you as you look your son?) It's impacted a lot. Often times it seems omniscient to me, it's kind of eerie that the situation becoming a young version of what father was. For whatever reason he was separated from my mother the same time participated in trying to raise me as best he could with the resources and assets he had he out or to help me out or have knowledge of who my family was and things like that. It seems like I'm all since birth for this one because the way that he was brought to my attention and the way that it was acknowledged I was already in a relationship and had no idea. His mother was pregnant from the one time we were together we hadn't talk much and I was under the impression that our relationship at that level was dissolved and anymore. I didn't think to make any effort to contact her and I moved on to a different mindset and me we've been in a steady relationship up until the point that she acknowledged that he was about to be born even knowing it.

057
 058 (So you didn't know, this was a big secret?) Big secret. (Did you have any interaction with her during that period?) Actually one, I was involved with her Christmas break when I came home from school in December via email and a few phone calls after I went back to school in January. And after that point she had

(Now usually in that time spent...
 typical day
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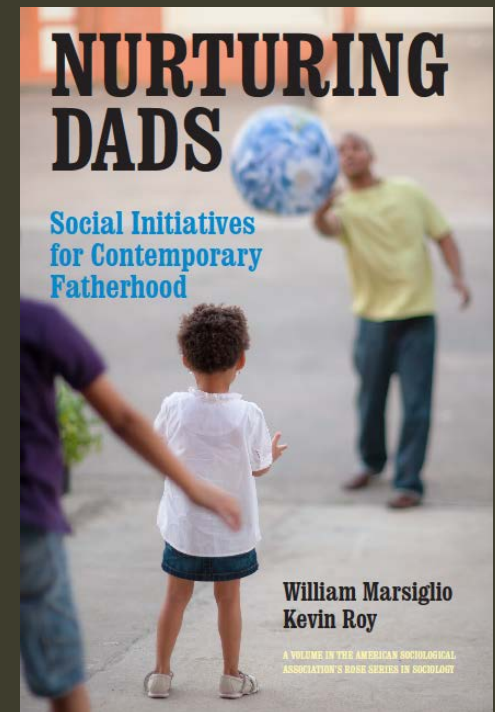
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FATHERING AS NURTURANCE

- Nurture means care—physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual—gauged by one’s conduct and the consequences for children’s positive development. It is responsive to the different needs of children at different ages. Thus nurture is not a static conception. It means more than simply doing; it also means the manner in which things are done, and their results for children. (Dowd 2000)



WELL-BEING OF FATHERS

- Fatherhood as turning point
 - Personal development (Palkovitz, 2002)
 - Central generative experience
- Trajectory/ies over the life course
- Negotiation of risk
 - These fathers are the same boys and adolescents...
 - Being at risk AND being a risk

WELL-BEING OF FATHERS

- Socialization to care work at young age is critical
 - Adulthood as “man of house” (Roy, Messina, Waters, & Smith, 2012; Burton, 2007)
- Young men live in risk of physical violence in their communities
 - Disengagement from risky behavior to protect themselves and their children (Roy, 2004)
- Fathers navigate between mainstream and street expectations
 - Hybrid identity in fathering programs (Roy & Dyson, 2010)

WELL-BEING OF FATHERS

- “New fatherhood” sets high expectations for provision
 - Support from close relationships with their fathers (Roy, Vesely, Fitzgerald, Jones, 2010)
- Inability to provide can lead to depression, shame and guilt
 - Trauma and loss, due to exposure to violence and peer survivorship (Smith & Roy, 2012)
- Nurturing fathers can make amends for mistakes in the past
 - Second chances and difficult past (Maruna & Roy, 2007; Roy & Lucas, 2006)

- I'm going to get [my daughter] what she needs. If I can't get it, then I'm hurt because I can't get something for her. If I ain't got no way else, I'm going back to the bricks. To take care of mine. Got to do what I got to do for mine. Anything, by any means necessary, to do for mine. A man is one who will *take care of his own*.

Bird, 20 yr old father of Angel (11 mo.)

KIN WORK

- Fathers can play central roles as kinworkers
 - Kinscription (Roy & Burton, 2007)
- Mothers help their adult sons to secure involvement
 - Paternal grandmothers (Roy, Dyson, & Jackson, 2009; Madhavan & Roy, 2011)
- Men's relationships with their own fathers differed by cohort
 - Stability, liminality, & inquiry (Roy, 2006)

KIN WORK

- Having children brings unmarried parents together but leaves them in ambiguous relationships
 - Suspension (Roy, Buckmiller, & McDowell, 2008)
- Mother-father relationships are strongest predictors of father engagement with children across households
 - Multiple partner parenting

FAMILY COMPLEXITY (ROY & WALLER, 2012)

Dimension of complexity	Common approach	Qualitative insights
Parenting relationship	Single bio child	All bio & non bio children
Place	Household	Multiple households
Family	Nuclear	Extended kin, all unions
Time	Point in time	Dynamic; longitudinal & retrospective

COMPLEXITY LEADS TO CHALLENGES

- Where are these men?
 - Methodological limitations
- Who are these men?
 - Conceptual limitations
 - Lack of context
 - Snap shot of men's lives
 - Status and stereotypes



STUDYING STATUS? PROCESS?

- Residence as status

OR

- Transitory fathering as process over time

- Marginalized status

OR

- Marginalization as process

- Bad, sick, or injured (Rich, 2011)

[DEBTS]

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