

## Reconstructing Fatherhood After International Migration: A Narrative Inquiry into Masculinity, Emotional Expression, Parenting Practices, and Transnational Family Obligations

Patrick. O'Connell<sup>1</sup>, Rachel. Gupta<sup>2\*</sup>, Li. Na<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Psychology, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

<sup>2</sup> Department of Applied Psychology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada

<sup>3</sup> Department of Developmental Psychology, Peking University, Beijing, China

\* Corresponding author email address: rachel.gupta@usask.ca

### Editor

Sergii Boltivets<sup>id</sup>  
Chief Researcher of the Department of Scientific Support of Social Formation of Youth. Mykhailo Drahomanov University, Ukraine  
sboltivets@ukr.net

### Reviewers

**Reviewer 1:** Mohammad Hassan Ghanifar<sup>id</sup>  
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Birjand Branch, Islamic Azad University, Birjand, Iran. Email: ghanifar@iaubir.ac.ir  
**Reviewer 2:** Manijeh Daneshpour<sup>id</sup>  
Department of Couple and Family therapy, Alliant International University, California, United States of America. mdaneshpour@alliant.edu

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The literature review paragraph beginning with “Despite growing recognition of involved fatherhood” covers cross-cultural differences, masculinity, and media representation, but the argument is somewhat accumulative rather than analytically synthesized. The authors should distinguish more clearly between cultural variation in paternal practices and structural variation resulting from migration status, race, social class, labor-market location, and family reunification policies. Cultural explanations should not be allowed to overshadow institutional and socioeconomic mechanisms. The revised introduction should explicitly caution against cultural essentialism and explain that fathers from the same country or ethnic background may construct masculinity and parenting differently according to education, migration pathway, religion, class position, family composition, and length of residence in Canada.

The Introduction paragraph stating that “International migration makes these negotiations especially complex” should provide a more developed justification for selecting Canada as the study context. The manuscript currently refers generally to multiculturalism, labor-market inequality, and family reunification structures, but it does not explain which features of the

Canadian immigration and settlement context are analytically relevant. The authors should discuss how Canada's immigration categories, provincial diversity, official multiculturalism, credential-recognition barriers, settlement services, bilingual institutional environment, and child- and family-related norms may shape immigrant fatherhood. This contextualization is necessary because the participants lived in four provinces, yet the current manuscript treats Canada as a relatively uniform social setting.

The final literature-review paragraph concludes that "Narrative inquiry is particularly appropriate for addressing this gap," but the actual knowledge gap should be stated with greater precision before the methodological justification. The authors should identify exactly what previous studies have not established. For example, the gap may concern the limited integration of masculinity, emotional expression, everyday parenting, and extended-family obligations within the same empirical inquiry; the shortage of narrative studies involving immigrant fathers in Canada; or insufficient attention to how premigration and postmigration identities are linked through turning points. The revised introduction should end with explicit research questions immediately before the one-sentence study aim. These questions would provide a clearer bridge between the literature review, interview domains, and reported themes.

The recruitment description identifies "immigrant community organizations, cultural associations, settlement agencies, parenting networks, social media groups, and personal referrals," but it does not indicate how many participants were recruited through each channel or how gatekeepers influenced access. Recruitment through service organizations and community networks may overrepresent socially connected fathers and underrepresent isolated, undocumented, highly distressed, or institutionally distrustful men. Snowball sampling may also produce clusters of participants with similar cultural or socioeconomic backgrounds. The authors should provide a recruitment flow, including the number approached, screened, eligible, interviewed, and withdrawn, and discuss how recruitment pathways may have shaped the narratives obtained.

The Data Collection Tools section states that participants were offered interviews "in English or in another language in which the trained interviewer was proficient," but essential linguistic details are absent. The authors should specify all interview languages, the number of interviews conducted in each language, the interviewer's proficiency and cultural relationship to participants, and the translation procedure. It should be clarified whether transcription and translation were conducted by the interviewer, a professional translator, or another bilingual researcher; whether translated transcripts were independently checked; and how culturally specific concepts without direct English equivalents were handled. Because the study centers on emotional expression, masculinity, duty, shame, respect, and sacrifice, translation decisions may substantially shape interpretation and must be treated as part of the analytical process rather than a purely technical step.

Response: Revised and uploaded the new document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the Methods paragraph beginning with "This study employed a qualitative narrative inquiry design," the manuscript should specify the particular tradition of narrative inquiry used. Narrative inquiry includes several distinct approaches, such as thematic narrative analysis, structural analysis, dialogic-performance analysis, biographical narrative inquiry, and the three-dimensional inquiry-space approach. The current description combines thematic coding, case summaries, turning-point analysis, and cross-case thematic comparison, but it does not identify the methodological authority or epistemological assumptions supporting this combination. The authors should explain whether narratives were treated as representations of lived experience, socially situated identity performances, or jointly constructed accounts produced in the interview context. This decision has direct implications for how claims about "reconstructed fatherhood" should be interpreted.

The Study Design and Participants section reports that "The participants were 18 immigrant fathers residing in Canada," but the manuscript does not adequately explain how sample sufficiency was determined. The phrase "no substantially new narrative patterns emerged" resembles thematic saturation terminology, which may be conceptually inconsistent with some narrative inquiry traditions that prioritize depth, case complexity, and information power rather than saturation. The authors should state the criteria used to stop recruitment, identify when preliminary analysis began, and explain whether sufficiency was evaluated

at the level of themes, narrative trajectories, participant diversity, or case richness. The claim should also be supported by a transparent description of how the final interviews were assessed for additional analytical contribution.

The participant eligibility statement requires fathers to have “maintained meaningful family relationships or responsibilities across national borders.” This criterion may have predetermined the finding that transnational family obligations appeared in all 18 narratives. The authors should explicitly acknowledge that transnational obligation was built into the sampling criteria and therefore cannot be presented as an unanticipated prevalence finding. More importantly, the criterion may have excluded immigrant fathers whose cross-border relationships had weakened, ended, or become intentionally limited. Such fathers might offer theoretically important contrasting narratives concerning estrangement, boundary formation, or disengagement from extended-family expectations. The methods and discussion should clarify that the study examined immigrant fathers with active transnational ties rather than immigrant fatherhood in general.

The demographic paragraph reports highly specific distributions, including “The participants ranged in age from 30 to 54 years, with a mean age of 41.72 years and a standard deviation of 6.48 years.” The authors should verify every demographic value against the original data and provide a clear rationale for using means and standard deviations in a small, heterogeneous qualitative sample. Medians and ranges may better represent variables such as age and years in Canada if distributions are skewed. The manuscript should also report immigration status at the time of interview, racial or ethnocultural self-identification, primary interview language, family income range or perceived financial adequacy, urban or nonurban residence, and whether participants’ spouses and children migrated simultaneously or through staged reunification. These characteristics are likely to influence occupational disruption, paternal authority, and transnational obligations.

Response: Revised and uploaded the new document.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.