Notice of the Final Oral Examination for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy of

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MA (University of Victoria, 2011)
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“On becoming a father and being a man: A narrative exploration of the experience of masculinity in the transition to fatherhood”

Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies

Friday, May 28, 2021
10:00am
Remote Defence

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Tim Black, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Fred Chou, Department of Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies, UVic (Member)
Dr. Jennifer White, School of Child and Youth Care, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Phillip Sevigny, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Alberta

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. J. Brock Smith, Gustavson School of Business, UVic

Dr. Stephen Evans, Acting Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract

Fatherhood is a gendered relationship between a male caregiver and a child. The change from non-father to father is a significant transition in men's lives. Over the past fifty years in North America there appears to be increasing divergence between socially dominant masculinities and fatherhoods with men taking on more caregiving and domestic work. Using a qualitative narrative research methodology, I interviewed seven Canadian fathers about their experience of masculinity in their transition to first time fatherhood. Interviews were transcribed verbatim and individual narratives were generated. The narratives generated told the stories of fathers who spent more time engaged in direct caregiving and domestic labour than previous generations. They described divergence between hegemonic fatherhood roles and hegemonic masculinity as they transitioned to fatherhood. Fathers experienced a deepening of emotion in fatherhood incongruent with historical dominant masculinities. Overall, fathers found the experience of transitioning to fatherhood as meaningful and rewarding.

Keywords: Fatherhood, Masculinity, Narrative