

*University of Calgary, Canada
Southern Regional Health Authority, Jamaica
The National Association for the Family, Jamaica
University of Guelph, Canada*

Fathers in Cultural Contexts: From Fatherlessness to Fathering and Everything In-Between

Call for Proposals

June 29 - 30, 2017
Kingston, Jamaica

The goal of this conference is to bring together various stakeholders (researchers, community and governmental providers) to collectively examine and discuss issues of fathering, father involvement, and fatherlessness in families of diverse backgrounds. Especially with the importance of effecting parenting on child outcomes and the increasing diversity of families globally, it is imperative for researchers and community organizations to accurately advance our knowledge on fathering and fatherlessness with theoretical and methodological frameworks that are culturally meaningful and relevant to today's ethnic families.

Fathering researchers have brought into question traditional notions of family ranging from family structure (i.e., single, two parents) to parenting roles (i.e., gendered parental roles), and their underlying assumption of universality. In this re-assessment, family dynamics and relationships have changed over time due to various societal changes (e.g., increased maternal education and employment), and involvement of extended families, yet for other families, the importance of economic provider has served as a barrier and/or challenge for father involvement. These family dynamics and relationships directly and indirectly affect children's lives (e.g., mental health, social development). To date, we still have limited understanding of fatherlessness and fathering in ethnic families. Thus, researchers from various disciplines (e.g., psychology, sociology, social work, education) are welcomed. Community service providers and governmental agencies are encouraged to present work on research, effective programs, social issues, and challenges.

Proposal Submission Due JULY 1.

Please email Susan Chuang (schuang@uoguelph.ca): 1) Name and affiliation; 2) title; 3) 100 word abstract; and 4) 3 – 6 sentences about the first presenter.