

Review by Choice Review

In this rather novel and ambitious book, the authors introduce the concept of "nurturance" as a framework to guide the crafting of future social policies pertaining to fatherhood. Admittedly, their explicit goal in writing the book was to bridge theory and praxis (i.e., academic research on fatherhood/parenting with pragmatic, programmatic social policy) with an eye toward ultimately enhancing father-child relationships. Through a thorough analysis of interview data gathered from several qualitative studies spanning a number of years, Marsiglio (Univ. of Florida) and Roy (Maryland) explain how family, social networks, and a variety of social institutions have both helped and hindered fathers' abilities to be more fully involved in their children's lives in meaningful, nurturing ways. They hope that with "nurturance" in the forefront of the minds of policy makers from this point forward, a more personally rewarding (and socially beneficial) relationship between fathers and children will result. This welcome addition to the growing literature on fatherhood will help fuel continued discussion and debate regarding whether US politicians and policy makers, despite their seemingly incessant rhetoric on "family values," truly value the family. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Graduate students, faculty. J. R. Mitrano
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