Secção temática

FATHERING IN DIVERSE SOCIO-CULTURAL CONTEXTS

EDITORIAL

Despite the increased number of studies focusing on fathers, or including fathers in their samples, men, in many cases, tend to be viewed as secondary caregivers, and as a lesser contributor to child development (e.g., Cabrera et al., 2018). Also, when included in parenting studies, fathers are often looked through the lenses of the mother, and not their own, and by using assessment tools designed for mothers. We should also acknowledge that a large percentage of studies tend to focus on Anglo-Saxon samples, overlooking other socio-cultural groups, although parenting occurs in the most diverse contexts, with common as well as specific challenges (e.g., Diniz et al., 2021). During the last decades several authors have highlighted these limitations, with important contributions both at a theorical and methodological level (e.g., Cabrera et al., 2014; Volling & Cabrera, 2019; Lamb, 2010).

This special number aims to contribute to the field with studies looking at fathering in European and Latin-American countries, while also including mothers, and their contributions for child development, using different methodologies, and framed by an ecological perspective. It is organized in six empirical studies. The first three focus on fathers' parenting, characteristics, and its predictors: Iwanski et al., analyzed fathers' beliefs about sensitivity, challenging, and sensitive challenging behavior, and their specificities and similarities in relation to mothers, in a German sample. Noblega et al. analyzed, in a Peruvian sample, perceptions of fathers' involvement in child related activities, in nuclear families, with pre-school age children, as well as the contributions of fathers rearing history, and sociodemographic variables, to this involvement. Using secondary data, from two previous studies conducted in Chile, Aldoney et al., focused on fathers' involvement and time spent with the child, as well as perceived well-being and sociodemographic variables as predictors of his involvement in affective and cognitive dimensions, before and after the pandemic. The last three studies look at parenting, including fathers and mothers, and their impact on children's outcomes. Using a sample of Portuguese nuclear families, with pre-school age children, Torres et al., explored the associations between father' and mothers' sensitivity and intrusiveness (observed during a dyadic play interaction), and children's salivary oxytocin levels, internalizing and externalizing problems reported by pre-school teachers. Antonucci et al., analyzed children and adolescents' attachment outcomes in an Italian sample, aiming to better understand its predictors by looking at parents' individual and dyadic variables. Finally, Toscano et al., explored the associations between mothers' and fathers' controlling behaviors and children's executive functioning, in a sample of Portuguese preschoolers born preterm.

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The Editors of this special issue,

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