



**YEAR
OF THE DAD**

WELCOME



SAM PRINGLE

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Fathers Network Scotland



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CEO

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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
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University College London





The changing role of fatherhood in Britain

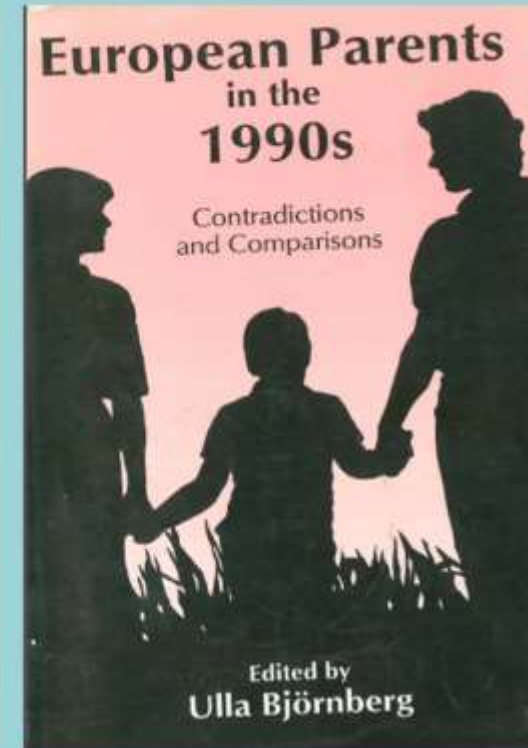
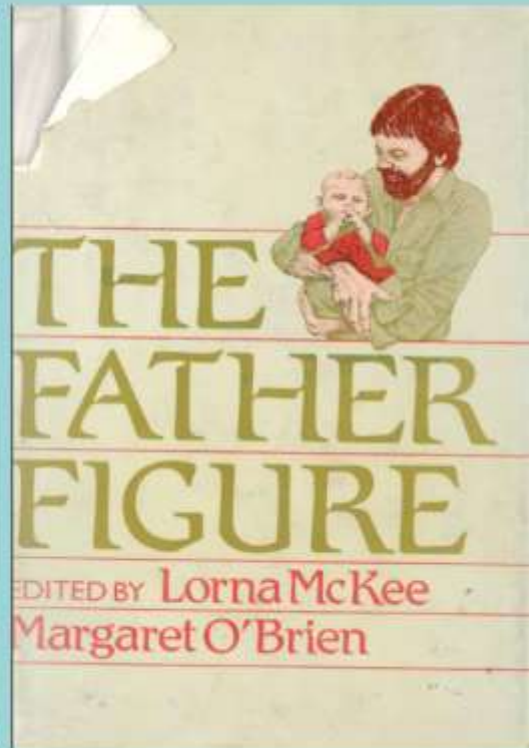
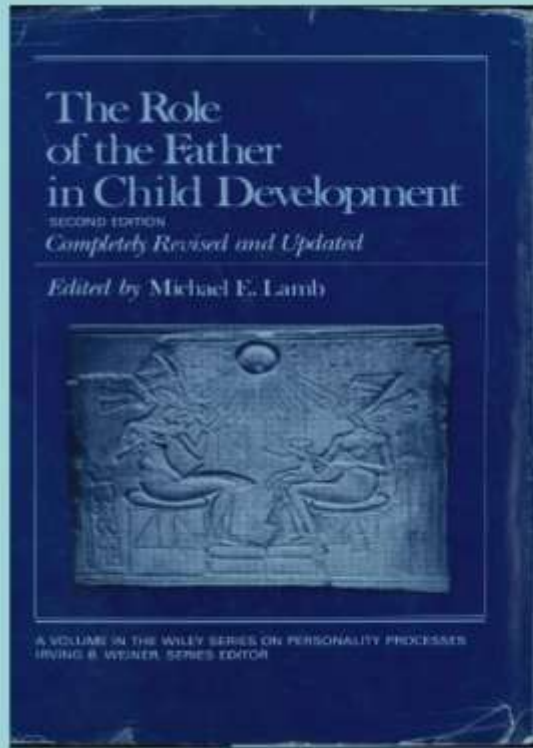
Margaret O'Brien
Thomas Coram Research Unit,
University College London
Year of the Dad Conference Edinburgh
12 February 2016

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

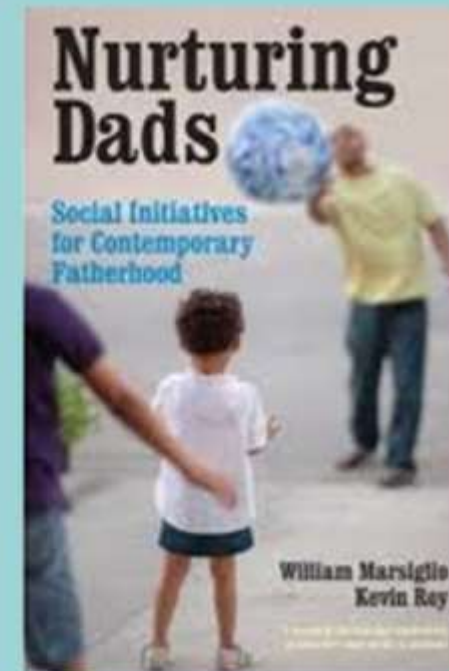
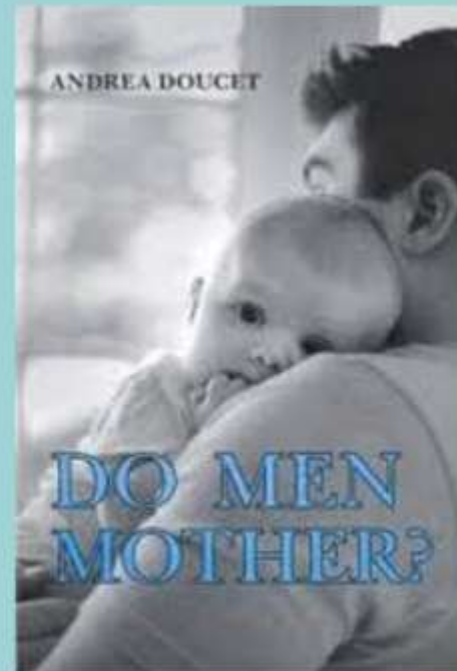
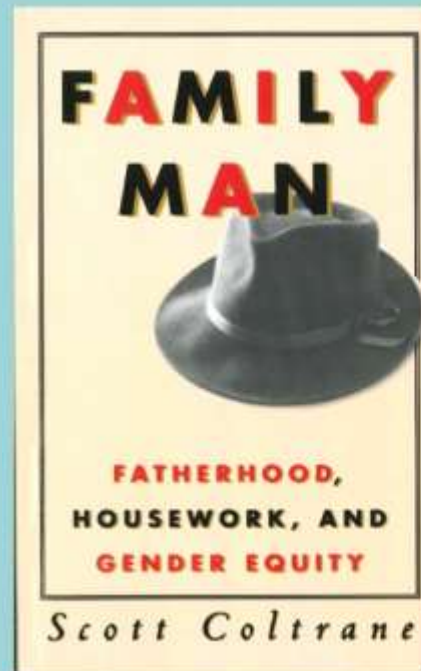
Research: 1970s, 1980s, 1990s



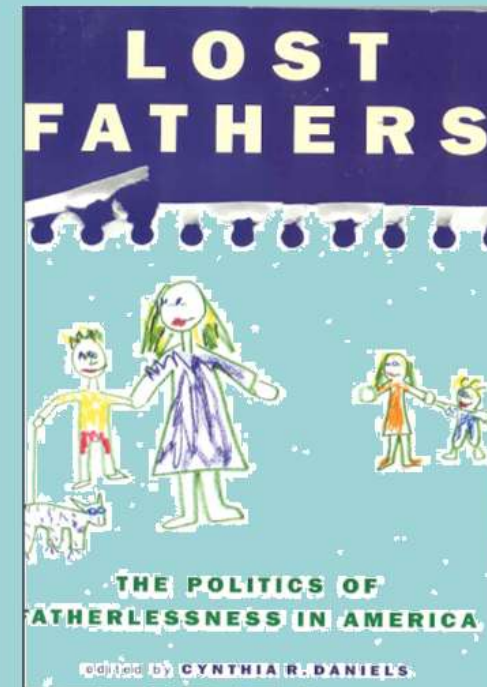
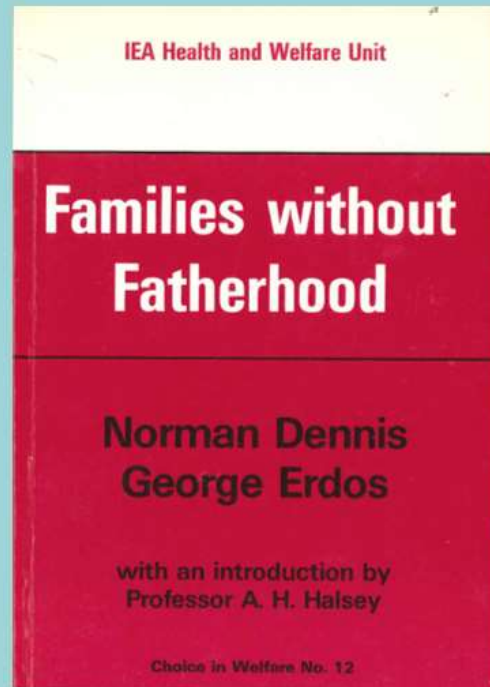
Critique of mother-focused paradigm

- 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”

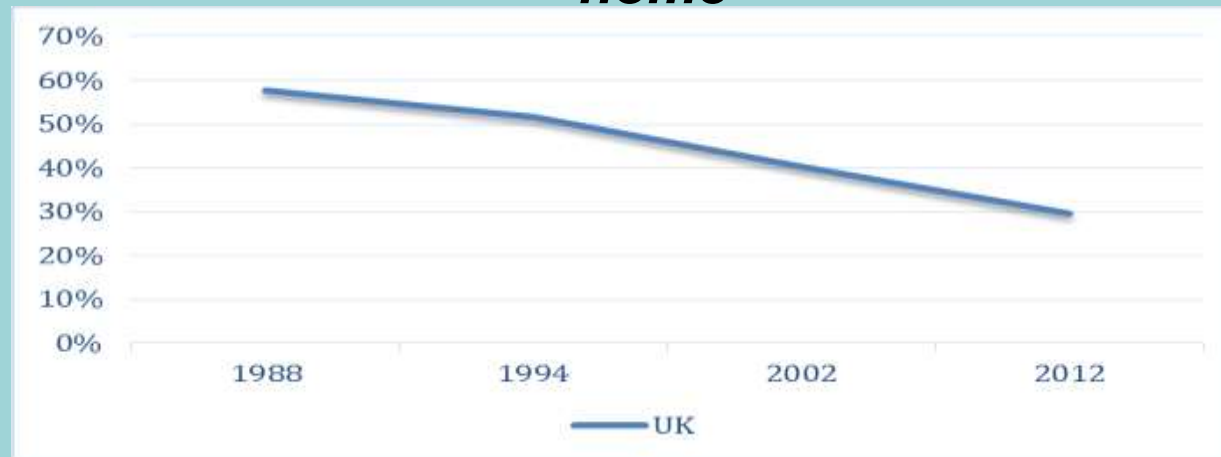
Fathers: partners, carers, involved, nurturers, intimate



Anxieties about absent fathers

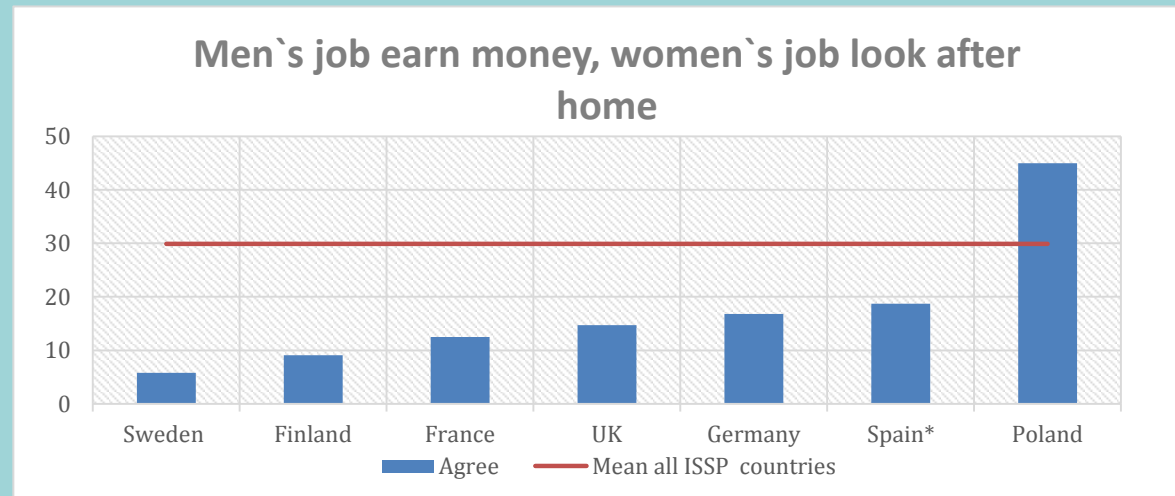


**Proportion of people agree with the statement
*men's job earn money, women's job look after
home***



UK: N=723.

Cross-national differences in pro-gender egalitarian attitudes in 2012



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

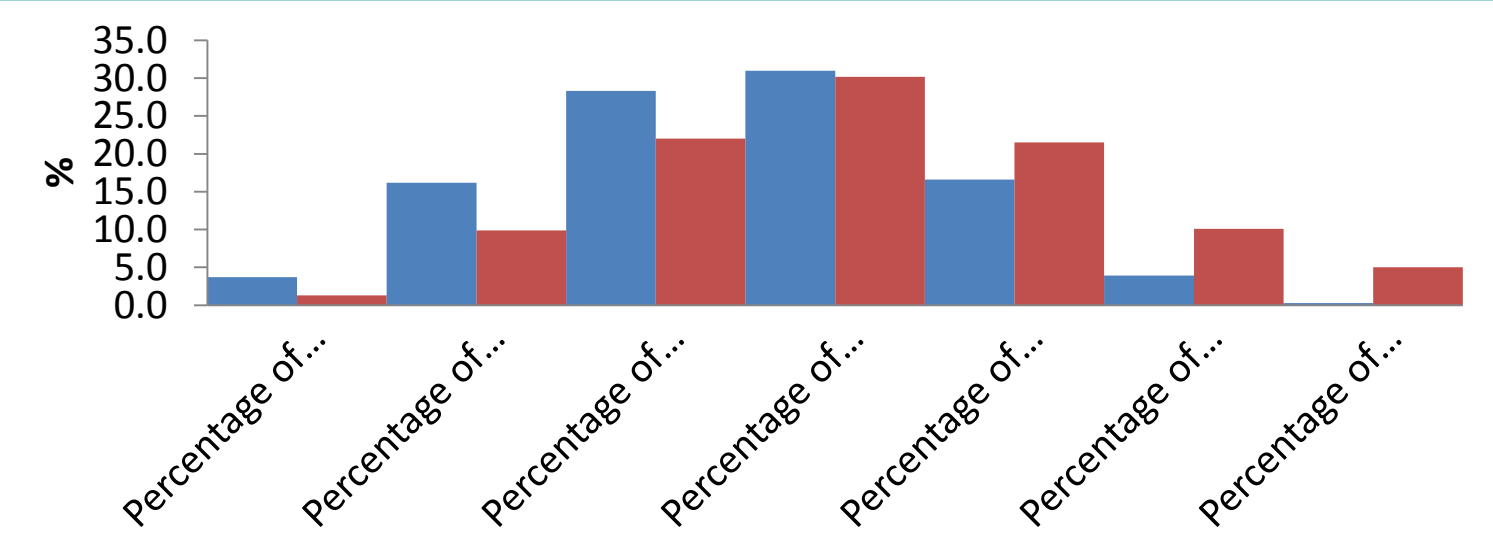
Who are fathers?



UCL



Live births by age group of mother and father, 2014



Note: England and Wales



- 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

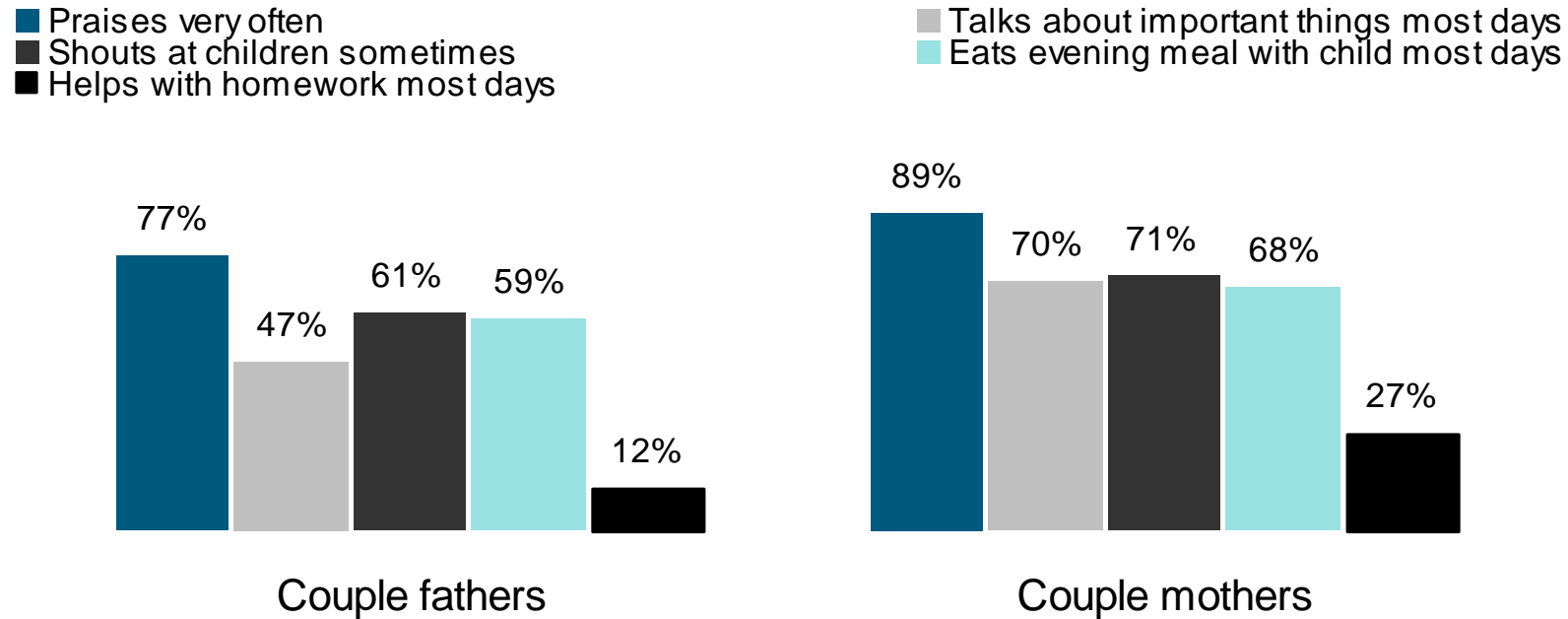
Fathers' Households



Biological/Social fathers

	All fathers living with dependent age children	Married fathers living with dependent age children	Cohabiting fathers living with dependent age children	Lone fathers living with dependent age children
Live with biological children	94%	96%	87%	98%
Live with step-children	11%	8%	25%	1.2%
Live with adopted children	1%	1%	1%	1%
Live with foster children	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	2.1%

Parental involvement



Factors associated with *paternal* involvement

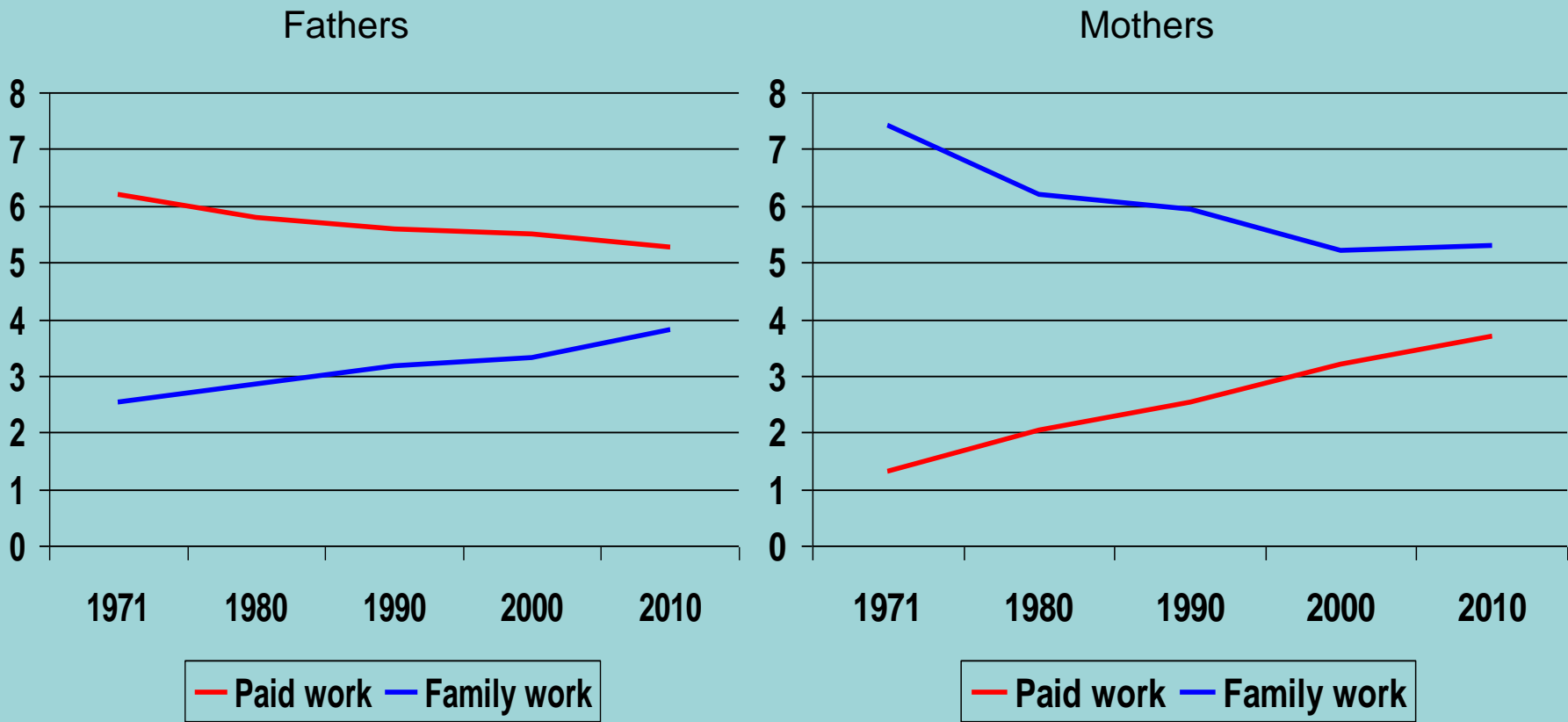
- For fathers in couples a range of factors were associated with involvement with their children:
 - Work status of father
 - Educational attainment of father
 - Marital status
 - Number of children in household

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



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 **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

Engaged fathers (46%)

- At least weekly contact
- Regular stays
- Most provide child support
- Live less than 15 minutes away
- Mainly single

Less engaged fathers (28%)

- Contact once a week or month
- Most have stays
- Most provide child support
- Live an hour away
- Mix of family situations

Disengaged fathers (16%)

- No or very rare contact
- No stays
- Most don't provide child support
- Mix of distances
- Mix of family situations

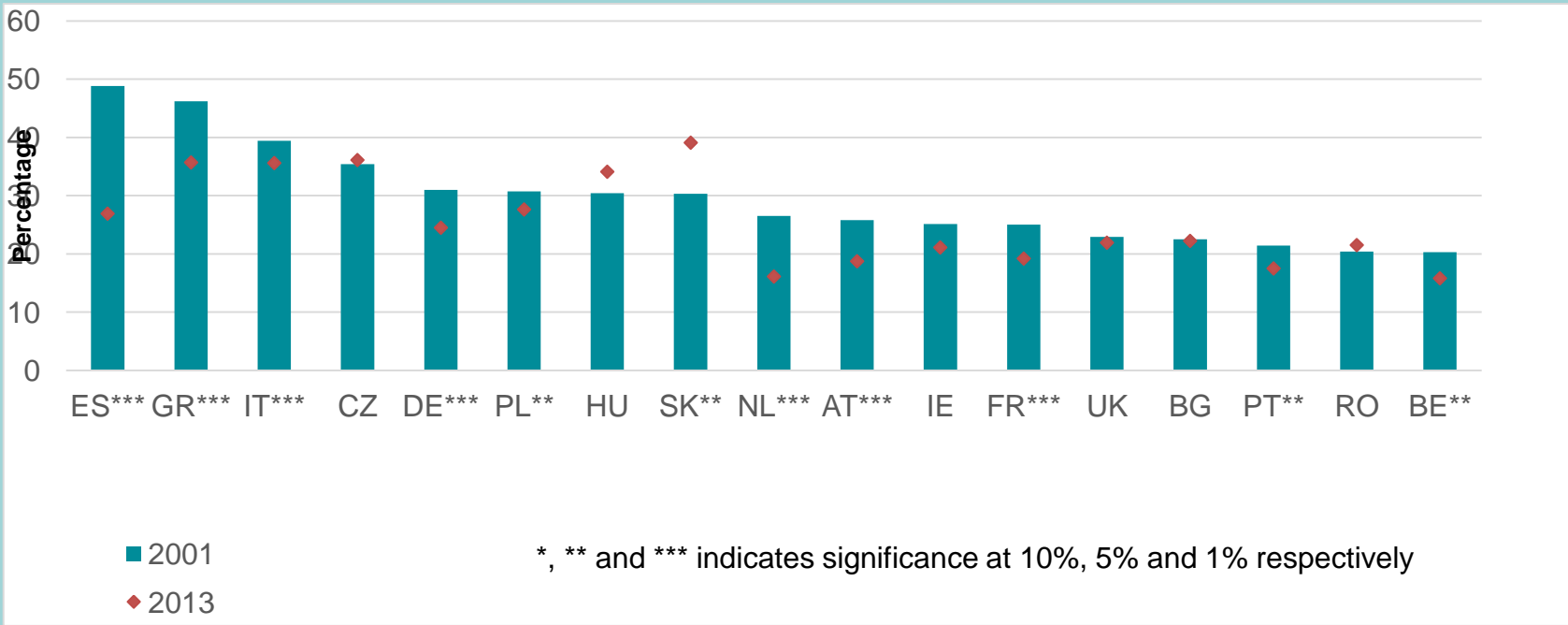
Distance fathers (11%)

- Rare contact
- Most have rare or no stays
- Most provide child support
- All live over an hour away
- Mix of family situations

Working lives

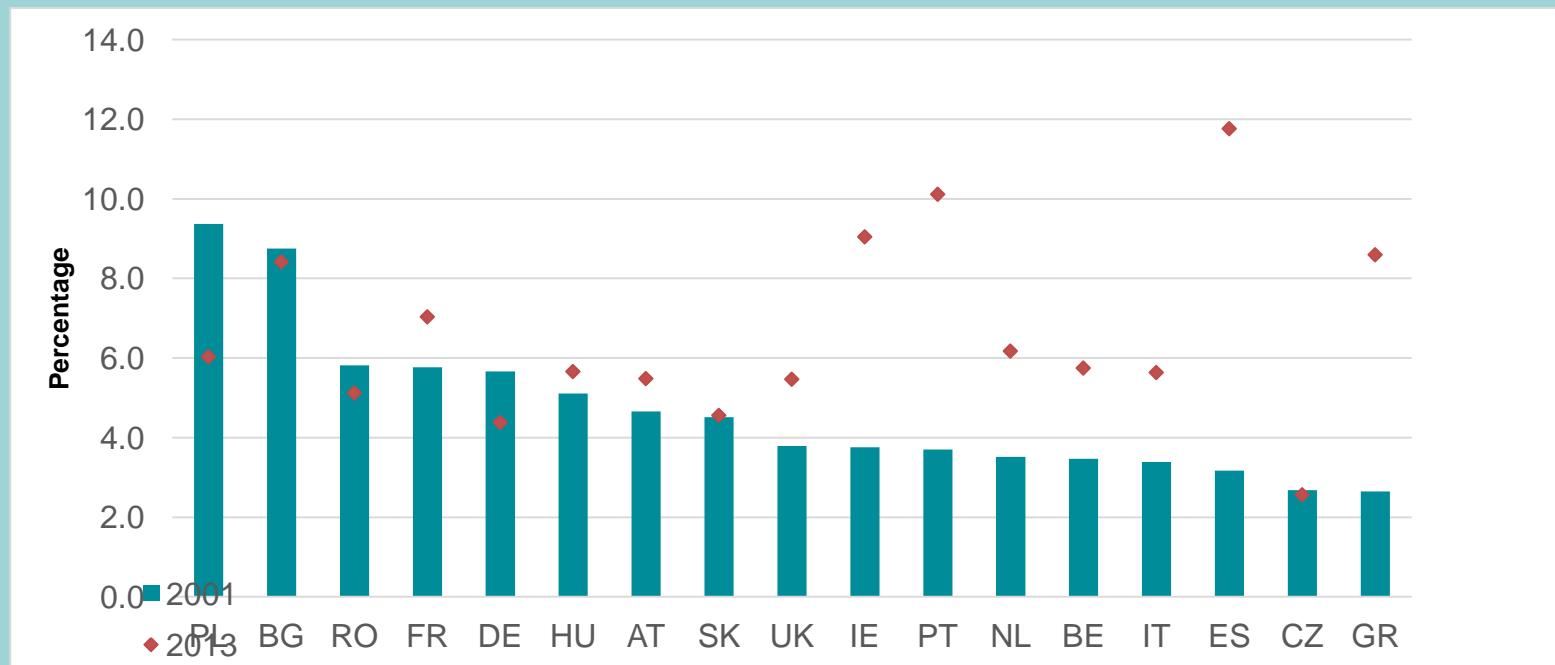
- New working patterns for British couples with dependent children – male sole breadwinner family now a minority
- Incidence of long working hours, intensive and unsocial working patterns declining for fathers.
- Transition from a traditional model based on a male dominant economic actor towards a different logic with less role specialization.

Declining solo father earners “breadwinners”



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

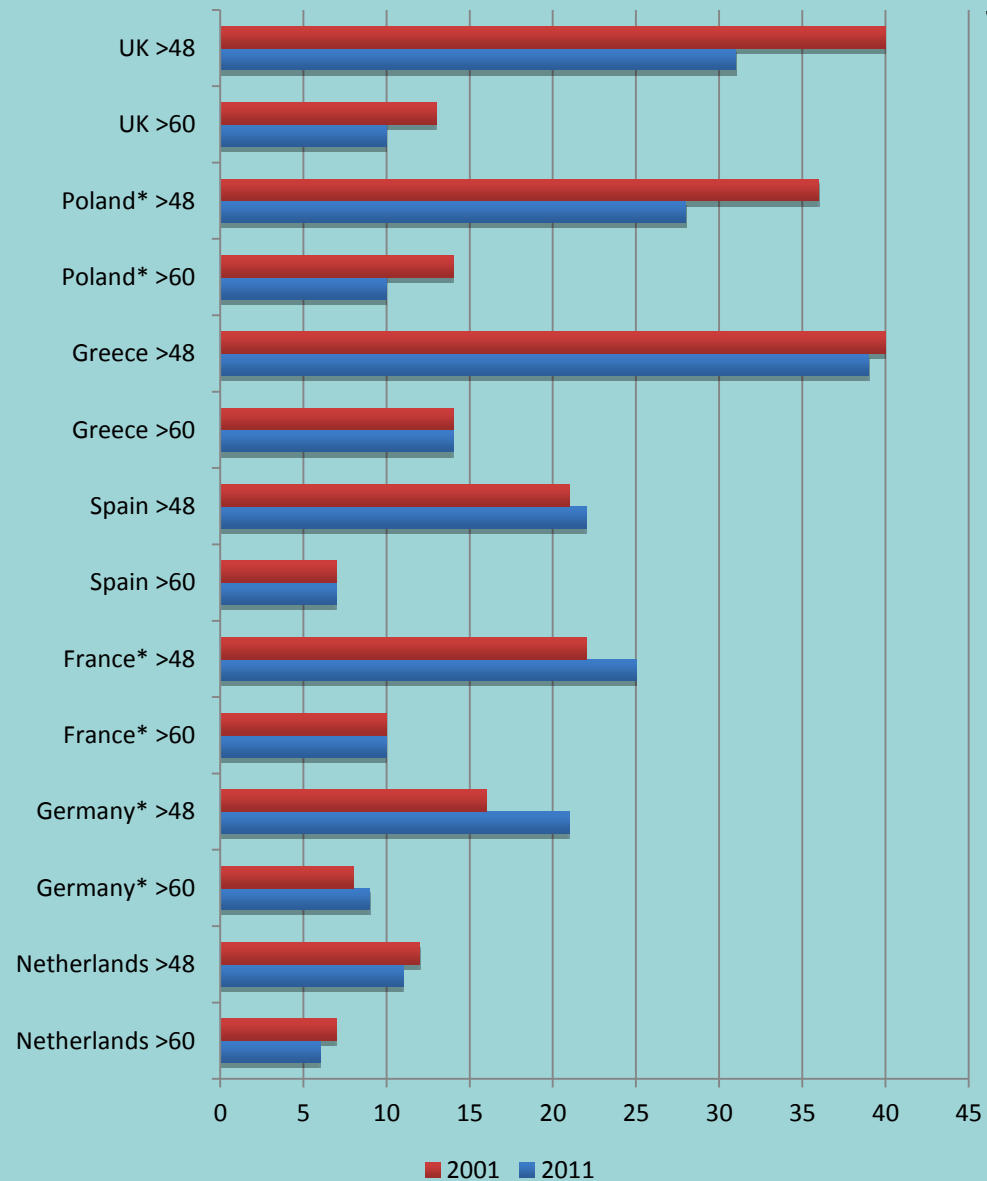
More mother lead earners



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.

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

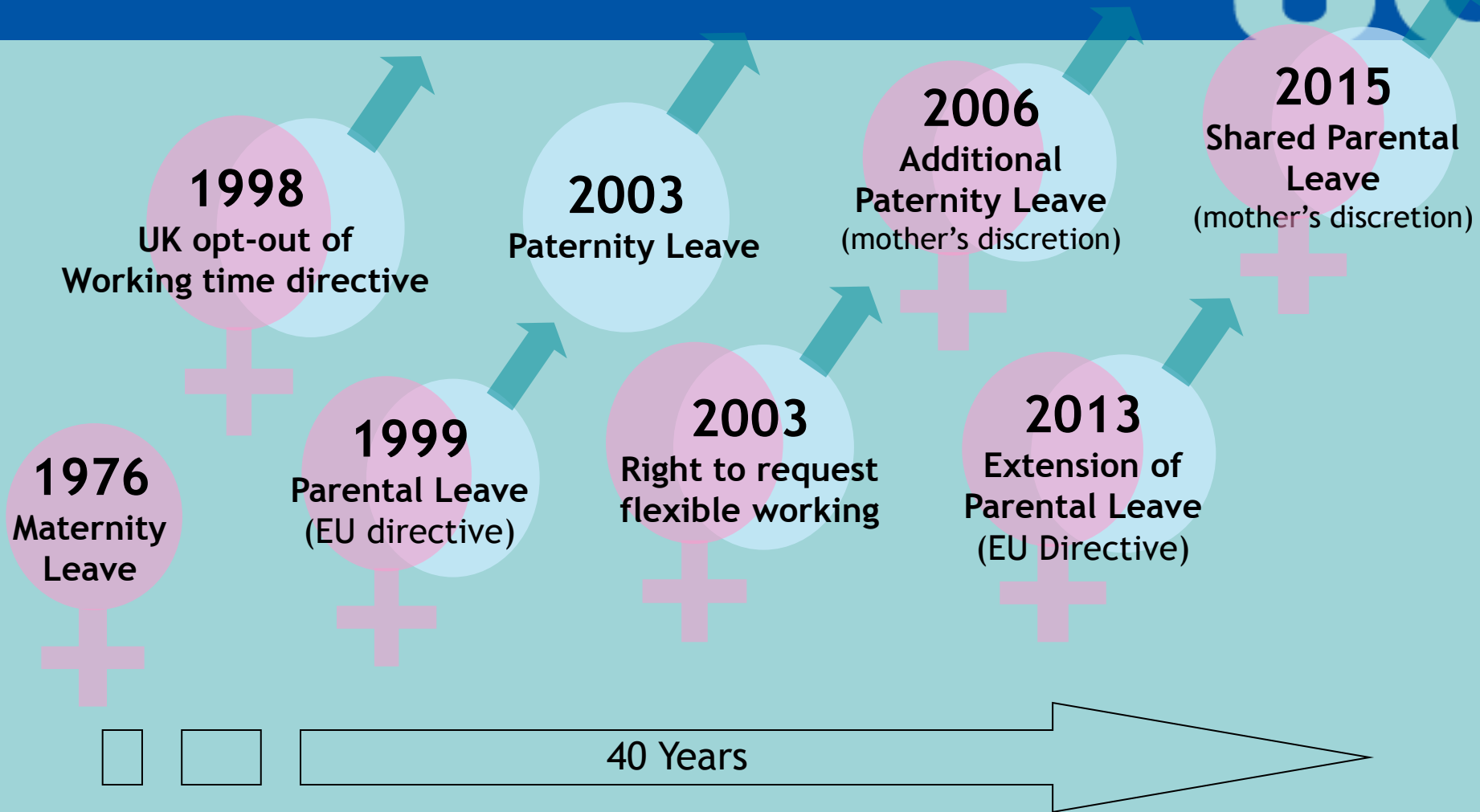
- Macro/ distal context to enhance *paternal availability* to infant with the potential for direct *paternal interaction* & financial *paternal capital*
- Macro/ distal context for optimal “infant quality of life” and gender equity.

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

Work-family legislation & fathers: UK history



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 week-ends 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**



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Website

<http://www.modernfatherhood.org/>

Fathers, Work and Families in the 21st century

Thank you!

Professor Margaret O'Brien

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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
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