

Active and caring fatherhood is now highly valued in Europe, although not always implemented. According to the literature on the subject, the lack of matching between the ideal and practice has many reasons such as phenomena inside families (social roles of women and men, division of daily duties) and outside them (including the labor market, socio-political conditions, organizational culture of the workplace, etc.). In our project we want to investigate what concepts of fatherhood have men and how they construct their being a father in everyday life, and how patterns of fatherhood and parenting practices are passed on in father-son relations.

We will collect data from men who are fathers, grandparents and great-grandparents in the same family in Poland and Germany. To this end, we will conduct narrative interviews with each of the respondents, interviews with the use of photographs (which will be prepared by the participants of the research, and they will reflect on the moments important for the father-son relationship) and conversations around the maps of their family they have previously constructed. In each country, data will be collected from men in ten families. This will give us extensive empirical material obtained from fathers of various generations, as well as socially and geographically diverse.

Research on the continuity and change of paternity patterns within specific family lines is still relatively rare both internationally and nationally (i.e. in Poland and Germany). Thus, the intergenerational transmission of paternity cultures and practices within the family is still a poorly understood empirical phenomenon. Little attention has been paid to father-son relationships and their contexts, such as changes in patterns of sexuality and masculinity, male identities, diminishing acceptance of hegemonic patterns of masculinity, and the patriarchal family. Therefore, in our study, we want to examine both the past and present fatherhood in Germany and Poland and the accompanying social conditions to determine how the intergenerational transmission of culture (patterns, norms, values, and expectations towards men who are fathers) and paternity practices (which we understand as routine activities of men when they try to act 'fatherly'). We believe that for this purpose it is necessary to collect empirical data from men (great-grandfather, grandfather and father) related to each other (not necessarily biologically).

There are many indications that the cultures of fatherhood change much faster than their practices. Hence, an intercultural perspective is also necessary, showing fatherhood in the context of social, cultural, and historical processes of Poland and Germany (and not only of an individual family). A comparison of research data obtained from family lines in Poland and Germany will allow us to examine the similarities and differences of fatherhood in both countries, as well as to trace the change and continuity of paternal practices in two different contexts and observe the influence of two different sets of external factors. There are several arguments in favor of comparing the two countries: changes in family structure and the division of labor between mothers and fathers are similar, but their dynamics are different; significant similarities and significant differences in the political context of the two countries as well as different levels of cultural and ethnic diversity; different dynamics of secularization processes.

We expect that the answers to our questions, resulting from intergenerational research and intercultural comparisons, will be: 1). extending the scope of empirical evidence relating to the phenomenon of paternity; 2). they will allow showing how the socialization of men to the role of fathers is going on in subsequent generations in one family, how the dispositions to act in this specific area of man's life are created, how they activate and transform and transfer from individual to individual, and how they disappear; 3). how the types of paternity presented by the surveyed men fit into social systems of gender inequality and stratification.