SAM PRINGLE

Head of Research
Fathers Network Scotland
DAVID DRYSDALE
CEO
Fathers Network Scotland
AILEEN CAMPBELL MSP

Minister for Children and Young People
WHAT WE ASK OF YOU TODAY

• Share our Year of the Dad song
• Add our Twibbon to your profile picture
• Please keep your phone silent
• Have a look at the posters and stands
• Tweet about today

#yearofthedad
**PROGRAMME**

- 09.50 am - Families in Scotland – Lynn Jamieson
- 10.05 am - The changing role of fathers in Britain – Margaret O’Brien
- 10.50 am - Break
- 11.10 am - Conversation streams
- 12.45 pm - Lunch and Poster exhibition
- 13.30 pm - Welcome back
- 13.40 pm - What’s good for families? –feedback from the streams
- 14.20 pm - Now what? Discussion with Margaret O’Brien, Lynn Jamieson and Gary Clapton
- 15.00 pm - Good bye
FAMILIES IN SCOTLAND

LYNN JAMIESON
LYNN JAMIESON

Professor of Sociology
University of Edinburgh
Co-director
Centre for Research on Families and Relationships
MARGARET O´BRIEN

Director of the Thomas Coram Research Unit

University College London
The changing role of fatherhood in Britain

Margaret O’Brien
Thomas Coram Research Unit,
University College London
Year of the Dad Conference Edinburgh
12 February 2016
Outline

• Who are British fathers - diversity of father figures
• Trends in fathers’ working lives
• Challenges in delivering leave policies which engage fathers

.............start with recent history
Research: 1970s, 1980s, 1990s
Critique of mother-focused paradigm

- Matri-centred social sciences - mothers and wives
- Exploration of fathers’ and men’s perceptions of the personal
- “when men share housework & child care with women important mechanisms of patriarchy are threatened”

McKee & O’Brien, 1982
Fathers: partners, carers, involved, nurturers, intimate
Anxieties about absent fathers
Proportion of people agree with the statement *men's job earn money, women's job look after home*

UK: N=723.

Source: ISSP Family and Changing Gender Roles IV, 2012.
Cross-national differences in pro-gender egalitarian attitudes in 2012

Men’s job earn money, women’s job look after home

N=907 Sweden; 956 Finland; 2039 France; 723 UK, 1535 Germany; 2531 Spain and 928 Poland.

Source: ISSP Family and Changing Gender Roles IV, 2012.
Who are fathers?
Live births by age group of mother and father, 2014

Note: England and Wales

Fathers in Britain

• 64% of men aged 16-64 are self-report as fathers (biological or social)

• 26% of all men aged 16-64 in the UK report that they live with dependent age children

• 5% of men report non-resident children under 16 years.
Fathers, compared with men who have never fathered a child or played a fathering role, are more likely to:

- Be older
- Be in paid employment
- Belong to a Black or Asian ethnic group, compared with a White-British ethnic group
## Fathers’ Households

### Biological/Social fathers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All fathers living with dependent age children</th>
<th>Married fathers living with dependent age children</th>
<th>Cohabiting fathers living with dependent age children</th>
<th>Lone fathers living with dependent age children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Live with biological children</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live with step-children</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live with adopted children</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live with foster children</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parental involvement

- **Couple fathers**
  - Praises very often: 77%
  - Talks about important things most days: 47%
  - Shouts at children sometimes: 61%
  - Eats evening meal with child most days: 59%
  - Helps with homework most days: 12%

- **Couple mothers**
  - Praises very often: 89%
  - Talks about important things most days: 70%
  - Shouts at children sometimes: 71%
  - Eats evening meal with child most days: 68%
  - Helps with homework most days: 27%
Factors associated with *paternal* involvement

- For fathers in couples a range of factors were associated with involvement with their children:
  - Work status of father
  - Educational attainment of father
  - Marital status
  - Number of children in household
Factors associated with *maternal* involvement

- For mothers similar factors were associated with child involvement.
- *However* whereas unemployed or inactive fathers are *more likely* to shout at their children we find that unemployed or inactive mothers are *less likely* to do so.
Time spent on paid work and family work among fathers and mothers with children 0-14 years. 1971-2010. Hours per day

Ragni Hege Kitterød
2015
Non-resident fathers
Who are non-resident fathers?

Compared with having resident children only, a father is more likely to have non-resident children if:

- They are younger
- They do not live with a partner
- They are have a lower level of educational attainment
- They are not in paid work
- They belong to the lowest socio-economic group with the highest socio-economic group
- They define themselves as not belonging to a religion, compared with those fathers who belong to a Christian, Muslim or Sikh religion
- They rent a property, rather than owning outright or with a mortgage
Four groups of non-resident fathers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engaged fathers (46%)</th>
<th>Less engaged fathers (28%)</th>
<th>Disengaged fathers (16%)</th>
<th>Distance fathers (11%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- At least weekly contact</td>
<td>- Contact once a week or month</td>
<td>- No or very rare contact</td>
<td>- Rare contact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Regular stays</td>
<td>- Most have stays</td>
<td>- No stays</td>
<td>- Most have rare or no stays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Most provide child support</td>
<td>- Most provide child support</td>
<td>- Most don’t provide child support</td>
<td>- Most provide child support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Live less than 15 minutes away</td>
<td>- Live an hour away</td>
<td>- Live an hour away</td>
<td>- All live over an hour away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mainly single</td>
<td>- Mix of family situations</td>
<td>- Mix of family situations</td>
<td>- Mix of family situations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Working lives
• New working patterns for British couples with dependent children – male sole breadwinner family now a minority

• Incidence of long working hours, intensive and unsocial working patterns declining for fathers.

• Transition from a traditional model based on a male dominant economic actor towards a different logic with less role specialization.

Connolly et al 2016
Declining solo father earners “breadwinners”

Note: 2003 for CZ, DE, PL, SK, FR and RO; 2005 for IT, AT and BG; 2007 for IE

Source: EULFS
More mother lead earners

Note: 2003 for CZ, DE, PL, SK, FR and RO; 2005 for IT, AT and BG; 2007 for IE
Includes households where the female is the lead worker – sole female FT or PT earner or FT in a 1.5 earner household.

Source: EULFS
Rates of intensive working for fathers in full-time employment

Source: EULFS
Leave - part of a father-sensitive work-family policy
Fathers, paternity and parental leave

Policy

• *Paternity leave* a statutory entitlement to enable a father to be absent from work for a period of time when a child is born.

• *Parental leave* a statutory entitlement to be absent from work after initial early maternity and paternity leave.

Family level

• Macro/ distal context to enhance *paternal availability* to infant with the potential for direct *paternal interaction* & financial *paternal capital*

• Macro/ distal context for optimal “infant quality of life” and gender equity.

Globally popular but challenges

- **Leave architecture** - individual, non-transferable, high income substitution works for take-up but costly
- **Path dependency** important
- Radical changes can happen but can be **fragile**
- **Growing research base**
  
  *Moss & Deven 2015*
1976 Maternity Leave

1998 UK opt-out of Working time directive

1999 Parental Leave (EU directive)

2003 Paternity Leave

2003 Right to request flexible working

2006 Additional Paternity Leave (mother’s discretion)

2006 Extension of Parental Leave (EU Directive)

2013 Shared Parental Leave (mother’s discretion)

2015 Extension of Parental Leave (EU Directive)

40 Years
What do we know?

• More studies published over last 10 years - comparative & within country policy analysis of implementation, impact, and experiences

• Impact research has methodological challenges
Impact: country level natural experiments

• Men who had last child born in year after Norway father quota in 1993 report 11% lower levels of conflict about housework & 50% more likely to share clothes washing than men who had last child just before reform (Kotsadam & Finseraas, 2011)
Impact

• Taking some leave (2 or 4 weeks) increased likelihood of Australian fathers engaging in sole care at weekends when child was older 4-19 months (Hosking et al, 2010)

• Being home alone enhances fathers awareness of infant life “slow time” (Brandth & Kvande, 2003)

• New book - O’Brien & Wall 2016 Fathers on leave alone
Fathers on leave alone

• Qualitative case studies in 11 countries
• Insights of the experience of fathers taking leave alone in a wide range of policy niches

(O’Brien & Wall, 2016)
Fatherhood in flux

Fathers – 20th century transition cultural scripts from ‘father right’ to ‘father love’

21st century agenda

How to care & work?
Fathers’ “two worlds” of work and family

Father-sensitive work-family research & policies
The team

Dr Matt Aldrich (University of East Anglia) Matthew.Aldrich@uea.ac.uk
Professor Sara Connolly (University of East Anglia) Sara.Connolly@uea.ac.uk
Eloise Poole (NatCen) Eloise.Poole@natcen.ac.uk
Dr Svetlana Speight (NatCen Social Research) Svetlana.Speight@natcen.ac.uk
Tomas Cano-Lopez (University of Barcelona)

Website
http://www.modernfatherhood.org/
Fathers, Work and Families in the 21st century
Thank you!

Professor Margaret O’Brien

• m.obrien@ioe.ac.uk
PROGRAMME

10.50  Break
11.10  Conversation streams
       What children need from dads – Pentland
       What dads need in adversity – Duddingston
       What dads need at work – Holyrood
       What mothers want from fathers – Salisbury

12.45  Lunch and Poster exhibition
13.30  Welcome back
13.40  What’s good for families? feedback from the conversation streams
14.20  Now what? Reflections with Margaret O´Brien, Lynn Jamieson and Gary Clapton
15.00  Goodbye