

**Infant Mental Health Journal
Supplement to Volume 32, Issue 3**

Infancy in Times of Transition

Program Abstracts

Editors

**Hiram E. Fitzgerald
Ryan McGreal-Miller
Dolores K. Fitzgerald**

**World Association for Infant Mental Health
12th World Congress
June 30-July 3
Leipzig, Germany**

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From the Editor:

The abstracts in this special supplement to the *Infant Mental Health Journal* (IMHJ) are organized to match the Program Book distributed at the 12th World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health. The Program Book is available on-line through the WAIMH web page. The one exception to format occurs for posters. Poster session abstracts are listed separately, by day, at the end of the supplement rather than being embedded within the session by session flow of the abstracts. Where abstracts are not presented, they were not supplied. Because United States or United Kingdom versions of English are so widely used in scientific journals, we have not edited abstracts on the basis of usage. The following is an example of a correct citation to this collection of abstracts.

McKelvey, L., Fitzgerald, H. E., & Schiffman, R. (2010). Risk exposure in toddlers of low-income families: links to child functioning at age 10. *Infant Mental Health Journal*, 31 (Abstract Supplement, p 145).

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P175 A qualitative study of fathers' experiences of 3/4D ultrasound and paternal-fetal relationship: Differences between first and third trimester

Xavier M. (Portuguese Catholic University, Portugal), Resende C. (Portuguese Catholic University, Portugal)

We are currently experience a new meaning of the father's role. This leads to a necessity to explore it in the current climate with main focus during pregnancy, where fatherhood begins. It has been noted an increasing father involvement during pregnancy (both in emotional and behavioural forms), that fits the paternal-foetal relationship (internal representation of the foetus and emotional connection established with the same). The fathers' experience of external connection to the foetus (by the mother's body) is not always easy and differs from the mother's "biological privileged status". Consequently, the routine ultrasound that produces such real images from the foetus in both 3 and 4 dimensions, will assume an important role in facilitating the acknowledgement of the foetus and foetal-paternal relationship. The purpose of this study is to understand the paternal speech about the pregnancy experience and the foetal-paternal relationship, their thoughts and feelings. We analysed the paternal speech differences between pre and post 3/4D ultrasound (first and third trimester of gestation), focusing on its impact on the pregnancy involvement and experience, as well as the foetal-paternal relationship. Two semi-structures interviews were made (before and after the 3/4D ultra-sound) to 8 fathers that were present during the 3/4D ultrasound (first and third trimester of gestation), in two health unities in the north of Portugal (Public Hospital and Private Practise). Parents were interviewed one at a time (before 3/4D ultrasound in a face-to-face situation; after 3/D ultrasound by telephone). Interviews were then transcribed and subjected to content analysis procedure. Results indicate that the fathers are involved in behavioural form as well as emotionally with the pregnancy in the early stage, denoting an established connection with the foetus. The 3/4D ultrasound experience was significant to all fathers, with impact in their feelings, identity and foetal-paternal relationship. These 3 dimensions in analysis showed differences regarding the gestation trimester.