

# Changing men—changing times —and places

Margunn Bjørnholt

Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic  
Stress Studies NKVTS

Masculinities in transition Workshop

Leeds University 9 May 2016

[@mbjornholt](#) [#mascstime](#)

# Changing men—uneven terrain

- Shift towards a nurturing, hands on fathering ideal
- Changes in family practices, but continuity in gendered division of household work and parental responsibilities
- Continuity in men's paid work and breadwinner responsibility
- Men, work and family, still a stalled revolution after all these years?

# Some thoughts on men, change, time and space based on two projects

- Longitudinal and intergenerational follow-up study of fathers and adult sons from an experimental research study: the Work-sharing Couples Project (1969)1971-1975
- Current study of work – family adaptations of parents of Norwegian and Polish origin in Norway 2013-2016

# Fathers and sons from a 1970s action research project

...

# Work – family adaptations among Norwegian and Polish parents in Norway

---

- 'Insiders' – 'outsiders' to Norwegian institutional contexts and ideologies
- Both embrace the dual earner – dual carer model and use Norwegian entitlements for working parents paid (parental leave including paternal quota, kindergarten, paid sick days)
- Different psycho-social adaptations

# Changing Polish men within new and enabling structures?

---

- Ongoing process of change including involved fatherhood, sharing domestic work, using available structures in Norway
- Polish women on Polish men: Ongoing project of changing men. Optimistic sometimes despite traditional practices. Pragmatic arrangements, the
- On the fast track to change, voice&agency

# Norwegian equally sharing men: living the normal and normative dual earner – dual carer model

---

- Change has happened: dual earner, involved fatherhood and domestic work taken for granted . However: ambivalence by more-than-equally sharing men
- Women: gendered pattern of worry for children, lack of support for her perspective and choices. Strongly identify with this model, personalisation of failure, gender shame
- Limited scope of action, stalled process of change, silence, social closure

# What next?

- Bringing in the other adds new perspectives on contemporary majority practices
- Structures as enabling and limiting, a question of time?
- Adding the psycho-social level reveals the strain or lack thereof beneath successful 'equal sharers'
- Change may occur in other groups than expected
- Transcending the psycho-social frontier: what would lead to further change in men whose fathers already changed?



# Thank you for listening

[www.margunnbjornholt.no](http://www.margunnbjornholt.no)

Twitter @mbjornholt

[margunn.bjornholt@nkvt.no](mailto:margunn.bjornholt@nkvt.no)

Read more: Bjørnholt, Margunn (2014).

[Changing men, changing times; fathers and sons from an experimental gender equality study](#). *The Sociological Review*, 62(2), 295–315.

All publications on work-sharing couples/father – son study:

<http://www.margunnbjornholt.no/research#2>