Poster session 5

Relationships and development

Colombian adolescents conceptions about motherhood and fatherhood

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In this study we try to explore conceptions of Colombian female adolescents on motherhood and fatherhood. The sample were 120 girls between 15 and 17 years old coming from different socioeconomic levels. We carry out clinical interviews on four fundamental aspects: 1. Gender identity and motherhood/fatherhood. 2. Natural or cultural roots of motherhood/fatherhood. 3. Social images of mother/father. 4. General conceptions of motherhood/fatherhood.

We found that two models of motherhood and fatherhood exist that we have called traditional and critical models. The traditional model of motherhood and fatherhood continues lasting in the Colombian society. Nevertheless the emergence of a new model is appreciated, in which the socioeconomic factor is determinant. We propose to develop socioeducative programs to generate changes in gender stereotypes that allow balanced and right gender and human relations.

Emotion transmission in daily lives of adolescents, mothers and fathers

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This study examines the transmission of both positive and negative emotions among family members and among various life contexts (home, school, workplace). The study is based on one-week diary data from 29 adolescents and their parents collected in autumn 2003. The viewpoint of the adolescents and their experiences form the primary focus. The adolescents answered diary questions three times per day using mobile phones (short-text messages). In addition, every evening they answered open-ended questions concerning the experiences of that particular day. Before the diary study week, all participants filled out a questionnaire concerning background factors and experiences of work/school, and the relationships between their parents and themselves. We shall analyze the key points raised by the adolescents: the most stressful events and the highlights of daily life for themselves and their parents. We seek to discover, among other things, how parents’ emotions affect their children’s emotions and vice versa.

Father-daughter relationship: beyond the tragic perspectives

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Most investigation about father-daughter relationships embraces a negative approach to this dyad, namely associating its impact through the parent deceasing, divorce, sexual abuse or incest. These perspectives, since based in non-normative events, fold a reductive and biased look at this relationship. Besides, they add little contribution to the full understanding of this dyad’s impact (in its multiple dimensions) as far as young adult females are concerned. Therefore, with the present study, we intend to broaden to a more positive approach regarding normative life trajectories and change processes, by means of developing a first and exploratory centred on the replication of the work of Fink, D., Buerkel-Rothfuss, N. & Buerkel, R. (1993). The latter aim to assess the impact of father-daughter relational closeness in the similarity of communication styles (thus analyzing the intergeracional transmission of ways of communicating). Taking into consideration that the way young adult females communicate influences, for example, the establishment and maintenance of significant relationships, we aim and look forward to discuss possible associated dimensions (e.g., sexual typification and individuation processes, which were the most significant variables emerged from preliminary data with a sample of female adolescents).