

# Our services for researchers and research funders

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## Introduction

As well as compiling our own research reviews and research summaries with recommendations for research, policy and practice, we are always keen to partner with academic and other colleagues on studies that fill the many gaps in research about fathers and fatherhood, and men's roles in caregiving more widely.

## Collaborations

### Funded impact partnerships

In recent years we have partnered with several universities on ESRC-funded research collaborations, in each case with FI as Co-investigator.

Our focus in such studies has been to lead or support the project's impact, communication, and dissemination activities. We have expertise in all aspects of this kind of work, including writing for specialist and lay audiences, organising events, making videos and podcasts, and developing print, web, and social media content.

Current or recent examples of partnerships include:

- [GenderEYE](#) (2018-20, with Lancaster University and Queen Maud University College of Early Childhood Education, Norway). We helped shape the quantitative and qualitative elements of the research, created a practitioner toolkit, ran training courses and supported dissemination.
- [PIECE](#) (2021-23, with Leeds University Business School). We led impact activities including a survey for fathers and two online consultation events; helped write the final report; led the development of practitioner- and family-focused factsheets; organised, chaired and spoke at the final launch event; and supported dissemination.
- [Transition to Parenthood](#) (2022-24. with Middlesex University Business School and others). We have advised on interview schedules and topic guides, are assisting with participant recruitment and will support the project outputs and dissemination.

## Testing new and promising interventions

We have also been Co-Investigators in feasibility studies and RCTs of interventions with fathers, families or professionals. Examples include:

- *Family Foundations*: we piloted this 'team parenting' intervention, developed in the US, in 12 English local authority sites in a Department for Education-funded trial, with the Office for Public Management as evaluators (2011-13). Find out more about Family Foundations [here](#).
- *FRED (Fathers Reading Every Day)*: we took part in an external evaluation of this programme (from the US) in ten schools in Lambeth and Salford (2011-13) and, later, undertook an in-house evaluation with around 2,000 children in early years and primary school settings in four local authority areas (2013-15). We are evaluating FRED in a four-year trial (2023-27) in early years settings in Lambeth, funded by Mercers.  
\*find out more about FRED on our resources page, under 'education'
- *Healthy Dads, Healthy Kids* (Birmingham University): we supported a team from the university to run a feasibility study for a randomised controlled trial of this programme, developed in Australia, in a UK context. The results of the trial were reported in [this paper](#) in the British Medical Journal.
- *Daughters and Dads – Active and Empowered* (Women in Sport): we partnered with the University of Newcastle (Australia), Women in Sport and football clubs across England, to deliver the programme to almost 400 participants, with funding from Sport England. Read more about the programme and its impact [here](#).
- *ISAFE*: We are currently delivering this new social work intervention, developed by ourselves and CASCADE (Cardiff University), in seven English local authorities, within a randomised controlled trial. Ipsos are evaluating and the project is funded by Foundations (What Works Centre for Children and Families).  
\*find out more about ISAFE on our resources page, under 'safeguarding'

## Methodological and training inputs to research studies

Across 2022/23 we have been partnering with research teams in the development of three new cohort studies to enhance recruitment of both co-resident fathers and Own Household Fathers (those living in a separate household from their child/ren for all or most of the time), and the

breadth and quality of fatherhood data collected for child development and family research.

- The [Early Life Cohort Feasibility Study](#) led by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies at University College London, funded by the ESRC. As Co-investigators in the Scientific Leadership and Delivery Team, we have been supporting the project team to include fathers and fatherhood issues in all aspects of the study, including study protocols, qualitative research, survey instruments, parent-facing materials, and interviewer briefings.
- The Education and Outcomes Panel Study (EOPS) B; and the Education and Outcomes Panel Study (EOPS) C, led by the [National Centre for Social Research](#), funded by the Department for Education: working with the teams on survey instruments and interviewer briefings, and providing input to literature reviews.

This work builds on a joint methodological [project with Scotcen](#) for the Economic and Social Research Council in 2019, focusing on how to recruit and retain fathers in longitudinal studies, and cognitively testing survey questions about Own Household Fathers. It also draws on our *Where's the Daddy?* methodological review of how fathers are identified and differentiated in large-scale quantitative datasets (available in the Research section of our website).

As a standalone contribution, we can offer briefings and training for researchers, survey field-forces and qualitative research recruiters to build their skills and confidence in recruiting and collecting data from fathers including Own Household Fathers. We contributed bespoke 'engaging fathers' sessions for interviewers in the three above cohort studies.

## Evidence review

Another key area of expertise is evidence review (for example scoping reviews of a body of literature). We can use systematic-type review methods, such as systematic searches of bibliographic databases, explicit inclusion criteria, transparent review methods and narrative synthesis set out in advance in a review protocol.

You can find examples of our work in the Research section of this website, including our Nuffield Foundation-funded Contemporary Fathers in the UK series, and our reviews for the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel.

In addition to carrying out our own research reviews (commissioned or grant-funded), we can:

- Contribute the research review component of a broader fatherhood research or policy/practice project
- Provide references and abstracts from our systematically collected electronic Literature Library (see *access to our fatherhood research library* below) as a bibliographic input to your systematic-type research review. We provided references on fathers and educational outcomes to the National Foundation for Educational Research for the literature reviews informing the EOPS-B and EOPS-C cohort studies

## Consultancy and advisory roles

We recognise that sometimes a project requires less substantive involvement from us, and we are also open to providing support as consultants and/or being part of advisory groups. We are unable to contribute to projects on an unfunded basis, though, and would recommend an early approach during the bid-writing stage.

Examples include:

- *'Up Against It: fathers' experiences of recurrent care proceedings'* (University of East Anglia)
- *'Caregiving dads, breadwinning mums: transforming gender in work and childcare?'* (University of Lincoln)

## Promoting calls-for-participants

We are often asked to help promote academic studies (invitations to take part in surveys or interviews, for example) to our extensive network, which includes researchers, practitioners, fathers and others. We try to include such calls in our newsletters and social media pages wherever possible, but we cannot guarantee this unless we have been included as project partners and/or receive a donation.

## Access to our fatherhood research library

Bibliographic outputs from our extensive electronic Literature Library are now available to researchers, students and organisations working in the families and fatherhood arenas.

Our Nuffield Foundation-funded digital library held in Endnote software has been systematically created through searches of eleven bibliographic databases and a systematic reference screening process (described in our Methodology paper for the Contemporary Fathers in the UK evidence review series, in the Research section of this website).

The library is continuously updated with new research as this is published. At time of writing (October 2023) it contains more than 4,000 categorised records. These are mainly academic articles, book chapters and research reports about fathers, fatherhood and interparental relationships in the UK, together with related policy and practice documents, published from 1998 to the current time. Documents from the international literature included are research reviews, methodology papers and publications relating to genetics and epigenetics.

We can offer search packs that pull together evidence about key areas of interest, listing all relevant research reference details, including abstracts where available.

## Contact

Please contact Jeremy via [j.davies@fatherhoodinstitute.org](mailto:j.davies@fatherhoodinstitute.org) in the first instance, to explore your requirements.