

**CORNELL EVOLVING FAMILY CONFERENCE:**  
**NEW DATA ON FATHERS:**  
**AN EXAMINATION OF RECENT TRENDS IN FATHERHOOD AND FATHER INVOLVEMENT**

September 21 – 22, 2006  
The Statler Hotel, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Policy makers and academics have expressed concern that many men are loosely attached to their children and their children's mothers. Over the past few decades, this concern was linked to high levels of divorce and non-marital childbearing, increases in the share of children being raised in female headed families, and the failure of some biological fathers to provide economic support to their children. At the same time, research suggested that other fathers were becoming more involved with their children, leading scholars to argue that fatherhood in the U.S. was characterized both by men's increased engagement and disengagement. Since these trends were first observed, researchers have been able to draw on new sources of data and from diverse methodological approaches to examine fathers' participation in different types of families and socioeconomic situations. This conference brings together current research that examines fatherhood in its many forms and its impacts for men, children, and families from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. The first session explores the transition to fatherhood, examining the determinants and relationship contexts of men as they become fathers. Sessions two and three will include presentations on what fathers do and provide for their children and families, and the impacts of those behaviors on their children's development. Session four examines the impact of fatherhood on the men themselves from a cultural, economic, and biological perspective. Sessions five and six deal with two important policy questions: what happens when fathers are incarcerated and what programs are effective for incarcerated fathers and their families, and second, what types of programs are effective in facilitating fathering among non-residential fathers? The conference concludes with a sixth session consisting of key fatherhood scholars discussing the future of fathers and the family.

Organized by the following members of the Evolving Family Theme Project of the Institute for the Social Sciences at Cornell University:

Elizabeth Peters, Policy Analysis and Management and Team Leader

Michael Goldstein, Psychology

Claire Kamp Dush, Project Postdoctoral Fellow

Mary Katzenstein, Government

Kathryn March, Anthropology

Maureen Waller, Policy Analysis and Management

Elaine Wethington, Human Development and Sociology

**Thursday, September 21, 2006, The Yale-Princeton Room at the Statler Hotel**

8:30 am Breakfast

**Introduction**

9:00 – 9:15 Welcome and Introduction to the Workshop  
[David Harris](#), Vice Provost for the Social Sciences  
 Executive Director of the Institute for the Social Sciences, Cornell University  
 and  
[Elizabeth Peters](#), Team Leader, Evolving Family Theme Project, Cornell

**Session 1: The Transition to Fatherhood**

Session Chair: [Daniel Lichter](#), Bronfenbrenner Life Course Center and Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

## Lead Papers:

9:15 – 9:40 *The Relationship Context of Early Fatherhood: National Estimates Based on Multiple Surveys*, [Kara Joyner](#), Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

9:40 – 10:05 *Stepfathers as Father Allies: Managing the Multi-father Family*, [William Marsiglio](#), Sociology, University of Florida

10:05 – 10:30 *Low-income Men's Perspectives on Fathering Transitions across Multiple Family Systems*, [Kevin Roy](#), Family Studies, University of Maryland

## Discussion:

10:30 – 10:45 [Lauren Rich](#), Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago

10:45 – 11:15 Group

11:15 – 11:30 Break

**Session 2: What do Fathers Do (and Why)?**

Session Chair: [Sharon Sassler](#), Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

11:30 – 11:55 *Coresidential Father and Mother Involvement with Early Adolescent Children*, [Sandra Hofferth](#), Family Studies, University of Maryland

11:55 – 12:20 *Father's Pre-Natal Behaviors, Pregnancy Intendedness, and Links to Involvement with Infants*, [Jacinta Bronte-Tinkew](#), Child Trends

12:20 – 12:45 *Fathers' Co-Parenting in Low-Income Families: Early Contexts, Frames, and Preferences*, [Maureen Waller](#), Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

## Discussion:

12:45 – 1:00 [Waldo Johnson](#), Social Work, University of Chicago

1:00 – 1:30 Group

1:30 – 2:30 Lunch

**Session 3: The Impact of Fathers on Child Development**

Session Chair: [Michael Goldstein](#), Psychology, Cornell University

## Lead Papers:

- 2:30 – 2:55 [Catherine Tamis-LeMonda](#), Psychology, New York University  
 2:55 – 3:20 *Father Involvement and Children's Behavior in Fragile Families*, [Marcia Carlson](#), Social Work and Sociology, Columbia University  
 3:20 – 3:45 *Does Father's Absence impact African American Youth's Psychosocial Development?*, [Jelani Mandara](#), Human Development and Social Policy, Northwestern University

## Discussion:

- 3:45 – 4:00 [Valarie King](#), Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University  
 4:00 – 4:30 Group

## Break

- 6:00 – 7:00 Wine and Cheese in the Carrier Ballroom Foyer at the Statler Hotel  
 7:00 – 9:00 Dinner in the Carrier Ballroom at the Statler Hotel  
 Keynote speaker: [Ronald Minney](#), Social Work, Columbia University

**Friday, September 21, 2006, The Carrier Ballroom at the Statler Hotel**

8:00 am Breakfast

**Session 4: The Impact of Fatherhood on Men**

Session Chair: [Elaine Wethington](#), Human Development and Sociology, Cornell University

## Lead Papers:

- 8:30 – 8:55 *How do Men's Work Lives Change after Fatherhood?*, [Nan Astone](#), Population and Family Health Sciences, John Hopkins University  
 8:55 – 9:20 *Paternity Leave and Fathers' Involvement with Their Young Children*, [Lenna Nepomnyaschy](#), Social Work, Columbia University  
 9:20 – 9:45 *Is there a Biological Basis of Fatherhood?*, [Anne Storey](#), Psychology, Memorial University of Newfoundland

## Discussion:

- 9:45 – 10:00 [Alan Booth](#), Sociology, Pennsylvania State University  
 10:00 – 10:30 Group

10:30 – 10:45 Break

**Session 5: Fatherhood and Incarceration**

Session Chair: [Mary Katzenstein](#), Government, Cornell University

## Lead Papers:

10:45 – 11:10 *Teaching Parenting Skills to Incarcerated Fathers*, [Carl Mazza](#), Sociology and Social Work, Lehman College

11:10 – 11:35 *Incarcerated Fathers: Pathways from Prison to Home*, [Christy Visher](#), The Urban Institute

## Discussion:

11:35 – 11:50 [Daphne Hernandez](#), School of Public Policy & National Poverty Center, University of Michigan

11:50 – 12:20 Group

12:20 – 1:05 Lunch

**Session 6: Fatherhood and Public Policy**

Session Chair: [Raymond Swisher](#), Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

1:05 – 1:30 *Implementation Perspectives on the Partners for Fragile Families Project*, [Pamela Holcomb](#), The Urban Institute

1:30 – 1:55 *Fathers, Domestic Violence, and Implications for Change*, [Melvin Wilson](#), Psychology, University of Virginia

## Discussion:

1:55 – 2:10 [David Pate](#), Social Work, University of Wisconsin

2:10 – 2:40 Group

**Session 7: Future Directions for Fatherhood Research**

Session Chair: [Elizabeth Peters](#), Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

2:40 – 2:55 [Marc Bornstein](#), Child and Family Research, NICHD

2:55 – 3:10 [Jocelyn Crowley](#), Public Policy, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

3:10 – 3:25 [Joseph Pleck](#), Human and Community Development, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

3:25 – 3:55 Group Discussion