8I: Megan Parietti, University of Wisconsin-Parkside & Donna Pastore, Ohio State University
“Parental Support and Pressure: Views from Student-Athletes and Their Advisors”

Much of the research on how parents influence their child’s academic and athletic behaviors examines behaviors that parents exhibit that act as an influence. Researchers have considered two types of behavior that can be used to influence an individual: pressure and support (Lauer et al., 2010; Rogers et al., 2009). This study examined how pressure and support were utilized by the parents of collegiate student-athletes. The participants in this study were eight student-athletes and five academic advisors for athletics. Each individual was asked to participate in two interviews and complete a journal. Thematic analyses of the interview transcripts and journals were conducted. One of the most common words in all the interviews was support. The participants in this study shared that there were different ways that parents supported their children. The types of support included financial, travel attendance at games, emotional, guidance, academic and other. In regards to pressuring techniques from parents, many of the student-athletes used the term “push” in regards to both academics and athletics. Participants also compared the pressure and support behaviors they felt parents exhibited. Further findings about parental support and pressure will be shared and discussed as well as implications for sport researchers and practitioners.

8I Amy August, University of Minnesota
“Program Selection and Ability Tracking in Kids Activities: The Case of Nordic Gymnastics Club”

Children’s activities and the many ways of participating in them vary along many dimensions like selectiveness, frequency, and intensity. My research investigates how activities vary, why programs take on the particular characteristics they do, and how this affects the experiences and outcomes of the children participating. To begin, I conduct informational interviews with staff members to explore the program options offered by one children’s extracurricular activity organization—a private, suburban gymnastics club, which I refer to as Nordic. I find that Nordic maintains economic viability by creating programs, schedules, and policies in response to parents’ concerted cultivation strategies. Staff members’ anticipation of and reactions to particular parenting behaviors prompt Nordic to offer two different gymnastics tracks: a recreational and a competitive team program. Through ethnographic and participant observations of practices in both tracks, I find that the programs function as sites in which individual differences among participants are differentially identified, measured, and conferred social value. The differences in recreational and team program objectives result in widely divergent experiences of gymnastics, varying in the advantages and disadvantages they offer families. This complicates our understanding of the benefits of extracurricular involvement as a form of concerted cultivation.

8I Michelle Bauer, University of Ottawa
“Exploring Same-Sex Fathers’ Perspectives on Risky Play Behaviours”

In the 21st century, fewer parents support their children’s outdoor risky play behaviour, and overprotective parenting and hyper-vigilance have caused a shift in where children are being active and the activities in which they are engaged. Thus, fewer children are engaging in outdoor risky play and an increasing number are playing inside. In response to this, health researchers worldwide posit that there is a dire need for parental support for children’s outdoor risky play. Although there is scant research available on the influence of fathers’ perspectives on risky play for their children, there is an even greater lack of research concerning same-sex fathers’ perspectives. In this presentation, I address the questions, “what are same-sex fathers’ perspectives on children’s outdoor risky play behaviours?” and “what roles does masculinity play in these perspectives?” I will present preliminary findings from semi-structured interviews
and photo-elicitation interviews with same-sex fathers of children aged 6-12 in a major Canadian city. This research makes a timely contribution to bridging the gap in knowledge that exists between the fields of gender, sexuality, family dynamics, and injury prevention by exploring same-sex fathers’ perspectives and support for their children’s outdoor play behaviours.

8I Theo Randolph, Ohio State University & Chris Knoester, Ohio State University
“Patterns, Predictors, and Effects of Father-Child Interactions in Sports and Outdoor Activities”

Using Fragile Families data (N = 2,652), this study analyzes father’s engagement in sports and outdoor activities with their nine year-old child. First, the results indicate patterns of relatively high levels of father engagement. Among fathers who had seen their child more than once in the past month, nearly 2/3 reported playing sports or outdoor activities with their child once per week or more. Second, the results reveal discrepancies in which fathers are most likely to play sports or outdoor activities with their child. The present study is relevant to publicly engaged sociology of sport because it presents research evidence that can be used to better understand, and enhance, opportunities and potential positive effects of father-child interactions in sports in all communities, among all family structures, and for father-child dyads with different background characteristics.