Fathers of Daughters

A Narrative Inquiry into the Experiences of Migration & Settlement/Acculturation

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Why?

- Fathers/Fatherhood
- Fathers/Daughters
- Migration
Background

- Past fatherhood research trends focus on child outcomes (Este & Tachble, 2009)
  - Fathers’ presence
  - Fathers’ roles
  - Father involvement
- Expert discourses tend to pathologize fatherhood (Lupton & Barclay, 1997)
- Need to understand processes and contexts of transitions in fatherhood (Palkowitz, 2008)
- Limited exploration of the impact of immigration on fathers (Koh & Wang, 2009)
- Father identity reaffirmed or challenged through migration (Dyck & Dossa, 2006)
Background...

- Salient issues of newcomer populations - migration & acculturation – process is significant and is described as critical life event, stressful
- Parenting studies influenced by parenting style (Baumrind’s typology); focus on control
- Themes
  - Transitions – Disrupted family dynamics, role changes
  - Parenting
  - Fatherhood
  - Adolescence – dissonant acculturation
  - Gender scripts
Guiding Question

- **Purpose** – to explore the experiences of fathers of daughters during migration and adaptation to a new country.

- **Question:**
  - How do newcomer fathers story and re-story their relationships with their adolescent daughters during the processes of migration and settlement?
Plan of Inquiry

- **Narrative Inquiry** (Clandinin, 2007; Clandinin & Connelly, 2000)

- Recruitment of 4 participants – newcomer fathers of adolescent daughters
  - In Canada 10 years or less
  - Daughter was 12 to 16 years of age at time of migration

- Data collection via conversation and dialogue
Approach to Analysis

- Interpretive-analytic process of moving back and forth between field texts, interim research texts, and research texts shaped by questions of meaning and social significance

- Reflective analysis
  - Synthesis of my own and the participants’ stories of their experiences will evolve into a co-constructed narrative
  - Highlighting relational orientations of a three-dimensional narrative inquiry space (interaction, continuity, and situation) in four directions (inwards, outwards, backwards, forwards)
Challenges

- Literature Review
- Beginning inquiry with exploration of fathers’ experiences
- Standpoint of researcher - researcher/participant – dynamic emerging relationship
  - Trust established through a continuously negotiated relationship throughout the inquiry
- Gender of researcher/interviewer
- Confidentiality & anonymity – boundaries of narrative not clear-cut
  - Ethical imperatives arise from the collaborative, reflective process
Significance for Nursing

- Parenting not well explained in nursing literature (Gage, Everett, Bullock, 2006)
- Nursing studies of fathers focus on transition to parenthood and early childhood
- Need to shed light on cultural, economic, socio-psychological aspects of fatherhood.
- Need to understand and theorize the ontological and socio-cultural meanings of fatherhood
Significance for Nursing...

- Study can inform nursing practice
- Nurses work closely with families – infants, children, adolescents, and their parents
- Nurses who work with individuals and families need theoretical as well as practical understanding of parenting processes that influence health outcomes.
- Analysis of stories (narratives) can capture meanings that can then be used by health care providers to make assessments and provide care (Frank, 1996)
“The narrative rises or falls on its capacity to provoke readers to broaden their horizons, reflect critically on their own experience, enter empathetically into a world of experience different from their own, and actively engage in dialogue regarding the social and moral implications of the different perspectives and standpoints encountered”