



**Ashkelon Academic College, through its International Relations Office, in cooperation with the Free University Berlin and international partners, is holding a three-session webinar for scholars, policy makers, and practitioners on the topic:**

# **Fathers and the Family Welfare and Child Protection Services: Theory, Research, and Practice**

**February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 | 13:00–17:30**

**(Central European Time; 14:00-18:30 Israel Time)**

Fathers are under-represented in family and child-oriented interventions of the family welfare and child protection services and in research on those services. In practice, data from various countries and welfare systems shows that interventions in Western countries incorporate mothers primarily, while fathers are often left out; within academia, research tends to focus on the relationships of social workers with mothers, neglecting the role of fathers.

However, several strands of research on fathers' interaction with family welfare and child protection services have begun emerging in recent years, focusing on the roots of this under-representation and the roles of fathers, workers, and other elements in it.

This webinar aims to bring together these different research approaches and learn from scholars (and practitioners) from various countries. The webinar will focus, first, on examining the theoretical questions arising from the interactions of fathers and the welfare system, while considering different welfare regimes and diverse types of family welfare services. The webinar will also examine the state of current research on the issue, what we know, and what has yet to be studied; last, the webinar will ask how these findings can improve services given to fathers, children, and families. Another aim is to create a fruitful discourse among the academic world, field practitioners, and policymakers in different countries, and facilitate future corporations.



## Planned Panels:

### ▶ 1. Theoretical aspects and current research on working with fathers

What are the latest scientific studies that can help us better understand the topic? Future and evolving research projects of all kinds are included in this panel.

### ▶ 2. Fatherhood and welfare: Learning from different places

What can we learn about fathers and family welfare services from different welfare regimes and cultures, especially in a seemingly globalized world?

### ▶ 3. Bringing research and practice together: Improving services for fathers and families

How can we improve the knowledge exchange between research and services on working with fathers? What can the academic world learn from practitioners and vice versa?

## Greetings and opening remarks | 13:00–13:15

Chair: Dr. Elie Friedman, Head of the International Relations Office, Ashkelon Academic College.

- ▶ Prof. Haim Breitbart, President, Ashkelon Academic College.
- ▶ Dr. Nadav Perez-Vaisvidovsky, Faculty of Social Work, Ashkelon Academic College.
- ▶ Prof. Ulrike Urban-Stahl, Department of Social Work, Free University Berlin.

## Panel 1: Theoretical aspects and current research on working with fathers | 13:15–14:30

Chair: Dr. Ayana Halpern, Ashkelon Academic College; Free University Berlin.

- ▶ Dr. Simon Haworth, University of Birmingham, UK; Dr. Lee Sobo-Allen – Leeds Beckett University, UK.  
**Working with single and non-resident fathers to get the best outcomes for children**
- ▶ Dr. Georgia Philip, University of East Anglia, UK.  
**Working with fathers when there are serious child welfare concerns; insights from two major English research studies**
- ▶ Dr. Nadav Perez-Vaisvidovsky, Ashkelon Academic College, Israel.  
**Fathers, social care and capabilities: Systemic aspects of fathers' engagement in social services**

## Recess 14:30–14:40

## Panel 2: Fatherhood and welfare: Learning from different places | 14:40-16:10

Chair: Dr. Nadav Perez-Vaisvidovsky, Ashkelon Academic College.

- ▶ Dr. Ayana Halpern; Prof. Ulrike Urban-Stahl – Free University Berlin, Germany.  
**Fathers in the eyes of social workers in Israel and Germany: Feminism, ideals and disappointments**
- ▶ Prof. Luise Behringer, Katholische Stiftungshochschule München, Germany.  
**Offers for fathers of children with disabilities in Germany**
- ▶ Prof. Barbara Thiessen; Kathrin Pelz, M.A., Hochschule Landshut, Germany.  
**A comparison of the gendered distribution of family care work during the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany, Hungary, and Iceland, considering gender equity policies and the discourse on and design of parental leave legislations**
- ▶ Dr. Rajeev SP, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, India.  
**Father focused social work interventions in view of changing family dynamics in India**



## **Recess 16:10–16:20**

### **Panel 3: Bringing research and practice together: Improving services for fathers and families | 16:20-17:30**

**Chair: Reli Mizrahi, MSW, Ashkelon Academic College.**

- ▶ **Dr. Anna Tarrant, University of Lincoln, UK.  
Cocreating practice relevant knowledge and social interventions with young fathers and professionals: case studies from the UK**
- ▶ **Adit Klein, MSW, Agency for Social Services, Jerusalem Municipality, Israel.  
When the mother leaves to women's shelter: The role of the family social worker in helping the father**
- ▶ **Dr. Julia Arroyo – College of Charleston, US.  
Fathers' roles and role transitions in grandfamilies: Toward a better understanding**

**Each panel will include 10 minutes at the end for audience questions and discussion.**

**The event will be held via Zoom | For registration and to receive a link, click [here](#).**

**\*The webinar is free of charge.**