

2016-2017 Child and Family Science Research in Progress

Oct 11—Jennifer Randles

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

Madden Library, Room #3212

12:30-2pm

Light lunch provided, presentation and

Soup/salad to start at 12:30.

Please RSVP so we have a headcount for food.

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National Fatherhood Initiative®

The Means to and the Meaning of “Being There”:

Responsible Fatherhood Policy, Programming, and Identity

As part of the Responsible Fatherhood Initiative, the federal government has funded numerous programs intended to assist low-income men in becoming more stable financial providers, caregivers, and co-parents. Drawing on in-depth interviews and focus groups with 64 low-income fathers of color, this talk will focus on how participation in a federally funded responsible fatherhood program helped disadvantaged men enact and negotiate identities as good fathers. By providing the means for the performance of fatherwork in line with dominant understandings of good fathering—including financial and material support, caregiving, and upward mobility—I found that the program allowed men to engage in the active, rather than just aspirational, construction of an involved fatherhood identity. This suggests that responsible fatherhood programs work less by (re)shaping men’s identities as fathers and more by providing the resources and institutional structure within which men can more successfully enact the paternal identities they bring with them to the program.



*Sponsored by the Department of
Child, Family, and Consumer Sciences
California State University, Fresno
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