

# *Absent Fathers and the Lies about it Therein*

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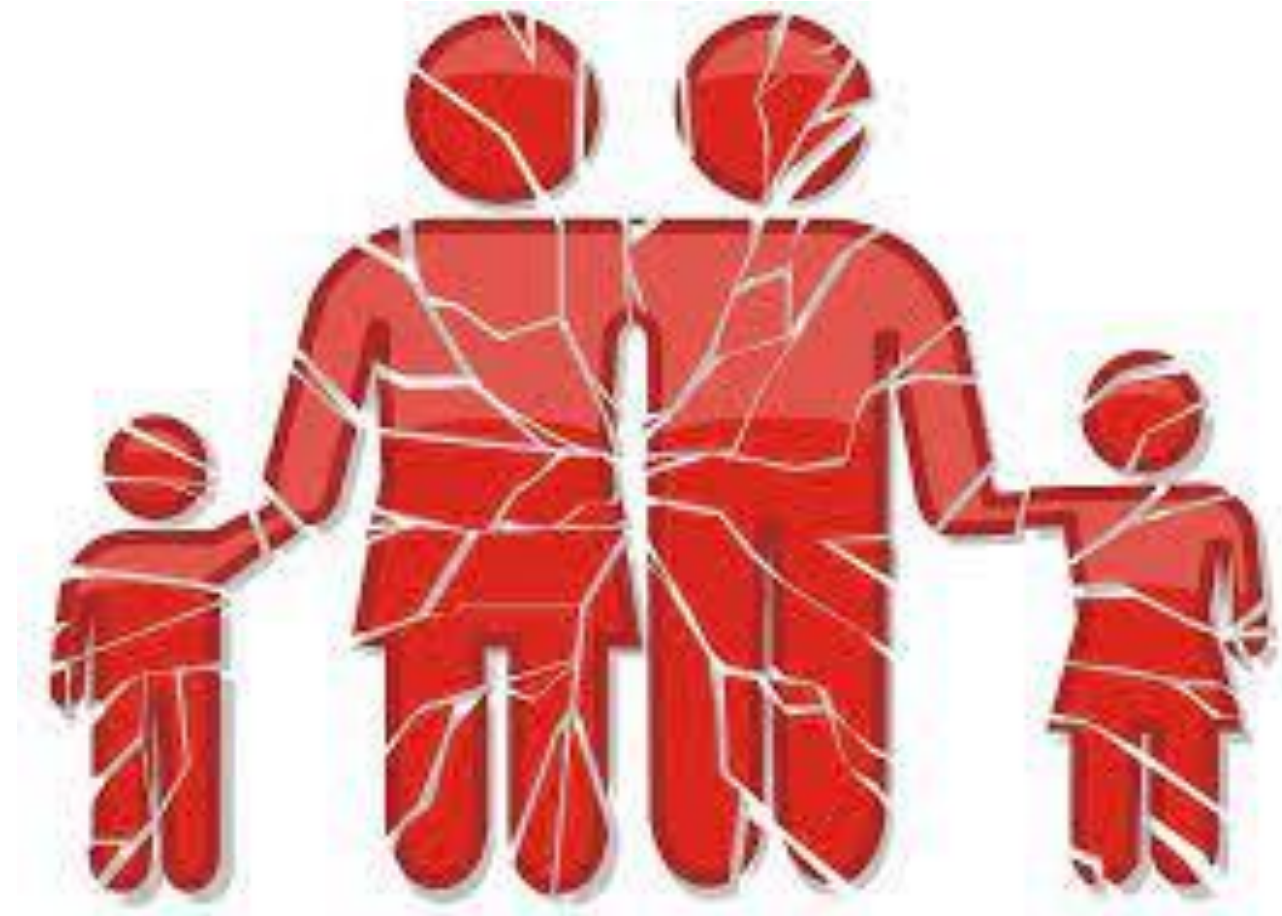


Jeffrey E. Hansen, Ph.D.  
Center for Connected Living, LLC



# Let's destroy the family they say

- The following slides are largely adapted from Dr. David Popenoe's superlative work and presented on the Academy of Ideas YouTube channel. Neo-Marxism has helped to propel the myth that fathers and their role in building strong families have little importance. If the ideologues can get fathers out of the way, then our children are fodder for vessels of their ideology to include early affirmation and queer theory.
- Please click the link below to take a listen to a man who is brave enough to speak common sense in an ear of unhinged ideology:
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wH2kKQS7ak&t=445s&ab\\_channel=AcademyofIdeas](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wH2kKQS7ak&t=445s&ab_channel=AcademyofIdeas)



# Just who is David Popenoe?

David Popenoe, a sociology professor at Rutgers University, has a radical idea. He thinks children should live with both their biological parents.

When his father, Paul Popenoe, said essentially the same thing decades ago, it wasn't so radical. The elder Popenoe, who died in 1979, was widely recognized as the nation's first marriage counselor. (He started the wildly popular column "Can This Marriage Be Saved?" in *The Ladies' Home Journal*.) His premise, that parents should stay together, was accepted wisdom then. But when 63-year-old David Popenoe (pronounced POP-uh-no) makes the same case -- as he has, emphatically, in a new book, "Life Without Father" (Free Press) -- he'd better duck.

In a day when the multitudinous forms of family -- step-, half-, single-mother, single-father, gay-couple -- are celebrated in mainstream venues like "Sesame Street," Dr. Popenoe's call for a return to the traditional family has gotten him into all kinds of trouble. And some of his theses are clearly provocative: his assertion that stepfathers are more likely than biological fathers to be a negative, even dangerous, influence on family life; his strong censure of single women who use sperm banks to become pregnant; his bald statement that men and women are different "to the core"; his insistence that it should take both a man and a woman (not a man or a woman alone, or a gay or lesbian couple) to rear a child.

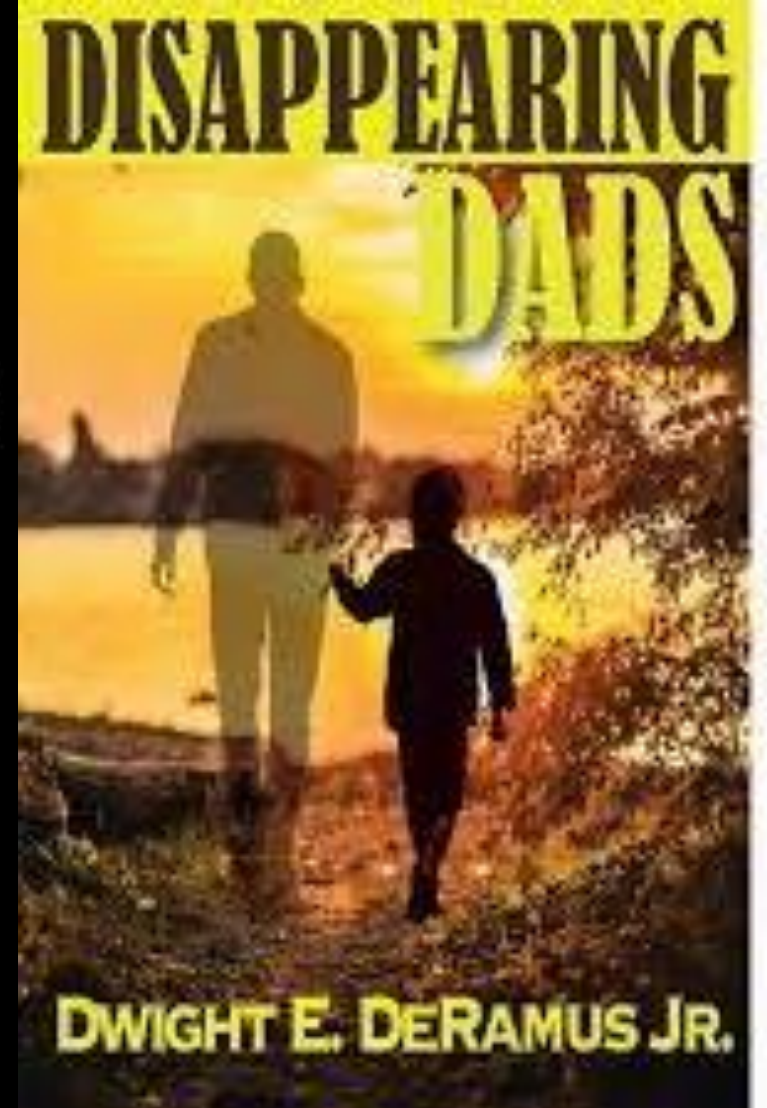
Not surprisingly, the new book has attracted a great deal of critical attention, much of it negative. "Popenoe's argument falls short when he blames divorce and single motherhood per se for everything from child abuse to juvenile delinquency," a reviewer wrote in *The Washington Post*. "And it falls apart when he lapses into the well-worn canard that welfare and the integration of women into the work force have driven men to the margins of family life and made them not only superfluous but potentially dangerous -- notorious rogue males, beholden to no one, bent on a life of crime."



...fathers are vanishing from family life and only mothers are left to care about the children. And mothers...are not enough.

David Popenoe

Families Without Fathers



Vanishing Fathers

The significance of gender-differentiated parenting undoubtedly is related to something fundamental in the human condition.

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Families Without Fathers

Kids need both  
mom and dad



It is a myth that parental androgyny is what a child needs.

Parental androgyny is not what children need. Males and females bring different qualities to children.

David Popenoe

Families Without Fathers

The burden of social science evidence supports the idea that gender-differentiated parenting is important for human development and that the contribution of fathers to childrearing is unique and irreplaceable.

David Popenoe

Families Without Fathers

Right Brain  
Psychotherapy Institute



The infant's brain development literally depends on social interaction, on right-brain to right-brain communication with its mother.

- Attachment emotional communications between **infant's right brain and mother's right brain.**
- Infant: "The **right hemisphere can be considered dominant in infancy**, for the type of visual and acoustic communication which is relevant for the prelinguistic child."
- Adult (mother): The perception of the infant's facial expressions, vocal expressions, **tactile gestures, and smells processed by the right hemisphere.**

Right to right brain communication between mother and infant is dominant early on

Right hemisphere (RH)  
visual-facial  
communications (that  
baby knows he's got it  
going on!)

- Grossmann et al. (2007): **4-month-old** infants presented with images of a female face gazing directly ahead show enhanced electrical activity over right prefrontal areas.
- Nakato et al. (2009): near-infrared spectroscopy reveals **5-month-olds'** RH responds to female faces.
- Tager-Flusberg et al. (2002): PET study of **2-month-olds** showing activation in the right hemisphere at image of a woman's face; a parent's RH.







- Building upon these observations of the child's progressing social-emotional development, I have suggested that not only the infant's mother but the toddler's **father impacts the growth of the baby's brain.**
- In the middle of the second year the structural **development of the child's brain is shifting from a maternal experience-dependent maturation of an early developing right brain circuitry to a paternal experience-dependent maturation of a later developing left brain circuitry.**

Dads enter the building at about 2 ½ years of age

# Fathers' involvement impacts the growth of the toddler's left brain

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Mom and dad make a great team – mom with right brain and dad with left brain development



- Early social experiences with both the mother and the father of mutual intersubjective play of the developing mind and active physical play of the maturing body act as enriched environments for the creation of a flexible, personality.
- **Secure attachment = resilience.**
- Emotion is initially **interactively regulated** by the caregivers, but over the course of the first two years it becomes **increasingly self regulated** as a result of neurophysiological development.

They sold us the idea the divorce had no significant impact on a child. Trauma therapists now know otherwise, and this is well-supported in the research (Wallerstein, 2001).

...it was not so long ago that the divorce revolution was given a strangely positive cast in popular culture. If breaking up is better for parents, it was thought, it cannot be all that bad for children. What keeps parents happy should also keep children happy.

noe

Familles Without Fathers



A rationalization to  
reduce guilt in  
parents

How can an idea so wrongheaded have been so pervasive? In part, of course, it was a convenient, guilt-retarding rationalization for parents who were breaking up.

noe

Familles Without Fathers

## Reducing Feelings Of Guilt & Shame



We need a means of keeping men in marriage as they have less of a biological tie than mothers do, and marriage has historically been society's way of accomplishing that.

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Society, in its wisdom, has recognized that in order to hold the father to the mother and child a cultural tie had to be developed where a biological tie was weak.

...[marriage] is society's way of signaling to would-be parents of children that their long-term relationship together is socially important.



# Marriage is an important and essential institution that is under attack

Men have the capacity to father but also the capacity to stray...so all successful societies have imposed social sanctions on men to encourage their fathering behavior. By far the most important of these sanctions is the institution of marriage, the most universally found social institution of all.

...if one were specifically to design a culture and a social system for the express purpose of undercutting marriage and fatherhood and men's contribution to family life, our current society would be close to what would result.



# A man's commitment to his children often deteriorates with divorce

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Men tend to view marriage and childrearing as a single package. If their marriage deteriorates, their fathering deteriorates. If they are not married or are divorced, their interest in and sense of responsibility toward children greatly diminish.





## The Fatherless Generation cataloged these facts:

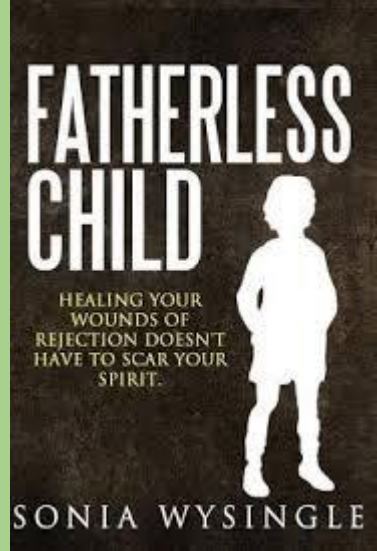
<https://thefatherlessgeneration.wordpress.com/statistics/>

- **Daughters of single mothers with no paternal involvement are 53 percent more likely to marry as teenagers**
- **Daughters with uninvolved fathers are 711 percent more likely to have children as teenagers**
- **These daughters are 164 percent more likely to have premarital births**
- **Sadly, these same daughters without fathers are 92 percent more likely to get divorced themselves.**



# Fatherlessness facts

Some frightening reasons to worry about fatherless children emerge from other research. [Experts at The Fatherless Generation](#) have compiled these facts:



- Most – 63 percent – of youth suicides involve fatherless homes, a rate five times the national average
- Four-fifths of rapists with anger problems come from homes without fathers
- Almost all – 90 percent – of runaway and homeless kids are from fatherless homes, a number 32 times the national average
- Of all children displaying behavior issues and disorders, 85 percent (20 times the average) come from homes with no fathers
- In state-operated institutions (prisons, jails and youth homes), 70 percent of youth come from fatherless homes
- Nearly three quarters (71 percent) of students dropping out of high school come from fatherless homes; that is nine times the national average
- Teens in households presided over by single mothers are at a 30 percent higher risk for smoking, drug use or alcohol use than those in two-parent households
- Of youth in prison, 85 percent come from fatherless homes

# In the words of Cicero:



What society does to its children,  
so will its children do to society.

Cicero

De Officiis