

Men Becoming Fathers: The Multi-dimensional effect of an “At Risk” pregnancy

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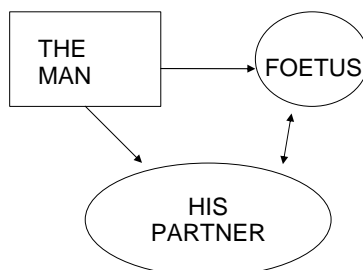
The Sociological Imagination

HISTORICAL

- identity
- tradition
- marriage
- home

CULTURAL

- culture
- tradition
- acculturation



STRUCTURAL

- visiting hours
- ward system
- medications/test times
- visiting hours of V.M.O's

CRITICAL

- concern/fear for the woman
- fear for the baby
- biomedical model of health

Recruitment of subjects

- Participants were initially recruited through their partners;
- Snowball sampling was also used because of poor recruitment;
- Direct approaches were also made to men in waiting areas & wards with more success.

Characteristics of the study respondents

- **AGE:** Ages between 22 and 43 years
- **GENDER:** Males who were first time fathers
- **SITE:** Antenatal wards & High Risk Clinics in public hospitals in Gosford, St Leonards & Camperdown, New South Wales, Australia.
- **LANGUAGE:** English
- **EDUCATION LEVELS:** From year 9 to Post Graduate.

Preliminary Findings

- Men wished to discuss their feelings apart from their partners;
- Transcripts of all interviews were sent to each man; most said they would not show it to their partners but would show it to the baby in adulthood;
- Men, with partners who had an extended relationship with V.M.O's because of their condition, aligned themselves more strongly with the doctor by the end of the pregnancy and less strongly with their partner;
- Men, where members of their family had also had problems with their pregnancy, were more sanguine about the outcome;

Mens comments:

- **Sanguine:** "I mean show me a pregnancy that has gone perfectly smooth. I mean, my mum has had four kids, 2 when I was already born so, show me a pregnancy that has gone perfectly smooth"
- **Concern about partner's illness:** "(I was) concerned to the point where I went into panic mode". *"Just being more caught up in worrying about her or trying to find something to do to distract me from that whole thing and cleaning up the house is a distraction"*.
- **Concern about job:** "I haven't quit my job but he has learned to accept that no matter what I am going to stick through it; I have to be there as far as I am concerned" *"She knows I am worried about her, that's something we can share but I am not sharing anything else with her"*.

[Preliminary Themes]

- Men as subjects
- Alone and together
- Work and hospitals
- Ambivalence about having children
- Power relationships

[Conclusion]

- Men whose partners have an “at risk” pregnancy travel a different pathway to other first time fathers.
- First time fathers who have a partner with an “at risk” pregnancy are not adequately catered for by the Australian health care system.

[THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION]

- Are there any questions?

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