

# Doing the Best I Can

**FATHERHOOD  
IN THE INNER CITY**

**KATHRYN EDIN AND  
TIMOTHY J. NELSON**



# Doing The Best I Can Fatherhood In The Inner City

**A Gutmann**



## **Doing The Best I Can Fatherhood In The Inner City:**

*Doing the Best I Can* Kathryn Edin, Timothy J. Nelson, 2014-08-15 Across the political spectrum unwed fatherhood is denounced as one of the leading social problems of today *Doing the Best I Can* is a strikingly rich paradigm shifting look at fatherhood among inner city men often dismissed as deadbeat dads Kathryn Edin and Timothy J Nelson examine how couples in challenging straits come together and get pregnant so quickly without planning The authors chronicle the high hopes for forging lasting family bonds that pregnancy inspires and pinpoint the fatal flaws that often lead to the relationship s demise They offer keen insight into a radical redefinition of family life where the father child bond is central and parental ties are peripheral Drawing on years of fieldwork *Doing the Best I Can* shows how mammoth economic and cultural changes have transformed the meaning of fatherhood among the urban poor Intimate interviews with more than 100 fathers make real the significant obstacles faced by low income men at every step in the familial process from the difficulties of romantic relationships to decision making dilemmas at conception to the often celebratory moment of birth and finally to the hardships that accompany the early years of the child s life and beyond

*Zwangsgeräumt* Matthew Desmond, 2018-04-06 Pulitzer Preisträger für das beste Sachbuch 2017 eine erzählerische Studie des modernen urbanen Amerika anhand des Themas Wohnen wird ein neues Bild von Armut und Ungleichheit gezeichnet Matthew Desmond nimmt den Leser mit in die römsten Viertel von Milwaukee einer mittelgroßen normalen amerikanischen Großstadt Er erzählt die Geschichte von acht Familien am Rande der Gesellschaft Die meisten armen Mieter stecken heute über die Hälfte ihres Einkommens in die Miete so dass Zwangsrumungen zu einem alltäglichen Phänomen geworden sind vor allem für alleinerziehende Mütter Matthew Desmond zeigt in seinem scharf beobachteten und erzählerischen Meisterwerk die unfassbare Ungleichheit in Amerika Das Buch verändert unseren Blick auf Armut und wirtschaftliche Ausbeutung und erinnert mit seinen unvergesslichen Szenen von Hoffnung und Verlust daran wie wichtig es ist ein Zuhause zu haben Wer Zwangsgesäumt liest versteht dass man kein ernsthaftes Gespräch über Armut führen kann ohne über Wohnraum zu sprechen Außerdem möchte man es dringend jedem Politiker in die Hand drücken The New York Times

*American Fatherhood* Lawrence R. Samuel, 2015-11-05 American Fatherhood A Cultural History traces changes in what it means to be a dad in America from the 1960s through today The book begins with an overview of fatherhood in America from the founding fathers through the 1950s and progresses to the role of fathers as they were encouraged to move beyond being simply providers to becoming more engaged parents navigating complex and changing gender and family expectations By tracing the story of fatherhood in the United States over the course of the last half century American Fatherhood reveals key insights that add to our understanding of American culture The book argues that for most of the twentieth century male parents were urged to embrace the values and techniques of motherhood In recent years however fathers have rejected this model in place of one that affirms and even celebrates their maleness and their relationships with their children After decades of attempting to adopt the parenting

styles of women in other words men have finally forged a form of child raising that is truer to themselves In short fatherhood has become a means of asserting rather than denying or suppressing masculinity an original and counterintuitive argument that makes us rethink the idea and practice of being a dad today      **FATHERHOOD IN AMERICA** Carl Mazza, Armon R. Perry, 2017-01-27 Fathers are critical to their children s growth and development Research on the involvement of men with their children stresses the important role that fathers play from infancy to adolescence Due to the ethnically diverse population of fathers in America culture and context frames the nature of fathering and shapes expectations within a cultural milieu The book offers a wide range of vantage points social work family studies marriage and family therapy counseling sociology psychology gender studies anthropology cultural and ethnic studies urban studies and health There are five primary parts within this book each of which looks at numerous facets of fatherhood in the twenty first century Part I defines the concept of fatherhood and family composition becoming a father young fathers single fathers fathers and daughters and examines the father son relationship Part II looks at nonresident fathers homeless fathers incarcerated fathers and the never married fathers Part III reviews biological fathers stepfathers male foster carers fatherhood and adoption and gay fathers Part IV examines the cultural dimensions of fatherhood including Latino African American and Native American Part V explores the fatherhood service delivery system by engaging fathers in culturally competent services measuring the father s involvement and the initiatives to support fathering The context practice and gaps in responsible fatherhood programs are discussed This informative and sensitive book will be useful for researchers students and professionals in the field of social work health family counseling and human services Applicable in classrooms and treatment situations Fatherhood in America bridges the gap between research and practice through chapters authored by some of the country s foremost fatherhood scholars and clinicians by offering fresh perspectives and keen insights borne out of field experience working with fathers

*The Contested Place of Religion in Family Law* Robin Fretwell Wilson, 2018-05-31 Examines clashes over religious liberty spanning the life cycle of families from birth to death      **Fathers across Cultures** Jaipaul L. Roopnarine, 2015-08-26 This volume offers a comprehensive up to date synopsis of fathering and father child relationships in diverse regions of the world helping students and practitioners alike understand cultural variations in male parenting Interest in the role of the father and his influence on children s development and economic well being has grown considerably This edited volume uses detailed accounts to provide culturally situated analysis of fathering in cultures around the world The book s contributors a multidisciplinary group of scholars bring together the most recent theoretical thinking and research findings on fatherhood and fathering in cultural communities across developed recently developed and developing societies They address such issues as fathering and gender equality in caregiving concepts of masculinity in contemporary societies fathering in various ethnic groups immigrant fathers fathering and childhood outcomes and social policies as they affect and are affected by issues related to fathering Organized geographically the book scrutinizes major sociocultural demographic economic and

other factors that influence men's relationships within families. It shows how economic conditions impact men's involvement with children and considers the effects of ideological belief systems and views of spousal partner roles and responsibilities. The analysis is underpinned by recent data that underscores the significance of fathers' involvement with and investment in the well-being of their children.

Marriage Markets June Carbone, Naomi Cahn, 2014. There was a time when the phrase "American family" conjured up a single specific image: a breadwinner dad, a homemaker mom, and their 2.5 kids living comfortable lives in a middle-class suburb. Today that image has been shattered due in part to skyrocketing divorce rates, single parenthood, and increased out-of-wedlock births. But whether it is conservatives bemoaning the wages of moral decline and women's liberation or progressives celebrating the result of women's greater freedom and changing sexual mores, most Americans fail to identify the root factor driving the changes: economic inequality that is remaking the American family along class lines. In *Marriage Markets*, June Carbone and Naomi Cahn examine how macroeconomic forces are transforming our most intimate and important spheres and how working-class and lower-income families have paid the highest price. Just like health, education, and seemingly every other advantage in life, a stable two-parent home has become a luxury that only the well-off can afford. The best-educated and most prosperous have the most stable families, while working-class families have seen the greatest increase in relationship instability. Why is this so? The book provides the answer: greater economic inequality has profoundly changed marriage markets the way men and women match up when they search for a life partner. It has produced a larger group of high-income men than women, written off the men at the bottom because of chronic unemployment, incarceration, and substance abuse, and left a larger group of women with a smaller group of comparable men in the middle. The failure to see marriage as a market affected by supply and demand has obscured any meaningful analysis of the way that societal changes influence culture. Only policies that redress the balance between men and women through greater access to education, stable employment, and opportunities for social mobility can produce a culture that encourages commitment and investment in family life. A rigorous and enlightening account of why American families have changed so much in recent decades, *Marriage Markets* cuts through the ideological and moralistic rhetoric that drives our current debate. It offers critically needed solutions for a problem that will haunt America for generations to come.

Fathers and Forefathers Martin Robb, 2020-12-15. Research on fathers and fatherhood has blossomed in recent years, focusing for the most part on present-day fathering experiences but also beginning to uncover hidden narratives of past fatherhood. This collection aims to add something new to this expanding field by exploring the dynamic relationship between present and past fatherhoods. The popular understanding of fathers in past generations as being detached and uninvolved in the lives of their children can be said to play a significant part in the construction of modern fathering identities, with ideas of new fatherhood being played off against notions of historical fathering practices. However, research has begun to show that these popular myths often misremember the past, judging it by current standards and obscuring the diverse nature of fathering practices in

the recent and distant past A genealogical approach is able to critically examine these intergenerational constructions of fatherhood and more positively illuminate the ways in which experiences of fathering and being fathered are passed on between generations The contributions to this collection use a genealogical approach broadly defined to fathering and fatherhood as a way of defamiliarizing accepted narratives and suggesting new ways of thinking about men and their relationships with their children

**Contemporary Parenting and Parenthood** Michelle Y. Janning, 2018-11-16 Headlines from news sources are combined with the latest and best social science research to offer scholars practitioners and parents a much needed source for understanding contemporary American parenthood News and social media headlines abound with contradictory stories about parents from tales of neglect to fear of helicopter parenting What readers know about parenting and parenthood can stem from misinformation and oversimplification In Contemporary Parenting and Parenthood a wide variety of contributors share research on topics ranging from international adoption to technology to talking with children about racial issues Scholars students parents and practitioners alike will find that this book breaks new ground in terms of its timely approach its spotlight on current topics and its attention to thinking through exaggerated and conflicting media claims about contemporary parenting Importantly the book focuses on both parenting the lived experiences of parents and parenthood the social and cultural construction of parenthood in today s world making it a resource for those interested in the truth of the everyday lives of American parents

**Moving the Needle** Katherine S. Newman, Elisabeth S. Jacobs, 2025-03-11 This timely investigation reveals how sustained tight labor markets improve the job prospects and life chances of America s most vulnerable households Most research on poverty focuses on the damage caused by persistent unemployment But what happens when jobs are plentiful and workers are hard to come by Moving the Needle examines how very low unemployment boosts wages at the bottom improves benefits lengthens job ladders and pulls the unemployed into a booming job market Drawing on over seventy years of quantitative data as well as interviews with employers jobseekers and longtime residents of poor neighborhoods Katherine S Newman and Elisabeth S Jacobs investigate the most durable positive consequences of tight labor markets They also consider the downside of overheated economies that can ignite surging rents and spur outmigration Moving the Needle is an urgent and original call to implement policies that will maintain the current momentum and prepare for potential slowdowns that may lie ahead

**Caring Fathers in the Global Context** Petteri Eerola, Katherine Twamley, Henna Pirskanen, Pedro Romero-Balsas, 2025-07-24 Despite growing recognition of fathers involvement in family life dominant narratives still marginalise men s caring roles Caring Fathers in the Global Context addresses a pressing gap in our shared understanding how care is practised and experienced by men across diverse cultural social and policy settings Drawing on wide ranging international research this timely edited collection offers a rich comparative exploration of how men become caring fathers and the pathways leading to this It connects fatherhood studies with care scholarship to provide new theoretical and empirical insights into how care is shared negotiated and made

meaningful in everyday life A vital and interdisciplinary resource for anyone studying families and social change this book invites readers to rethink care masculinity and intergenerational relationships in a rapidly changing world **Falling Back** Jamie J. Fader,2013-04-15 Jamie J Fader documents the transition to adulthood for a particularly vulnerable population young inner city men of color who have by the age of eighteen already been imprisoned How she asks do such precariously situated youth become adult men What are the sources of change in their lives Falling Back is based on over three years of ethnographic research with black and Latino males on the cusp of adulthood and incarcerated at a rural reform school designed to address criminal thinking errors among juvenile drug offenders Fader observed these young men as they transitioned back to their urban Philadelphia neighborhoods resuming their daily lives and struggling to adopt adult masculine roles This in depth ethnographic approach allowed her to portray the complexities of human decision making as these men strove to fall back or avoid reoffending and become productive adults Her work makes a unique contribution to sociological understandings of the transitions to adulthood urban social inequality prisoner reentry and desistance from offending Imprisoned Fathers Catherine Flynn,Michelle Butler,2020-05-21 This volume specifically examines current concerns about imprisoned fathers and highlights best practices with a group of children and parents who present significant vulnerabilities It brings together contemporary works in this area to share and consolidate knowledge to encourage comparisons and collaborations across jurisdictions and to stimulate debate all with the aim of furthering knowledge and improving practice in this area Although there is considerable focus on imprisoned mothers there is limited knowledge or understanding of the needs experiences or effective responses to imprisoned fathers and their children despite men making up the vast majority of the prison population The ongoing and negative impact of parental incarceration on children is well documented and includes emotional and behavioural consequences marginalisation and stigma as well as financial and social stresses However understanding of these processes and importantly what can assist children and families is poor This book seeks to add to the understanding of paternal imprisonment by providing an in depth exploration of how the arrest detention and experiences of fathers during imprisonment can affect their ability to parent and meet the needs of their children This book was originally published as a special issue of Child Care in Practice Latino Fathers Fatima Suarez,2025-11-04 The contemporary meaning of Latino fatherhood What does fatherhood mean in the lives of Latino men In Latino Fathers Fatima Suarez shifts the attention from how father involvement affects Latine children to how Latino men experience fatherhood and what being a father means to them Suarez brings attention to the social forces shaping sustaining and undermining Latino men s parenting how their views and behaviors uphold challenge negotiate and transform culturally dominant ideas of fatherhood and the lessons they teach us about the reproduction of inequality in family life Suarez focuses on the many different facets of fatherhood including work life balance parenting challenges and empathy and resentment for their own fathers Drawing on in depth interviews with 60 Latino fathers in California Suarez highlights Latino fathers familial stories of

joy sorrow humor pain uncertainty and hope Latino Fathers provides a compassionate intimate account of a group of fathers challenging the myths about them wrestling with the tensions they experience as they negotiate cultural ideas of good fathering and the structural realities that make it both possible and difficult to meet those expectations

**The Oxford Handbook of Children and the Law**, 2020-02-07 The Oxford Handbook of Children and the Law presents cutting edge scholarship on a broad range of topics covering the life course of humans from before birth to adulthood by leading scholars in law medicine social work sociology education and philosophy and by practitioners in law and medicine An international collection of authors presents and analyzes the law and science pertaining to reproduction prenatal life including fetal exposure to toxic substances and abortion parentage including biology based rights background checks on birth parents adoption the status of gamete donors and surrogacy infant development and vulnerability child maltreatment including corporal punishment and religious defences to abuse and neglect child protection policy and systems foster care child custody disputes between parents or between parents and other caregivers schooling including financing resegregation religious expression in public schools at risk students special education regulation of private schools and homeschooling delinquency minimum age laws and child advocacy Most chapters follow a format wherein they first describe the most debated or dynamic issues in each topical area then explain in depth the law and or science pertaining to the author s particular focus and finally offer arguments and recommendations as to law and policy in that area The normative component aims to advance discussions and debates in vital areas of contemporary child welfare law and policy The Handbook is an essential resource for scholars and professionals interested in the intersection of children and the law

**Families in an Era of Increasing Inequality** Paul R. Amato, Alan Booth, Susan M. McHale, Jennifer Van Hook, 2014-10-07 The widening gap between the rich and the poor is turning the American dream into an impossibility for many particularly children and families And as the children of low income families grow to adulthood they have less access to opportunities and resources than their higher income peers and increasing odds of repeating the experiences of their parents Families in an Era of Increasing Inequality probes the complex relations between social inequality and child development and examines possibilities for disrupting these ongoing patterns Experts across the social sciences track trends in marriage divorce employment and family structure across socioeconomic strata in the U S and other developed countries These family data give readers a deeper understanding of how social class shapes children s paths to adulthood and how those paths continue to diverge over time and into future generations In addition contributors critique current policies and programs that have been created to reduce disparities and offer suggestions for more effective alternatives Among the topics covered Inequality begins at home the role of parenting in the diverging destinies of rich and poor children Inequality begins outside the home putting parental educational investments into context How class and family structure impact the transition to adulthood Dealing with the consequences of changes in family composition Dynamic models of poverty related adversity and child outcomes The



diverging destinies of children and what it means for children's lives. As new initiatives are sought to improve the lives of families and children in the short and long term, *Families in an Era of Increasing Inequality* is a key resource for researchers and practitioners in family studies, social work, health education, sociology, demography, and psychology. [The Two-Parent Privilege](#) Melissa S. Kearney, 2023-09-18. The new economics of love and marriage and who benefits. The realities of single parenting in the US have long carried a connotation of hardship, not just in finances but in the wrenching day to day challenges of parenting without a net. As marriage rates in the US continue to drop and as single parent households become increasingly concentrated at the lower end of the income spectrum, it begs the question: what does all this mean for a country and a society already dogged by inequality and the weight of racial discrimination? *The Two-Parent Privilege* examines the emerging role of marriage in the United States. Weaving data and observations drawn from across the social sciences, economist Melissa Kearney explores how the concentration of marriage among the affluent has made the institution of marriage itself a propagator of American inequality, one that may signal the end of American economic mobility. Kearney's work is a trenchant, sometimes uncomfortable but deeply necessary critical look at how the makeup of our households are charting our path ahead.

*The Long Shadow* Karl Alexander, Doris Entwisle, Linda Olson, 2014-05-31. A volume in the American Sociological Association's Rose Series in Sociology, *West Baltimore* stands out in the popular imagination as the quintessential inner city, gritty, run-down, and marred by drugs and gang violence. Indeed, with the collapse of manufacturing jobs in the 1970s, the area experienced a rapid onset of poverty and high unemployment, with few public resources available to alleviate economic distress. But in stark contrast to the image of a perpetual urban underclass depicted in television by shows like *The Wire*, sociologists Karl Alexander, Doris Entwisle, and Linda Olson present a more nuanced portrait of Baltimore's inner city residents that employs important new research on the significance of early life opportunities available to low-income populations. *The Long Shadow* focuses on children who grew up in west Baltimore neighborhoods and others like them throughout the city, tracing how their early lives in the inner city have affected their long-term well-being. Although research for this book was conducted in Baltimore, that city's struggles with deindustrialization, white flight, and concentrated poverty were characteristic of most East Coast and Midwest manufacturing cities. The experience of Baltimore's children who came of age during this era is mirrored in the experiences of urban children across the nation. For 25 years, the authors of *The Long Shadow* tracked the life progress of a group of almost 800 predominantly low-income Baltimore school children through the Beginning School Study Youth Panel (BSSYP). The study monitored the children's transitions to young adulthood with special attention to how opportunities available to them as early as first grade shaped their socioeconomic status as adults. The authors' fine-grained analysis confirms that the children who lived in more cohesive neighborhoods, had stronger families, and attended better schools tended to maintain a higher economic status later in life. As young adults, they held higher income jobs and had achieved more personal milestones such as marriage than their lower status counterparts.

Differences in race and gender further stratified life opportunities for the Baltimore children. As one of the first studies to closely examine the outcomes of inner city whites in addition to African Americans, data from the BSSYP shows that by adulthood white men of lower status family background despite attaining less education on average were more likely to be employed than any other group in part due to family connections and long standing racial biases in Baltimore's industrial economy. Gender imbalances were also evident; the women who were more likely to be working in low wage service and clerical jobs earned less than men. African American women were doubly disadvantaged insofar as they were less likely to be in a stable relationship than white women and therefore less likely to benefit from a second income. Combining original interviews with Baltimore families, teachers and other community members with the empirical data gathered from the authors' groundbreaking research, *The Long Shadow* unravels the complex connections between socioeconomic origins and socioeconomic destinations to reveal a startling and much needed examination of who succeeds and why.

*Boys and Men in African American Families* Linda M. Burton, Dorian Burton, Susan M. McHale, Valarie King, Jennifer Van Hook, 2016-12-09. This important volume takes a life course approach in sharing empirical insights on the family experiences of African American males in socioeconomic and political contexts. Representing fields ranging from developmental psychology to public health and sociology to education, chapters identify challenges facing black men and boys in the U.S. as well as family and community sources of support and resilience. Survey findings and exemplar case studies illustrate stressors and risk factors uniquely affecting African American communities and tailored prevention and intervention strategies are described at the personal, family and societal levels. These interdisciplinary perspectives not only encourage additional research but inspire the continued development of appropriate interventions, relevant practice and equitable policy. Included in the coverage: The adjustment and development of African American males; Conceptual frameworks and emerging research opportunities; A trauma informed approach to affirming the humanity of African American boys and supporting healthy transitions to manhood; Humanizing developmental science to promote positive development of young men of color; Families, prisoner reentry and reintegration; Safe spaces for vulnerability; New perspectives on African Americans who struggle to be good fathers; They can't breathe; Why neighborhoods matter for the health of African American men and boys; Promoting diversity in the research agenda to reflect a diverse population. *Boys and Men in African American Families* is an invaluable reference for research professionals particularly interested in sociology, public policy, anthropology, urban and rural studies and African American studies. Survey and ethnographic studies of poverty, inequality, family processes and child, adolescent and adult health and development are featured.

*Social Work Practice with Fathers* Jennifer L. Bellamy, Brianna P. Lemmons, Qiana R. Cryer-Coupet, Jennifer A. Shadik, 2022-10-31. Social workers need to work with fathers across many service systems but lack guidance on how to do so and most engagement, assessment and intervention work for family serving systems is mother and child focused. Father inclusive readings and resources are also limited. Drawing on the expertise of well regarded

research and practice experts in the field this comprehensive book provides guidance to social work practitioners and researchers on how to engage assess and serve fathers Instructors can use the text to include fathers in courses on the human behavior and social environment family systems clinical practice diversity or service systems Social service systems unfortunately have often struggled to positively engage men as parents Recent demographic trends indicate that fathers are providing more direct care to children and single father households are one of the most rapidly growing demographic groups in the United States Barriers to their successful engagement include biases and assumptions about men and fathers a lack of father friendly policies and practices in the field limited training on how to work with fathers and relatively limited father inclusive social work research until recently This book addresses these barriers It is a guide to social workers in their efforts to better serve men as parents and does so from an ecological and systems perspective Multiple case examples and practical tools are provided as well as specific content on major social service systems Topics explored include Father Engagement Organizational Father Friendly Assessments Interventions with Fathers Setting the Course for Future Theory Research and Practice with Fathers Social Work Practice with Fathers Engagement Assessment and Intervention is a book that could be folded into foundation courses in social work or used by practitioners in the field It is an essential text for graduate students in social work psychology sociology child development allied health and similar disciplines and professions and a go to resource for helping professionals practitioners such as social workers psychologists and licensed professional counselors Advanced undergraduate students in these disciplines and professions also will find the text useful in their studies and work

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### **Doing The Best I Can Fatherhood In The Inner City Introduction**

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