



# REASSESSING FATHERHOOD

NEW OBSERVATIONS ON FATHERS AND THE MODERN FAMILY

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Edited by  
**Charlie Lewis and Margaret O'Brien**

# Reassessing Fatherhood

**Wade C. Mackey**



## Reassessing Fatherhood:

**Reassessing Fatherhood** Charlie Lewis, Margaret O'Brien, 1987 Much recent literature on fathers conveys the optimistic message that men are becoming increasingly involved in family life and that such participation is necessarily beneficial This book contends that evidence for the new father is in reality hard to find and that the paternal role persists in being limited by social institutional and personal forces The book's contributors psychologists and sociologists from Britain Australia Scandinavia and North America examine the problematic nature of fatherhood from three different perspectives Part One examines research evidence from studies of fathers in typical families Chapters look at the history of paternal roles the employment of both fathers and mothers and men's involvement with other members of the family all share the thesis that given contemporary ideologies fathering is necessarily limited Part Two critically reviews research on men who encouraged by enlightened social policy makers have attempted to become more involved in child care and domestic responsibilities The contributors point out the contradictions between the expectations of the policy makers and the realities of family life greater involvement in the home by men usually causes stress and difficulties for other members particularly mothers Part Three considers the position of men in therapeutic settings where the father is often seen as a passive opaque figure with whom it is difficult to work and offers sound advice on how family workers can incorporate men into counselling social work and therapy Two chapters also investigate the role that custody arrangements play in the divorced father's life *Reassessing Fatherhood* provides a fresh and often provocative view of the modern father that will change the complacent and euphoric vision of the new family

*Reshaping Fatherhood* Anna Dienhart, 1998-05-27 Current research on fatherhood often focuses on minimal changes men have made in their participation in family life Anna Dienhart argues that men have indeed made significant changes to their family roles but those changes are often masked in existing discourses on fatherhood In *Reshaping Fatherhood* Dienhart's qualitative study of 18 shared parenting couples explores both men's and women's resourcefulness and shows how these couples have deliberately co-created alternatives to traditional parenting roles Using these narrative accounts Dienhart offers several options for creating a family structure that allows both mothers and fathers to participate actively in parenting Dienhart emphasizes that tag team parenting a common technique that couples use to juggle the responsibilities of a hectic family life relies on both the interchangeability of parental tasks as well as the specialization by preference Dienhart compares shared parenting to a dance that demands continuous revision of the perceptions and activities of fatherhood and motherhood She challenges family researchers to move beyond deficit and comparative model perspectives about the complexities of gendered family life as she offers alternative ideas about division of labor patterns men's relational capabilities in child care the preeminence of men's provider role and traditional notions about gender and politics in families This timely book is ideal for professionals and students in family studies sociology of the family family psychology and gender studies

*Intimate Fatherhood* Esther Dermott, 2014-06-11 Fatherhood is gaining ever

more public and political attention stimulated by the increasing prominence of fathers rights groups and the introduction of social policies such as paternity leave *Intimate Fatherhood* explores discourses of contemporary fatherhood men s parenting behaviour and debates about fathers rights and responsibilities The book addresses the extent to which fatherhood has changed by examining key dichotomies culture versus conduct involved versus uninvolved and public versus private The book also looks at longstanding conundrums such as the apparent discrepancy between fathers acceptance of long hours spent in paid work combined with a preference for involved fathering Dermott maintains that our current view of good fatherhood is related to new ideas of intimacy She argues that in order to understand contemporary fatherhood we must recognise the centrality of the emotional father child relationship that the importance of breadwinning has been overstated and that flexible involvement is viewed as more important than the amount of time spent in childcare Drawing on original qualitative interviews and large scale quantitative research *Intimate Fatherhood* presents a sociological analysis of contemporary fatherhood in Britain by exploring our ideas of good fatherhood in relation to time use finance emotion motherhood and policy debates This book will interest students academics and researchers in sociology gender studies and social policy

**Fragmenting Fatherhood** Richard Collier, Sally Sheldon, 2008-09-05 Debates about the future of fatherhood have been central to a range of conversations about changing family forms parenting and society Law has served an important yet often neglected role in these discussions serving as an important focal point for broader political frustrations playing a central role in mediating disputes and operating as a significant symbolic state sanctioned account of the scope of paternal rights and responsibilities *Fragmenting Fatherhood* provides the first sustained engagement with the way that fatherhood has been understood constructed and regulated within English law Drawing on a range of disparate legal provisions and material from diverse disciplines it sketches the major contours of the figure of the father as drawn in law and social policy tracing shifts in legal and broader understandings of what it means to be a father and what rights and obligations should accrue to that status In thematically linked chapters cutting across substantive areas of law the book locates fatherhood as a key site of contestation within broader political debates regarding the family and gender equality Multiple visions of fatherhood evolving unevenly over time across diverse areas of law emerge from this analysis Fatherhood is revealed as an essentially fragmented status and one which is intertwined in complex ways with the legal cultural and political contexts in which discourses of parenthood are produced *Fragmenting Fatherhood* provides an important and unique resource speaking to debates about fatherhood across a range of fields including law and legal theory sociology gender studies social policy marriage and the family women s studies and gender studies

*Constructing Fatherhood* Deborah Lupton Lesley Barclay, Professor Deborah Lupton, Professor Lesley Barclay, 1997-08-22 It is a very impressive book Its coverage of contemporary discourses of fatherhood is comprehensive The theoretical stance is one that allows for complexity and fluidity The authors write well making even esoteric sociological and cultural theory accessible I recommend it *British Journal of*

Social Work Constructing Fatherhood provides an analysis of the social cultural and symbolic meanings of fatherhood in contemporary western societies The authors draw on poststructuralist theory to analyze the representation of fatherhood in the expert literature of psychology sociology and the health sciences and in popular sources such as television film advertisements and child care and parenting manuals and magazines Men s own accounts of first time fatherhood are also drawn upon including four individual case studies     The American Father Wade C. Mackey,2013-06-29 In The American Father Wade C Mackey documents a wealth of information demonstrating the vast benefits to society when its children are raised in families with fathers The biopsychosocial approach Mackey in human employs is consistent with the current treatment of topics development This approach which is grounded in a variety of diverse sources assumes that we understand little about people when we study them a bit at a time rather the fullness of the individual requires a fullness of examination For example in the cases of fathers we note that humans do not reproduce alone after all we are not an asexual species No human reproduction and its sequelae are social just as clearly as they are biological and involve the whole panoply of psychic function motivation sociability intelligence and the like The evidence marshaled by Mackey indicates strongly that individuals and societies have an essential requirement for something more than mothering they also need fathering Much of the discourse and publication on fathers during the past several decades has been posited on a more is better model of male parenting in which it is seldom stated who it is better for the father the child the mother the couple or the family Further much of this discussion infers that fathers are merely Mr Moms yet this is not so     Handbook of Studies on Men and Masculinities Michael S. Kimmel,Jeff Hearn,Robert W. Connell,2004-07-20 In the past research in the field of gender has mainly addressed issues about women and has for the most part been developed by women Recently the study of gender has rapidly expanded and there has been a growing interest in men s and boys identities conduct and problems The Handbook of Studies on Men and Masculinities is an interdisciplinary and international culmination of the growth of men s studies that also offers insight about future directions for the field The Handbook provides a broad view of masculinities primarily across the social sciences with the inclusion of important debates in some areas of the humanities and natural sciences The various approaches presented in this Handbook range across different disciplines theoretical perspectives methodologies and conceptualizations in relation to the topic of men Editors Michael S Kimmel Jeff Hearn and Robert W Connell have assembled an esteemed group of contributors who are among the best known experts in their particular fields The Handbook of Studies on Men and Masculinities examines the construction of masculinities in four different frames the social organization of masculinities in their global and regional iterations the institutional reproduction and articulation of masculinities the ways in which masculinities are organized and practiced within a context of gender relations and the ways in which individual men express and understand their gendered identities The Handbook is organized in a way that moves from the larger global and institutional articulations of masculinities to the more intimate and personal expressions The

Handbook of Studies on Men and Masculinities provides scholars researchers and students with the most current incisive scholarship available for the men s studies area of gender studies It is a vital resource for those interested in the practical or cultural issues about men boys and gender as well as an excellent addition to any academic library      **Deconstructing**

**Developmental Psychology** Erica Burman,2016-11-22 In this completely revised and updated edition Deconstructing Developmental Psychology interrogates the assumptions and practices surrounding the psychology of child development providing a critical evaluation of the role and contribution of developmental psychology within social practice Since the second edition was published there have been many major changes This book addresses how shifts in advanced capitalism have produced new understandings of children and a new and more punitive range of institutional responses to children It engages with the paradoxes of childhood in an era when young adults are increasingly economically dependent on their families and in a political context of heightened insecurity The new edition includes an updated review of developments in psychological theory in attachment evolutionary psychology theory of mind cultural historical approaches as well as updating and reflecting upon the changed focus on fathers and fathering It offers new perspectives on the connections between Piaget and Vygotsky and now connects much more closely with discussions from the sociology of childhood and critical educational research Coverage has been expanded to include more material on child rights debates and a new chapter addresses practice dilemmas around child protection which engages even more with the raced and gendered effects of current policies involving children This engaging and accessible text provides key resources to inform better professional practice in social work education and health contexts It offers critical insights into the politics and procedures that have shaped developmental psychological knowledge It will be essential reading for anyone working with children or concerned with policies around children and families It was also be of interest to students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels across a range of professional and practitioner groups as well as parents and policy makers      *Men, Gender Divisions and Welfare* Jeanette

Edwards,Jeff Hearn,Prof Jeff Hearn,Jennie Popay,2002-05-03 A fresh look at the balance of responsibilities and control in care giving both in the public and private spheres Using previously unpublished empirical data contributors focus on male experiences of welfare services      **Family Life and Family Policies in Europe** Franz-Xaver Kaufmann,2002 This volume is a comparative study of family change in Europe and its dependency on social policy regimes The authors explore family discourse family law single parents gender relations the new fathers divorce and abortion within the framework of national policies vis a vis the family Conventional wisdom assumes that policy decisions affecting the life situation of a population shape different opportunities for private living particularly in relation to children and the family But the authors argue it would be too simplistic to assume a direct causal link between welfare policies for the family and developments in the family sector Family change is in fact mediated by institutional factors as well as by cultural traditions and political intervention The chapters in this volume deal with the substantial and methodological problems of ascertaining the impact of different

national policy regimes on family change

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