

Drivers and barriers of involved fatherhood: Family characteristics, social class, and country context

1. Several family members shape father involvement, but the most influential is the father's partner. (this dissertation)
2. Highly educated fathers are more involved with both young and adult children, yet with young children they spend more time because they are more gender egalitarian while with adult children they give more advice because their status permits it. (this dissertation)
3. The more their partners are engaged in the labor market, the more men's fathering behavior reflects their early socialization. (this dissertation)
4. Paternity leave policies are written under the assumption that men want to spend more time with their children but are unable to; yet there are many other factors such as educational attainment and early childhood socialization which drive father involvement in addition to the ability to take leave from work. (this dissertation)
5. A generous paternity leave policy that ignores the structural constraints placed on individuals might still be insufficient to get fathers to spend more time with children. (O'Brien, 2009)
6. Research on drivers of father involvement reaches different conclusions depending on which dimension of involvement is being measured. What we measure determines what we find. (this dissertation)
7. Given enough high-quality data, we can answer any question. The hard part is asking the right questions.
8. The principle of 'linked lives' from the life course perspective serves to remind us that all life trajectories are interconnected--even those in individualistic countries. (Dykstra & Hagestad, 2016)
9. Quantitative sociologists treat all father-child interactions as positive. Even though some interactions are antagonistic, on average father involvement does benefit children. (Pleck & Masciadrelli, 2004).
10. In hypothesis testing, the burden of proof is on the alternative hypothesis. In publishing, the burden of proof is on the null hypothesis. The publication bias towards significant findings thwarts scholars' motivation to do unbiased research.
11. Writing a thesis is like raising a child; you start off thinking you know everything and end up realizing you know nothing.