

FAMILY VACATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF
NONRESIDENT FATHERS

By

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To my Family

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Abstract of Thesis Presented to the Graduate School
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Nonresident fathers' leisure-travel with their children has received relatively little attention in the literature, despite the significant role leisure may play in understanding nonresident father's involvement with their children. The purpose of this study was to explore the travel choices and perceptions of nonresident fathers who take pleasure trips with their children. Specifically, the motivations, constraints, travel behaviors, and benefits associated with their trips were examined in the context of modern family travel. Ten semi-structured interviews with men of varying backgrounds that did not reside with their biological children were conducted to explore the travel behaviors of this unique population and the factors that inhibit or foster their travel experiences. Snowball sampling was employed, initially, followed by purposive sampling to achieve balanced representation in regards to age and gender of the participants' children with the ultimate goal of attaining data saturation. The investigation was guided by the theory of Situated Fatherhood.

Grounded theory methods were utilized in the analysis of the data and to understand the totality of the travel experiences of nonresident fathers. Following the interviews, four macro themes were identified: creating a new normal, making travel

happen, travelling with dad, and happy memories. Among the four macro themes, thirteen subthemes were also identified from the interviews with the nonresident fathers.

The results of this study suggest that nonresident fathers engage in family travel with their children to mediate the negative impacts of their divorces, allowing them to establish a new identity and role within their new family structure. Travel also created a safe setting that allowed the men to practice the act of “fathering” and was a means by which they maintained and solidified their relationship with their children.

This study contributes to the body of knowledge regarding the unique travel experiences of men in the tourism context. It also supports the notion that the phases prior to, and following travel experiences, must be taken into consideration along with on-site travel behaviors in order to capture the entirety of an individual’s travel experience. Further research suggestions include conducting a larger scale study exploring further the unique travel experiences and benefits that travel affords special populations, including single parents. Overall, understanding the unique travel needs and benefits of pleasure travel for nontraditional family structures has important implications for the study of tourism and the enhanced service provision by the tourism industry.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Family life is an essential component of American society, and family travel is an important element of maintaining and sustaining a healthy family life (Lehto, Choi, Lin, & MacDermid, 2009). For many families in the 21st century, leisure-travel has become a necessity rather than a luxury due to its numerous benefits (Lehto et al). Crompton (1979) revealed that many people engage in family travel to satisfy their urge to develop kinship with family members and to enhance and enrich familial relationships by escaping routine. He also observed that parents utilize family travel as a means to educate their children in order to develop well-rounded individuals. Additionally, Crompton (1981) discovered that the primary motive for engaging in family travel was to enhance family unity by encouraging family bonding through the sharing of pleasure experiences. Shaw and Dawson (2001) assert that shared leisure increases family functioning. Shaw (2008) also noted that family travel functions as a way to strengthen relationships and maintain solidarity within the family unit. Similarly, Lehto et al revealed that family vacations contribute to greater communication and solidarity among family members. They also found that family travel enhances family well-being and creates a unique “space” for families to interact with each other outside of their social networks.

As such, family vacations account for a large proportion of the leisure-travel market. Crompton (1981) asserts that the family unit is the primary social group on pleasure vacations. Indeed, the U.S. Travel Association (2009) (USTA) estimated that 1,482.5 million domestic household leisure trips were taken in the United States in 2005. USTA also found that adults traveling with children, including both parents and

grandparents, make up 30% of U.S. adult leisure travelers. Further documenting the robust market of family travel, Gardyn (2001) revealed that more than 70% of married-with-children adults had taken a vacation with their spouse and children at least once during the previous year.

The definition of family travel has changed markedly over the past generation. Increases in the divorce rate and the prevalence of cohabitation have led to a significant change in the form of the American family (Chesworth, 2003; Jenkins & Lyons, 2006; Kay, 2006a). Once a market defined as travel with a heterosexual two-parent couple and their children, family travel now consists of both traditional family units as well as more non-traditional family structures including: nonresident parents, gay or lesbian couples, grandparents, and couples cohabitating (Chesworth, 2003; Kay, 2006a). Gardyn affirms that traditional family units no longer make up the majority of American family travelers. In light of the rapidly changing composition of American families, research into the vacation experiences of nontraditional family units has become necessary (Chesworth, 2003). Specifically, Gardyn notes nonresident fathers represent a growing travel market. Jenkins and Lyons (2006) define nonresident fathers as:

biological fathers of children with whom they do not share the same home address. As well as those fathers who are divorced or separated and those who were never married to or have never lived with the child's mother, this potentially includes those who are incarcerated, and those who are refused contact with their children because of court orders (p. 221)

According to Gardyn, single fathers are on the rise. The U.S. Census Bureau (2009) found that single-father families had increased from 2 million in 2000 to 2.5 million in 2006. Jenkins and Lyons point out "the number and proportion of nonresident fathers has risen as a result of increasing levels of family breakdown, divorce, and separation" (p. 220). Kay (2006a) asserts a growing number of fathers are living separately from

their children, resulting in leisure being the primary context for parent-child interaction. Similarly, Gardyn (2001) notes that the high divorce rate has resulted in a considerable number of single parent households, but has not affected single parents' desire for travel. Subsequently, nonresident fathers traveling with their children represent a potential travel unit, which warrants a better understanding of their travel choices and experiences as well as the impact that travel has on nonresident fathers' relationships with their children.

Statement of the Problem

Discussions of such topics as the benefits of family travel (Crompton, 1979, 1981; Lehto et al, 2009), how families negotiate travel decisions (Consenza & Davis, 1981; Fodness, 1992; Jenkins, 1978; Kozak, 2010; Litvin, Xu & Kang, 2004; Mottiar & Quinn, 2004; Myers & Moncrief, 1978; Nichols & Snepenger, 1988; Nickerson & Jurowski, 2001; Ritchie & Filiatrault, 1980; Thorton, Shaw & Williams, 1997; Zalatan, 1998), and motivations for family travel (Crompton, 1979, 1981; Lehto et al, 2009) have been primarily explored within the context of traditional family social structures, with little attention to these topics within the context of nontraditional family units, specifically nonresident fathers. With the increasing number of nonresident fathers, new questions arise such as, do nonresident fathers traveling with their children have the same travel experiences, benefits, and motivations for travel? And, when nonresident fathers travel with their children do they experience the same difficulties with travel planning and decision-making as traditional family units?

In this study, pleasure travel/tourism was defined as a special form of leisure (Cohen, 1974). In the field of leisure studies, researchers have begun to recognize the need to study the role of leisure in nonresidential parenting. For example, Jenkins and

Lyons (2006) noted that, “examination of nonresident parents and their leisure with their children is absent within leisure studies.” (p.227). They suggest that leisure may be an important realm for nonresident fathers and they encourage more research in this area, potentially using qualitative methods. Kay (2006b) also notes the important medium leisure can provide for paternal involvement. She asserts:

men are typically more likely to spend time with their children in playful activities than in routine caring tasks. Leisure-based activities are therefore potentially more prominent in fathering than they are in mothering, and account for a higher proportion of father-child interactions than of those between mother and their children. Our subject area is therefore uniquely positioned to throw a particularly strong light on the social practice of fathering (p. 126).

Similarly, Swinton, Zabriskie, Freeman, and Fields (2008) acknowledge that nonresident father’s leisure has received relatively little attention in the literature, despite the significant role leisure may play in understanding nonresident father’s involvement with their children.

Indeed, in a study of the participation patterns of 479 nonresident fathers and their children, Stewart (1999) found that leisure is the primary context for interaction between nonresident fathers and their children due to physical distance and structural constraints, such as custody arrangements. In the tourism literature, research on the subject of nonresident fathers and travel with their children is non-existent. In fact, Chesworth (2003) noticed that the hospitality field has failed to acknowledge that the nature of the family has changed, calling specifically for research addressing the impact of vacations on single-parent families. Further, Gardyn (2001) notes that the travel industry has yet to acknowledge the changes in the composition of today’s families and their travel habits. Yet, Swinton et al revealed that balance activities, such as travel, have the potential to result in stronger family cohesion and greater adaptability to new

situations, but more research is needed. Further, Swinton et al (2008) observed that, as a whole, studies of nonresidential father involvement with their children have inadequately addressed what is actually occurring during parenting time. Thus, while the incidence of nonresident fathers is increasing, we know very little about their role in their children's lives, particularly in the realm of family-based pleasure travel.

Prior to this study, no known empirical studies exist that have examined the travel choices and perceptions of nonresident fathers. Moreover, as Kay (2006b) notes, pleasure travel as a form of leisure is well suited to address fatherhood involvement with their children. She argues, "recognition of the concept of 'leisure-based' fatherhood may be a valuable addition to mainstream social scientific theory concerning the nature of fatherhood" (p. 128).

This study contributes both to the body of knowledge and to practice. First, the study of the travel choices and perceptions of nonresident fathers traveling with their children provides a unique contribution to the literature by expanding our understanding of nonresidential parenting practices and leisure-travel activities. Second, both public and private tourism providers could benefit from a better understanding of the needs and preferences of nonresident fathers traveling with their children. Such insights would enable tourism providers to better cater to this largely ignored market. As a result, the goal of this study was to illuminate the unique role travel plays in nonresident fathers' parenting time.

Theoretical Framework

Situated Fathering

The concept of situated fathering presented by Marsiglio, Roy, and Fox (2005) is a unique framework that illuminates how the features of physical sites and social

settings as well as the subjective processes of social life are interwoven and affect the act of fathering and fatherhood. In other words, situated fathering refers to the physical “situation” or context in which men father and how that impacts their fathering experience and interaction with their children. The unique interplay between physical spaces and the social/symbolic processes of fathering are central to the concept of situated fathering, making it well suited to not only frame this study, but also guide the interpretation of nonresident father’s travel experiences with their children. This concept also emphasizes the impact that context and physical settings have on fathering, highlighting the importance of places and spaces to men’s fathering experiences with their children. Marsiglio et al (2005) assert that the concept of situated fathering “can frame aspects of a study dealing with fathering in a particular setting, providing an entry point into the data and a lens for interpreting findings” (p.5).

The theory of situated fathering has five primary properties and several secondary properties of settings that address the complexity of situated fathering. The five primary properties focus on general issues related to men’s situated experiences as fathers.

These properties are as follows:

Physical conditions

The importance of both natural and man-made settings to fathering experiences is emphasized in this theoretical framework. Marsiglio et al recognize how the characteristics of places such as: open areas (parks), closed spaces (houses), small confined spaces (cars), expansive spaces (large house), and climactic conditions (e.g. rain, sunshine) have the power to influence the way men perceive and respond to their children. The authors propose that specific spaces create opportunities for fathers to be more involved with and bond with their children. As such, the characteristics of a

specific travel site can impact the level of involvement and bonding experiences fathers have with their children on their trips.

Temporal Dynamic

The importance of “when” men are fathering is also an essential property of situated fathering. Marsiglio et al (2005) recognize that roles and social changes dramatically shift with the passing of time, making the temporal component of father-child interactions central to analyzing men’s fathering experiences.

Symbolic/ Perceptual

This property takes into consideration the interplay between the way that both fathers and their children perceive a certain location such as: safe/dangerous, work/leisure oriented, child-centered/adult-centered, poor/affluent, informal/formal, emotionally warm/cold, influence how fathers and children perceive and treat one another.

Social Structural

The normative order, or the social expectations that determine how people relate to one another, of settings that award certain individuals with status, knowledge, and access to resources also influence men’s fathering experiences. For example, a father’s income impacts the type of travel locations he can visit with his children, in turn influencing how a father bonds and interacts with his children at a particular travel location.

Public/Private

Marsiglio et al assert that fathers can view settings to varying degrees as public or private. Private settings include instances where a father and their child are alone or among immediate family members including: hotel rooms, home with family, or traveling

together in a car. Public settings include places such as: shopping malls, parks, athletic events and other places where others can view a father's interaction with their child. Travel challenges fathers to navigate interactions with their children in both public and private settings.

Marsiglio et al (2005) explain that the secondary properties included in the theory of situated fathering refer to more specific settings that shape men's experiences as fathers. The five secondary properties include:

Institutional and Cultural Conditions

Informal and formal organizational policies of specific sites can create structural inequalities that impede men's fathering. Inequalities that result from men's race/ethnicity, class, and sexual orientation shape how they interact with their children. Many men must combat racist remarks and institutionalized racism that can offer men an opportunity to challenge stereotypes through their fathering experiences.

Transitional Elements

This property addresses the transitional experiences of men moving from one site to another. Marsiglio et al suggest that this particular property may be particularly important to the study of nonresident fathers traveling with their children because it highlights how the movement between private and public settings creates significant changes in the context within which men father their children.

Personal Power and Control

Marsiglio et al assert that a father's perception of how much personal power and control he has over a given situation or over their children at a given site can influence their interaction with their children. Many nonresident fathers experience difficulties

negotiating their power as a parent after a divorce, which could potentially influence the activities and where they are willing to travel with their children.

Gender Attributes

The extent to which men view certain sites as gendered can also influence how they interact with their children. For example, places such as prisons, sport arenas, farms, and military bases are commonly viewed as masculine, while dance recitals, churches, and homes are viewed as feminine. Men may feel more open to show affection and emotions in more masculine “safe spaces”, while feminine spaces may encourage men to assert their masculinity by behaving in more traditionally masculine ways such as being emotionally distant (Marsiglio et al, 2005, p.13). Regardless, the gender attributes associated with a place can potentially influence the way men father.

Fatherhood Discourses

Certain settings serve to inform men about their role as fathers. Activities and programs designed to aid men in fathering activities can foster and cement men’s identities and roles as concerned fathers. As a result, traveling may be an important activity that encourages men to be more nurturing and involved fathers.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to investigate the pleasure travel characteristics, motivations, and experiences (i.e. benefits, challenges, etc.) of U.S. nonresident fathers traveling with their children

Research Questions

The guiding research questions that were addressed in this study are as follows:

1. What types of pleasure travel do nonresident fathers participate in with their children? I.e. Activities, destinations, frequency and length of trip, motivations

2. What are the experiences of nonresident fathers traveling for pleasure with their children? I.e. feelings, benefits, gender role crossover/conflict
3. How does the vacation context influence the type and quality of the parent/father relationship? I.e. influence of situated fatherhood, physical setting, transition from public/private settings, gender attributes, and fatherhood discourse

CHAPTER 2 REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

A review of the literature is presented in this chapter to lay the foundation for studying the travel choices and experiences of U.S. nonresident fathers traveling with their children for pleasure. The following areas of study are included in the review of the literature: family leisure-travel; the benefits of family travel; women's role in family travel; an analysis of the current culture and conduct of fatherhood; the role of leisure in fathering experiences; the key motivators that facilitate paternal involvement; and the benefits of paternal involvement.

Family Leisure-Travel

The majority of the literature on family travel examines the travel planning of traditional husband-wife dyads, ignoring the plethora of nontraditional family structures that exist in today's society (Consenza & Davis, 1981, Litvin, Xu, & Kang, 2004). The tourism literature has tended to follow a similar path as the broader consumer behavior and marketing research on family decision-making focusing on the following: the roles of wife-husband dyads in the decision-making process (Jenkins, 1978; Kang, Hsu, & Wolfe, 2003; Litvin, et al., 2004; Mottiar & Quinn, 2004; Nichols & Snepenger, 1988; Ritchie & Filiatrault, 1980; Zalatan, 1998), the relative influence of children on family travel decision-making (Nickerson & Jurowski, 2001; Thornton, Shaw & Williams, 1997), and the influence of the family life cycle on the roles of spouses in the decision-making process (Consenza & Davis, 1981; Fodness, 1992; Myers & Moncrief, 1978).

Jenkins (1978) pioneered the study of decision-making in the realm of family pleasure travel by studying the relative influence of husband-wife dyads on ten sub-decisions that he believed comprised the decision-making process. The sub-decisions

were placed into three categories: husband-dominant, wife-dominant, or joint based on the reported influence of each spouse. His findings indicated that a majority of couples perceived that the decision-making sub-decisions were made jointly by both spouses. However, the remaining four sub-decisions were perceived to be husband-dominant, with none of the ten sub-decisions being wife-dominant. Surprisingly, wives were more likely to perceive sub-decisions as husband dominant, while husbands were more likely to perceive sub-decisions as being made jointly. Similarly, Myers and Moncrief (1978) found that a majority of the decisions made in the realm of family travel were made jointly, although as Jenkins (1978) found, husbands typically had more influence than wives if the decisions were not made jointly. Ritchie and Filiatrault's (1980) study of couples and families vacationing yielded results that husbands actually dominated the majority of family decisions, instead of most of the decisions being made jointly as in Jenkins's and Myers and Moncrief's studies. Ritchie and Filiatrault found that husbands exerted considerably more influence than wives or children in 14 of the 17 sub-decisions they examined. Nichols and Snepenger (1988) also found that a majority of the families they studied (66%) utilized joint decision-making for most of their family travel decisions. They also found that higher income families tended to be more husband-dominant, while lower income families were more wife-dominant.

Research in the 1970s and 1980s generally concluded that although decisions were primarily made jointly, husbands were perceived by most couples, and wives even more strongly than their husbands, to exert more influence than their wives in all of the sub-decisions of the family travel decision-making process. In response to this research and most likely as gender roles began to change, as predicted by Nichols and

Snepenger (1988), researchers in the 1990s began to see a shift in some areas of the decision-making process from husband-dominant to wife-dominant as well as a movement towards more cooperative/joint decision-making (Kozak, 2010; Litvin et al, 2004). Fodness (1992) discovered, contrary to previous research that the wife tends to be the family information seeker for family vacations. He did, however, discover that family vacation decisions are most often joint decisions, corroborating past research. Zalatan (1998) focused specifically on wives and what decisions they were responsible for, excluding their husbands from the study entirely. Zalatan grouped the decision of a family vacation into four categories: initial trip tasks, financing, pre-departure, and destination. He found that wives were most involved in destination-related decisions including the selection of accommodations and selecting tourist sites to visit, differing from earlier studies that found these decisions to be a husband-dominant role (e.g. Jenkins, 1978). He also found that the more educated the women were within the family unit, the more involvement she had overall in the decision-making process.

Conversely, Kang, Hsu, and Wolfe (2003) found that information collection was shared jointly between each partner and dominated by men in families that did not arrive upon the decision jointly. These results could be attributed to the fact that older couples comprised the majority of the sample, and as couples age they tend to make more decisions jointly (Fodness 1992; Myers & Moncrief, 1978). Litvin et al (2004) also discovered a distinct trend towards a higher proportion of joint decision-making. They tested the relative influence of each spouse on seven of the ten sub-decisions used by Jenkins (1978). They found that five of the seven sub-decisions fell into the joint decision-making category. Three of these decisions were found by Jenkins to be

husband-dominant. They include: the decision to take a vacation, length of the vacation, and how much money to spend. Surprisingly, the results for information collection and selection of lodging proved to be sources of contention, with each spouse reporting that they had more influence than the other. Similarly, Kozak (2010) in a study of the decision tactics used by spouses in the decision-making process found that compromise was the decision tactic most often used by couples in vacation decision-making followed by persuasion. In another study Mottiar and Quinn (2004) discovered, like Fodness (1992) and Zalatan (1998), that women dominated the initial stages of family vacation decision-making, including collection of information. They also found that due to women's high involvement in the initial stages of planning that she determines the choice set her family has to choose from, thus, acting as an information gatekeeper. Women seem to have become an integral part of the family vacation decision-making process, especially in recent years.

Researchers in the field of travel and tourism have also addressed the influence of children on the family travel decision-making process. For example, Jenkins (1978) found that the kinds of activities, destination points, and date of vacation were highly influenced by children as a result of their needs. Thorton, Shaw, and Williams (1997) also found that children influenced their family's tourism decisions due to their physical needs or their ability to negotiate with their parents. Several other studies examined children's influence and its effect on the influence of their parents. An early study by Ritchie and Filiatrault (1980) indicated that the presence of children decreased the wife's overall influence in the decision-making process. Conversely, Fodness (1992)

found that the presence of children actually increased a wife's influence on the decision-making process, while families without children typically make decisions jointly.

Research focusing on family travel decision-making within the family life cycle (FLC) has followed in the same research vein as discussed above. Researchers have attempted to study, how much perceived influence each spouse has over the family life cycle. Myers and Moncrief (1978) first addressed the effects of the FLC on decision-making within a family unit, discovering that the longer couples were together the more likely they were to engage in cooperative joint decision-making. Conversely, Consenza and Davis (1981) found that decision-making shifts throughout the FLC moving from joint to more wife-dominated in later life. Fodness's (1992) findings disagree with both Myers and Moncrief and Consenza and Davis. His research findings did not support the assertion that the pattern of family decision-making changes over the life cycle shifting towards more joint decisions. Instead, he found that decision-making remains stable over the life cycle, thus the partner that dominated the decision earlier in life, such as women dominating information collection, will continue to dominate later in life.

Although research within this topic area has not included studies on single parents, these previous studies serve as a foundation for the study of how travel choices may be mediated by nonresident fathers and their children.

Benefits of Family Travel

For many Americans, the difficulties of travel planning are worth the effort because of the numerous benefits family travel offers. Crompton (1979;1981) conducted some of the early work on the benefits of leisure-travel for families. His first study (Crompton, 1979) focused on families' motivations for leisure-travel and found that they are divided into two types: "push" factors that serve as internal motives to family travel and "pull"

factors that are the external attributes of a specific destination that facilitate family travel. The “push” factors for family travel include: the urge to develop kinship with family members, to enhance and enrich familial relationships by escaping routine, the exploration and evaluation of self, relaxation, the prestige associated with travel, the opportunity to do things that were not possible in their everyday life, and to facilitate social interaction. The two “pull” factors he observed were parents’ desire to educate their children as a means of developing a well-rounded individual and the urge to have novel or new experiences together. Crompton (1981) also discovered that the primary motive for engaging in family travel was to enhance family unity by encouraging family bonding through the sharing of pleasure experiences.

Similarly, Shaw (2008) noted that leisure-travel aids in the social and emotional development of children, while cementing relationships and ensuring the stability of the family unit. She also mentions that parents utilize the time they spend with their children in family leisure and on family vacations to teach children how to be good parents. Additionally, Lehto et al (2009) discovered that leisure-travel provides unique opportunities for interaction among family members, which facilitates the creation of memorable experiences and family bonding. They also found that family vacations contribute to greater communication and solidarity between family members, displaying the important platform pleasure travel can provide in encouraging parent-child interaction. Lastly, family travel was shown to enhance family well-being and create a unique “space” for families to interact with each other outside of their social networks, which has the potential to facilitate deeper familial bonds and contribute to children’s development and emotional well-being.

Specific to nonresident fathers, travel may offer nonresident fathers unique benefits in their attempts to navigate the difficult path of fathering at a distance. Indeed, Swinton et al (2008) assert that the planning and preparation required for travel could encourage communication and compromise between nonresident fathers and their children.

Family Travel and The Mother-Role

Once families arrive at their destination, research shows that women are primarily responsible for the planning, organizing, and coordination of family activities (Deem, 1996; Davidson, 1996; Small, 2005; Shaw, 2008). Research suggests that mothers tend to be more constrained than fathers when they travel due in part to the fact that women's household chores and responsibilities are extended into the tourism context (Davidson, 2005; McGehee, Locker-Murphy, & Uysal, 1996; Small, 2005), a mother's vacation tends to revolve around the needs of other family members (Davidson, 1996; Hudson, 2000; McGehee et al., 1996; Small, 2005). Research has also focused on examining women's unique travel behaviors (Bartros, 1982, Collins & Tisdell, 2002) and motivations for travel (Chiang & Jogaratnam, 2006; Deem, 1996; Davidson, 1996; McGehee et al., 1996 Pennington-Gray & Kerstetter 2001).

The literature on women and travel has been, by far, dominated by research on the difficulties, inequities, and constraints women experience (Deem, 1996; Davidson, 1996; Davidson, 2005; Small, 2005)). Deem in a study of 54 women's travel experiences found that women, due to their gender, experienced significant constraints on their travel and tourism pursuits. The women revealed, " it was not at all clear which aspects of holidays separated women off from their everyday experience" (p. 112). Many of the women still had to perform many of what would be considered everyday

household chores. Similarly, Davidson (1996) found in her research that a majority of women's leisure experiences were comprised of work, especially if the women had young children. McGehee et al (1996) also found that women tend to carry the bulk of responsibility for travel planning and organization during family vacations. Indeed Small (2005) noted that women were in charge of not only organizing the vacation, including packing the right games and snacks for their children, but they also were responsible for preparations before and after the holiday ended, which included packing and unpacking as well as laundry and house cleaning. The women in Small's study also revealed that work was a key component of their holiday experience with freedom only being achieved in small fragments when their children were otherwise occupied. Similarly, Shaw (2008) affirms that women, consistently shoulder the major portion of work that is associated with family vacations and leisure including: planning organizing, scheduling, packing, and cleaning up.

Further, Nyaupane and Andereck (2008) examined the travel constraints that affect not only women on vacations with their family, but the population as a whole when attempting to plan and execute vacations. They discovered that structural constraints including: lack of time, money, opportunity, and access to information, affected people the most intensely in their attempts to travel. Specifically, time and cost were found to be the most constraining factors to both men and women. These types of constraints may be particularly useful when examining what intervening factors, especially for the participants with lower incomes, prevent or inhibit nonresident fathers' pleasure travel with their children.

Returning to the tourism literature on family travel, researchers noted that women's travel experiences also tended to be family centered. Davidson's (1996) interviews with 24 women traveling with their young children revealed that women defined a good holiday if they were able to nurture their relationships with their significant others, primarily their husband and their children. Hudson (2000) also determined that children were women's number one priority when vacationing. Women were also found to be more interested in the quality of the vacation, appreciate learning, and give higher priority to supporting others compared to men. Likewise, McGehee et al. (1996) found that the traditional role of women as the "keeper of family unity" spilled over into women's role as a tourist, resulting in women planning vacations centered around the needs of the other members of her family, such as choosing to visit a museum in order to educate and broaden their children's horizons. Lastly, Small noted that women were primarily responsible for their children's physical care and safety as well as the emotional work of dealing with keeping children happy and amused while on vacation. She also found that women had a pleasant experience when all members of their families were happy and satisfied with their vacation. Small (2005) also discovered that holidays served as a catalyst for women to strengthen and maintain relationships. Thus, like Deem (1996) the social aspect of holidays were one of the central meanings of a vacation to women. Small also found women tended to place a higher importance in the emotional and social dimensions of a skiing vacation versus the physical, in congruence with Deem and Davidson's (1996) studies. Accordingly, these findings highlight the need for research addressing who fills the traditional female role of nurturer, organizer, and planner when men travel alone with their children?

McGehee et al (1996) examined the differences between women and men's motivations for travel. They discovered that women tended to place more importance on cultural experiences, family and kinship, and comfort and relaxation than men. Conversely, men reported that they placed more importance on sports and adventure activities as well as recreational activities than women. In congruence with McGehee et al., Pennington-Gray and Kerstetter (2001) studied the benefits sought by university-educated women when traveling as well as their motivations for travel. The women in their study found that natural surroundings, education, shopping, family, and excitement were the most important benefits they sought from their travel experience. As for motivations, Pennington-Gray and Kerstetter discovered the women's travel motivations could be divided into three categories of motivations: rest/relaxation, family/social seekers, and action seekers. Chiang and Jogaratnam's (2006) research on the motivations of women traveling solo produced similar findings. They discovered that the 194 women they sampled were also motivated by social experiences, relaxation, escape, experiences, and self esteem development. It is clear that the social aspect of travel has a huge draw for women, as much of the literature reveals (Chiang & Jogaratnam, 2006; Collins & Tisdell, 2002; Deem, 1996; Davidson, 1996; Hudson, 2000; Pennington-Gray & Kerstetter, 2001; Small, 2005).

While researchers have examined the experiences of women on family vacations and their motivations for travel, little research exists on men's experiences of family vacations and the studies on tourism motivation tend to either ignore gender (e.g. Crompton, 1979; 1981) or to examine men in relation to women (i.e. gender differences in motivation) (e.g. Dann, 1977; Chiang & Jogaratnam, 2006; Collins & Tisdell, 2002;

Deem, 1996; Davidson, 1996; Hudson, 2000; Pennington-Gray & Kerstetter, 2001; Small, 2005). Acknowledging this shortcoming in the tourism literature, Schanzel and Smith (2011) attempted to highlight men's experiences on family vacations with their significant others and children. They discovered that men's roles tended to mirror their at home role as playmate, with them fulfilling the role of entertainer to their children during their vacations. Surprisingly, they also found that men tended to abandon traditional gender roles and engaged in activities that are considered female roles, such as cooking, in order to give their spouses a break on their vacations. These findings may have greater implications for the ability of nonresident father's to adapt to more traditionally female roles such as caretaker, during their vacations with their children. Also, this study suggests that men may be more comfortable with travel due to the fact that it mirrors their at home parenting roles, thus, travel potentially provides an important mechanism by which nonresident fathers recapture the roles they filled prior to their divorces.

Fatherhood

Based on the literature presented, men and women have divergent family travel experiences that can be tied to their distinct roles as parents (Deem, 1996; Davidson, 1996; Davidson, 2005; Small, 2005). Accordingly, it is necessary to explore the unique roles and experiences of fathers that contribute to these differences. The culture of fatherhood, defined by La Rossa (1988) as "the shared norms, values, and beliefs surrounding men's parenting" (p.451), has undergone significant changes in the 21st century (LaRossa, 1988; Marsiglio, 1993; Lamb, 2000; Coltrane, 2004; Wall & Arnold, 2006). Lamb noted four distinct phases that emphasized specific roles most common to fatherhood during that time period. In the earliest phase, from Puritan times through the

Colonial Period, a father's main role was as a moral guide or teacher. The next phase, beginning with industrialization, saw fatherhood as being primarily characterized as "the breadwinner" or provider for the family. Thus, a "good father" was a man with the ability to provide for all of his family's needs. Beginning in the 1930s to the 1940s research focused on the inadequacies of many fathers, focusing on the need for men to be sex-role models for their children. As a result, a "good father" was defined in this period as a man who was a good sex-role model, especially for his sons. A major shift in the 1970s led to the concept of fatherhood and "good fathers" to radically change. The birth of the "new father" occurred with the cultural expectation that men should be nurturing and active fathers to their children. This ideal has persisted to the present (Harris & Morgan, 1991, Lamb, 2000, Cabrera, Tamis-LeMonda, Bradley, Hofferth, & Lamb, 2000, Shaw, 2008). On the whole, the cultural expectations and ideals of fatherhood have dramatically changed with the advent of the "new father" ideal, a father who should be more involved in nurturing roles as well as the traditional breadwinner role (Harris & Morgan, 1991, Cabrera et al, 2000, Lamb, 2000, Eggenbeen & Knoester, 2001, Shaw, 2008).

However, there continues to be what Hochschild and Machung (1989) deem a "stalled revolution". Research within the field of both sociology and leisure studies has documented that inequities continue to exist in the division of parenting responsibilities within heterosexual married couples, consisting of number of hours spent directly caring for children, planning childcare, leisure time with children, and housework tasks (i.e. laundry, housecleaning, and preparing meals) (Ishii-Kuntz & Coltrane, 1992). Men continue to function as the primary breadwinners and playmates for their children, while

women assume a majority of the childcare and household chores, regardless of their employment status (Lamb, 1987; LaRossa, 1988; Hochschild & Machung, 1989; Ishii-Kuntz & Coltrane, 1992; Sanchez & Thomson, 1997; Craig, 2006; Kay, 2006a; Wall & Arnold, 2007).

Lamb (1987) estimates fathers spend significantly less time in the three levels of paternal involvement, including engagement (time spent in one-on-one interaction), accessibility (being available to the child without directly participating in childcare), and responsibility (time-spent maintaining a child's welfare and coordinating their care). He also observed that father-child interactions were dominated by play, while a majority of mother-child interactions involved caretaking activities. Like Lamb, La Rossa (1988) found that men were "technically present but functionally absent" (p. 454). Their levels of engagement, accessibility and responsibility were only a fraction of a mother's, and a majority of the care-giving men provided was in the form of play. Additionally, Craig (2006) found that women spent much longer than fathers in overall time caring for children, and women spent more time in the physically more difficult parenting tasks, such as bathing, feeding, transporting them to school and after school activities, while fathers spent the most time in interactive care activities, like playing with and teaching. Fathers also had more flexibility than women over when they performed childcare, resulting in mothers being more constrained by child care duties than fathers. Such (2006) documented that the time men spent with their children closely resembled leisure. Kay (2006a; 2006b) also asserted that men were more likely to spend time with their children in playful activities than day-to-day caring tasks.

Ishii-Kuntz and Coltrane (1992) noted that fathers continued to fill the “helper role”, while women performed the majority of housework and childcare. Similarly, Wall and Arnold (2007) found that fathers continue to be positioned as secondary parents whose parental responsibilities fit around their work life. Sanchez and Thomson (1997) also documented that the wife as homemaker and the husband as the breadwinner continued to be the norm, with little change in men’s participation in childcare and household chores.

The literature on fatherhood lays a foundation for the roles that men commonly fill, showing that many of the skills required for traveling with children such as planning, organizing, and coordinating children’s activities are typically performed by men’s significant others. This literature serves as a basis from which to analyze how men overcome and mediate potential gender role conflict when traveling with their children for pleasure.

Fatherhood and Leisure

Despite the lack of research on father’s travel behaviors with their children, there is a growing focus not only on the experiences of fatherhood, but also on men’s child-centered leisure behaviors in the fields of sociology and leisure studies (Coakley, 2006; Swinton, Freeman, Zabriskie, & Fields, 2008; Harrington, 2006; Such, 2006; Stewart, 1999; Swinton et al, 2008). For example, Harrington (2006) discovered that leisure served as a site for fathers, more so than mothers, as a means to connect with family members, especially their children. All but three of the fathers in her study, reported sports as the predominant activity that they participated in with their children. Harrington found that leisure and sports were a major site for ‘doing fatherhood’ (p. 181). Men were drawn to discuss their sport interests as well as their children’s

because it was an area of discourse that men were passionate about, the most interested in, felt at ease with, and could claim competence in. She discovered that sport provided an avenue for fathers to show interest in their children, bond with them, and impart important values, and teach them social skills. For the participants in her study, sport also created a “safe” environment for men to discuss their child’s emotional wellbeing interests and struggles, which many fathers find difficult to initiate.

Coakley (2006) also examined the role of youth sports in father-child relationships. He discovered that youth sports provides an environment in which men feel comfortable and competent interacting with their children, allowing them the opportunity to connect with their children and spend quality time with them. He also found that youth sports were the primary setting for father-child interactions, not only serving as a parenting context that allows men to nurture their relationship with their children, but also functioning as a scapegoat for men to claim they were sharing equally in parenting responsibilities without having to participate in more arduous childcare tasks. Such (2006) also found that leisure and fatherhood were so “intricately linked” that the role of fatherhood could best be described as ‘leisure-based’ (p. 194). The participants in her study closely linked their meanings of leisure to their children, often encouraging their children to adopt leisure activities that resembled their own in order to foster shared interests. The men reported that they highly valued participating in leisure activities with their children. Specific to men’s roles in the tourism context, Schanzel and Smith (2011) found that fathers, as in their at-home leisure with their children, primarily occupied the role of entertainer on their family trips, focusing on facilitating play with their children while on vacations. Unfortunately, this study represents the only literature in tourism

that focuses specifically on men's family travel experiences, making it difficult to get in-depth information regarding men's family travel experiences and highlighting the need for more scholarship examining men within the tourism context.

In the few studies that address nonresident father's involvement with their children, researchers found that leisure is the primary parenting setting for parent-child interactions (Stewart, 1999; Jenkins & Lyons, 2006; Swinton et al, 2008). Stewart (1999) observes that for nonresident father's leisure is the primary context for father-child interaction. Jenkins and Lyons observe the significant role leisure plays as the main mechanism for nonresident parents' to connect with their children. Swinton et al. also found that nonresident father's parenting time was almost entirely in a leisure setting.

As a result, researchers in the field of leisure studies encourage scholars to address this large gap in the literature. Jenkins and Lyons emphasize the need to bring nonresident father's leisure experiences with their children into focus. Swinton et al highlight that an exploration of the potential role leisure may play in understanding nonresident father's involvement with their children is a much-needed undertaking.

Leisure is an important means by which men connect with their children (Coakley, 2006; Freeman, Zabriskie, & Fields, 2008; Harrington, 2006; Such, 2006; Stewart, 1999; Swinton et al, 2008). Accordingly, there is a growing need for research in this area in order to better understand the experiences of fathers, especially nonresident fathers, and to extend the leisure context to include travel as well as the more traditional sports based settings.

Motivations for Paternal Involvement

As the demand for fathers to be more involved in childcare has increased (Marsiglio et al., 2005), scholars have documented the factors that encourage men to be more involved as parents. Harris and Morgan (1991) examined the affective behavioral dimensions of the 'new father' role, which includes being nurturing, supportive, and companionate, in order to determine what individual or family factors promote greater father involvement in parenting. They discovered that greater marital satisfaction leads to greater father involvement and that fathers are more involved when a son is present, concluding that sons tend to draw fathers into more active parenting.

Bulanda (2004) examined the influence of gender ideologies on paternal involvement with children. The authors set out to examine whether paternal involvement would increase or decrease depending on if their spouse had traditional gender ideologies or more egalitarian views of gender. They discovered that the wife's gender ideologies had no influence on paternal involvement, however, a father with more egalitarian gender ideologies exhibited greater involvement than traditional fathers.

Lamb, Pleck, Charnov, and Levine (1987) noted four factors that contribute to fathers becoming more involved in their children's lives. The four factors include: motivation, skills and self-confidence, social approval, and institutional support. Marsiglio (2008) in his study of men involved with youthwork discovered that men who worked with children felt more confident in childcare activities, preparing them to handle the day-to-day tasks of fathering. Youthwork also was found to improve men's communication skills with children, building their confidence in their abilities to interact and care for children. Cooper (2000) in her study of men employed at high tech firms in

Silicon Valley found that how men constructed their masculinity influenced the priority they placed on their role as fathers. Thus, if fathering was key in these men's construction of masculinity they prioritized their roles as fathers and were more involved, regardless of their workload.

Specific to nonresident fathers, Ihinger-Tallman, Pasley, and Buehler (1995) noted the factors that facilitated divorced fathers to continue to be involved in their children's lives. They found that, similar to Cooper's (2000) findings, the more salient nonresident father's role as fathers were to their personal identity the more involved they were with their children. They also found the following factors to positively contribute to nonresident father's involvement: positive co-parental relationship with their ex-spouse, father's economic well-being and job stability, and the support of others in the social networks of nonresident fathers. These key motivators could be important to encouraging men's travel with their children. However, it is necessary to explore what motives directly influence nonresident fathers' decision to travel with their children for pleasure.

Benefits of Paternal Involvement

Scholars have noted the unique and significant contributions that fathers not only have on their children, but also the positive influence children have on their fathers (Hochschild & Machung, 1989; Hall, Walker, & Acock, 1995; Risman & Myers, 1997; Amato & Gilbreth, 1999; Warner & Steel, 1999; Marsiglio, Amato, Day, & Lamb, 2000; Deutsch, Servis, & Payne, 2001; Eggebeen & Knoester, 2001). For example, greater paternal involvement has been shown to enhance a child's intellectual and social development (Hochschild & Machung). Marsiglio et al also noted, based on the fatherhood literature in the 1990's, that greater fatherhood involvement leads to

academic success, lower levels of externalizing and internalizing behavioral problems, and positive social behavior, such as popularity and the development of larger support networks. Similarly, Deutsch et al (2001) found that fathers who were more involved in direct parenting and were emotionally supportive and firm had children with enhanced self-esteem.

Coltrane (2004) noted that when men were involved in the direct care of their children it could encourage young adults to engage in less gender stereotyping, and lead daughters to be more independent and sons to be more emotionally sensitive. Similar to the findings noted by Coltrane, Deutsch et al found that fathers' emotional involvement with their children led to their children's preferences for traditionally feminine activities, such as cooking and art as their father's approval offset the stigma commonly attached to feminine activities, especially for boys. Hall et al (1995) and Risman and Myers (1997) also found that in families with fathers that participated in non-traditional gender roles in parenting, both sons and daughters were found to have less traditional gender role attitudes and ideologies. Specific to nonresident fathers, Amato and Gilbreth (1999) found that similar to the benefits experienced by children of resident fathers that were directly involved with childcare, nonresident fathers that cultivated feelings of closeness with their children and utilized authoritative parenting had the same effect on their children's development, academic success, and externalizing and internalizing behaviors as resident fathers.

Eggebeen and Knoester's (2001) examination of the effects of a range of fatherhood experiences on the lives and well-being of 5,227 men revealed that fatherhood involvement also increased the well-being of fathers themselves. The

authors discovered that “fatherhood does profoundly shape the lives of men” (p.392). Specifically, men that are fathers tend to be more socially connected, have stronger intergenerational ties, and put in more hours at the office.

Summary

The review of literature lays a foundation upon which to study the travel choices and perceptions of U.S. nonresident fathers traveling with their children for pleasure, while analyzing the differences between men and women’s parenting practices. A foundation for studying how men conform and deviate from the traditional role of father when engaging in travel planning and execution was presented by reviewing the literature on family travel, women’s roles in family travel, and the current culture and conduct of fatherhood. In addition, a basis for study of the perceived benefits of family travel to nonresident fathers and their children was introduced by reviewing the literature on the benefits of family travel to traditional family units. Literature on the benefits of and motivations to paternal involvement was covered to aid in the analysis of the factors that motivate nonresident fathers to travel with their children.

CHAPTER 3 RESEARCH METHODS

Semi-structured in-depth interviews were used as the primary data collection tool to study the travel choices and experiences of U.S. nonresident fathers traveling with their children. The interviews were conducted among nonresident fathers with school-aged children ranging in age from 4 to 21 who did not have full custody of their children. The sample of nonresident fathers was limited to Florida due to the geographical proximity of the researcher.

Data Collection

Data collection took place from December 2010 to August 2011 in Tampa, Florida. Qualified participants were found, initially, through word of mouth, also known as snowball sampling, and then through purposive sampling in order to ensure representation in age and gender of the participants and their children. In-depth interviews with nonresident fathers were conducted to gain an understanding of their travel experiences and the benefits and challenges of pleasure travel with their children. Face-to-face semi-structured interviews were performed lasting approximately one hour in duration. An interview guide was utilized for all of the interviews in order to ensure consistency in the collection of the data (Appendix A). The interviews centered on the following four main questions:

1. Tell me about a recent trip you took with your child(ren) (i.e. travel preferences and experiences, motivations)
2. Tell me about any particular challenges you face when traveling with your child(ren) (i.e. tasks that are particularly challenging, may include gender role crossover)
3. Talk to me about the impact of these trips on your relationship with your child(ren)? (i.e. benefits, influence of situated fatherhood, physical setting, transition, gender attribute, and fatherhood discourse)

4. Tell me about yourself (i.e. age, occupation, level of education, age of children, and current custody arrangement)

Probes were used to illicit detailed answers regarding their experiences. The semi-structured interviews also allowed for open dialogue with the participants and the ability to ask follow up questions to garner detailed and rich responses from the nonresident fathers. Interviewees were also asked to provide background information about themselves including birth year, level of education, profession, ages and genders of their children, race, and ethnicity. During the interviews, participants' responses were restated back to the interviewee as much as possible to ensure accuracy of synopses provided by the participants (Strauss & Corbin, 1998). This was used to ensure accurate data and to include the voices of participants.

Participants

The sample consisted of 10 nonresident fathers ranging in age from 30s to 60s with shared or partial custody of their school-aged children that had traveled with them for pleasure in the last 12 months (Table 3-1). A proportional number of participants with male and female children were interviewed in order to gain information on the potential influence of their children's gender on their travel experiences. Additionally, nonresident fathers with children of varying ages and sibling groups were also included to better understand the effects of their children's ages and genders on the participants' travel experiences. First, snowball sampling was used when individuals referred people who they believed met the requirements and were interested in the study. Then purposive sampling was used to target nonresident fathers and to capture data from participants who fit the criteria for the study (Strauss & Corbin, 1998). Due to the difficulty in finding eligible participants, the researcher was unable to use a theoretical

approach to sampling. As such, only snowball and purposive sampling was utilized in this study (Strauss & Corbin, 1998).

In order to locate participants, the researcher emailed churches and local members of the community that were well connected and potentially knew eligible participants for this study. Once a participant was interviewed, the interviewer utilized snowball sampling by requesting that the interviewee provide the name and telephone number of anyone they knew that was willing and qualified to participate in this study.

All of the respondents were nonresident fathers with shared or partial custody of their children. The participants ranged in age from 30s to 60s with children who ranged in age from pre-kindergarten to college-aged. Nine of the participants had female children, seven had male children and four of the interviewees had multiple children. Five of the participants had advanced degrees, two respondents had a college education, and three of the interviewees' highest level of education was high school. Nine of the participants had traveled with their children in the last twelve month on overnight vacations lasting more than twenty-four hours. One participant had only taken a day trip with his daughter, but was included to explore the experiences of nonresident fathers from a lower socio-economic status to find out how they define pleasure travel in terms of day trips to theme parks or other local tourist destinations.

Data Analysis

Initial analysis of the interviews began with transcription of the audio data from a digital voice-recorder into MS Word format. To ensure anonymity, each participant was assigned a code name and number that was used to identify all of their interview data. The transcripts were proofread to verify the content of the conversation and the accuracy of the transcription. The process of member checking, in which the transcripts

were e-mailed back to some of the interviewees so that they can read the transcript for accuracy, was then utilized.

Grounded theory methods, as explained by Strauss and Corbin (1998), were used to code the interview data. Open, axial, and selective coding was used to categorize the data. Open coding was employed in order to describe and categorize the properties and dimensions of nonresident fathers' travel perceptions and experiences. This was accomplished with color-coded highlighters in order to better recognize experiences, meanings, benefits, and lifestyle themes. Also, the themes were presented to the researcher's advisor and we discussed how the themes might be grouped into relevant themes. Next, axial coding was used to relate categories to subcategories that had emerged from the open coding. Once again, the researcher presented the themes to her advisor and we discussed potential linkages among them. As a result of this discussion, four macro themes were identified: (1) creating a new normal, (2) making travel happen, (3) travelling with dad, and (4) happy memories. Once the themes were established, 13 subthemes were also recognized and grouped under these major themes. Finally, the identification of the relationship between the themes through selective coding offered a comprehensive understanding of nonresident fathers' travel choices and perceptions when traveling with their children for pleasure.

Table 3-1. Profile of Nonresident Fathers

	Pseudonym	Age	School Classification and Sex of Child(ren)	Highest Educational Level	Occupation	Frequency of Contact with Child(ren)	Other forms of Communication Utilized with Child(ren)
1	Anthony	50s	College-M High School-F	Advanced Degree	Business Professional	Son - Monthly Daughter - Weekly	Phone, Text, Email, BBM
2	Dan	30s	Grade School-M	High School	Service	Weekly	Phone/Visits to School
3	David	40s	Grade School-F	Advanced Degree	Business Manager	Weekly	Phone
4	Sal	60s	Middle School-F	Bachelor Degree	Business Owner	Daily	Phone, Text, Face to Face
5	Kevin	40s	Grade School-M Pre-Kindergarten-M	Advanced Degree	Business Owner	Daily	Phone, Email, Text, Skype
6	Mark	40s	Middle School-F	Advanced Degree	Business Professional	Daily	Phone/Texts
7	Jason	40s	High School-F	High School	Service	Weekly	Phone
8	Shawn	30s	Pre-Kindergarten-M Grade School-M	Technical School	Business Professional	Weekly	Phone
9	Ulysses	40s	Kindergarten-F Grade School-F	Bachelor Degree	Business Professional	Daily	Phone, E-mail, Texts, Visit to school, In person and via friends and other parents
10	Evan	50s	High School-M College-F College-F	Advanced Degree	Service	Monthly	Phone/Text, Emails, Skype

CHAPTER 4 RESULTS

The results are based on the data collected from the semi-structured interviews. Four macro themes and 13 subthemes were identified during the coding process (Table 4-1). The following four macro themes were identified from the interviews: creating a new normal, making travel happen, travelling with dad, and happy memories. These themes were then integrated into a temporal model, providing a holistic view of nonresident fathers' travel behaviors during the preparation for their trips, on their vacations, and after their trips with their children.

To begin, participants were asked to discuss the factors affecting their pre-travel preparations for their trips such as how their current relationships or circumstances fostered or inhibited their travel as well as how they prepared for their vacations with their children. Then the participants were asked to describe the most recent trip they had taken with their children to gain an understanding of the participants' travel experience, including the characteristics of their vacations as well as the challenges and positive experiences they had on their vacations with their children. Lastly, the interviewees were asked to reflect on the memories they had of their most recent trips.

Creating a New Normal

When the participants began to discuss the factors that contributed to their desire and preferences for travel, it became clear that they chose travel as a vehicle to establish a new revised family unit, creating a new normal in their relationships. In their attempt to utilize travel as a vehicle to mediate the recent demise of their family units, four subthemes were apparent: (1) their motivations for travel, (2) past travel experiences, (3) shared leisure, and (4) former wives' travel behaviors. These

subthemes were mentioned by the participants as important factors that served to both foster and, at times, inhibit their attempts at creating a “new normal” for themselves and their children.

Motivations. The first subtheme was motivations. Despite the recent upheaval of their divorces, all of the participants were highly motivated to continue travelling with their children, regardless of their children’s age or gender. Ten motives were identified within the first subtheme motivations, eight of which (seeking quality time together, novel experiences, shared experiences, educational opportunities, escape routine, create memories, resort amenities and something to look forward to) are consistent with the motives cited in the tourism literature on family travel (Crompton 1979; 1981; Lehto et al, 2009; Shaw, 2008). However, the other two motives mentioned by the respondents, creating a new normal and their children becoming more mature, were unique to this sample.

The most important stated motivation for family travel for nonresident fathers was to provide family bonding/quality time. Anthony, in his 50s with a college-aged son and a daughter in high school, stated that “it just made sense to get away with them. Spend some quality time with them you know vacationing.” Sal, in his 60s with a daughter in middle school, also noted the greater importance he placed on the quality time he was afforded on trips with his daughter, following his divorce. He explained:

You know the mother and dad are not together and here’s this vacation with dad now, you know, but I wanted to do that I guess, I think, maybe it’s more for the parents, and then you know to be with my daughter and because I wasn’t with her daily like I used to be and I wanted to be.

However, closely following were the motivations for novel experiences, shared experiences, and an opportunity to educate their children. For instance, Ulysses, a man

in his 40s with two daughters, explained, “just doing things that let them expand their horizons and let me enjoy-it’s one of my great joys of kids is helping them learn”. The need to escape routine, create memories, seek out/enjoy resort amenities, and to have something to look forward to were also cited as important motives for the interviewees, which are all consistent with the motivations for family travel reported in the tourism literature (Crompton 1979; 1981; Lehto, 2009; Shaw, 2008).

Analyzing the two motives that were unique to nonresident fathers, the most frequently stated motive was to carry on the tradition of family travel in order to create a “new normal”. Several participants mentioned that travel was used as a vehicle to mediate the upheaval that the divorce had caused on the family unit. For example, Sal stated, “And they’re [the children] thrown in the mix, which is really too bad. So you do your best to unmix it. You know. Keep it as smooth as you can. That’s what I was doing”. Likewise, Kevin, a man in his 40s with a son in pre-kindergarten and a son in grade school, revealed that travel had aided both him and his wife in establishing a new “rearranged” family unit. He stated:

I think that’s what they see, that it’s okay. It’s not a family unit like it was, but it’s still a family. And my ex-wife likes to say the family unit isn’t broken, it’s rearranged. And I think that’s really the way that they feel. It’s just a different way that they see their family.

Further, David, a father in his 40s with a daughter in grade school, explained, “This (travel) was just an extension of a family. We’re doing what a normal family, married family would do. This, travel, for us is just another thing that we do together as a family.” Similarly, Jason, a father in his 40s with a daughter in high school, noted:

Well and I think it was just better just to start traveling. Because now it is what it is. It is a new routine so we’re going to try to create new excitement and have the things where it’s just what we used to do as a family, except now we’re a family that’s just being apart. Sometimes it’s with mommy and

then sometimes it's with daddy. And that transition is what she had to get used to.

Two participants also mentioned their child's age as a factor that motivated them to travel with their children. These respondents noted that their children becoming more mature and independent was a significant factor that motivated them to begin taking more extensive and exotic vacations with their children. For example, Jason discussed his current desire to take his daughter to Europe now that she has the maturity to enjoy the trip. The most noteworthy finding was that nonresident father's utilized travel as one of the vehicles to mend, as much as possible, the damage from the fall out of their divorce.

Past Travel. The second subtheme, past travel, also served as an important motivator for the participants by serving as a jumping off point to plan and execute travel without a significant other. In general, when asked to describe past travel experiences all of the participants mentioned trips that were taken as a nuclear family with their children and former wives. Most of these trips centered on visiting Walt Disney World, due to the close proximity of Orlando to their homes, with a few participants reporting taking trips to visit relatives in Europe. For the most part, these past travel experiences were used as a basis from which to plan and execute travel independently from their spouses after their divorce. Not surprisingly, a majority of the participants reported that their past travel experiences closely resembled the trips they had taken with their spouses, which included short local trips primarily revolving around Disney World and the beach. For example, Sal explained "I would take her, leave after school on a Friday. And go to Disney. And that was a great distraction for her." Another participant, Mark, a man in his 40s with a daughter in middle school, noted, "We've mainly traveled in

Florida. We've done a family oriented cruise. We've gone down to the beach a number of times". Other trips that the participants had taken included: camping trips, church groups, and trips to see Yankees or Rays baseball games. Regardless of the gender or ages of their children, participants tended to gravitate toward short local overnight trips, initially following their divorce. These trips appeared to provide a platform for these men to build their confidence in both their parenting and planning skills, which led to the desire to continue to travel with their children and motivated them to take more extended vacations with their children.

Three interviewees indicated that their previous trips with their children were to visit friends and relatives, which were precipitated by a desire, following their divorce, to re-establish a connection with their family members, or as a more affordable variation on family travel. As one participant, Evan (50s) with two daughters and a son, stated, "We do that because we have a destination ... the lodging is free. And it is always to interesting places". One participant reported that his past travel experiences with his daughter centered around outdoor recreation, specifically skiing. Otherwise, participants initially following their divorces chose to participate in trips that closely resembled the vacations they had taken with their children and former spouses. This decision allowed them to weather the transition of the divorce and build their confidence as parents, eventually enabling them to begin to plan and execute vacations to more novel locations.

Former Wives' Travel. The travel behaviors of the participants' ex-wives, the third subtheme, also served as an important catalyst not only for travel, but for choosing the destination and activities to participate in while on vacation with their children. The

travel behaviors of the participants' ex-wives were grouped into five categories. The majority of the sample reported that their ex wives traveled, primarily, to visit friends and relatives, which is not surprising since McGehee et al. (1996) found that women tended to place more importance on family and kinship. Most of the women lived close to their family, making this type of travel the most convenient and accessible, however, two of the mothers took an annual trip with their daughters to visit family outside of the country. Accordingly, the participants felt motivated to plan trips revolving around their own relatives, or to designate an annual trip of their own to create a separate travel identity from their former wives.

The second most stated response was that the participants' children did not travel with their mothers, which the participants indicated was a result of their former spouses' lack of finances. This tended to result in the interviewees feeling highly motivated to travel with their children in order to provide travel experiences for them that their former wives were unable or unwilling to provide because of financial issues or disinterest. For example, Dan, a father in his 30s with a son in grade school, explains:

Yeah. So she's, and, you know, her finances are not, not there. So she's, that's, that, that's one aspect of, of life she's not gonna be able to provide, provide for him. Which, and, and that's why, you know, wh-, that's another motivation for me—to be able to provide that for him. You know.

Four of the participants also reported that they had collaborated with their former wives to designate annual trips, which they selected based on their own personal leisure interests. For example, Kevin noted, “the skiing, they usually go with her because that's something that she does and I don't ski very much. So she'll take them skiing”. Other designated annual trips included the wife continuing to go on annual trips that they had taken as a family prior to their divorce. This tended to be a cause of

contention with most of the participants, due to the fact that the interviewees had initially developed the idea for that trip or because they had not initiated the divorce and desired to continue to travel as a family. Amicable or not, the ex-wives' decision to take an annual trip led to the participants' desire to plan their own designated family trips, separate from their former wives.

Finally, their former spouses traveling with only one of their children was also reported by two of the interviewees. The participants stated several reasons for this phenomenon. First, Anthony explained his ex-wife's reasons for sometimes choosing to travel exclusively with her daughter, "Cause again, they have more in common than- again, they shop and all that girl stuff. They're close yeah- you know that, and more power to them". Beyond gender, other reasons the interviewees offered for their ex-wives only traveling with one child included the other sibling being too old and away at school, as well as the mother being unable to handle the responsibility of entertaining all of her children while vacationing.

Shared Leisure. The fourth subtheme, shared leisure, includes the leisure activities that the interviewees participated in with their children. Their at-home activities with their children were analyzed to determine if these activities influenced their motivations to travel or their travel planning. According to the fatherhood literature, sport tends to be the predominant activity that fathers participated in with their children (Coakley, 2006; Harrington, 2006). Indeed, all of the participants indicated, regardless of the sex of their child, a majority of their leisure fell into the category "sports/recreation". The sports/recreational activities reported included: baseball,

volleyball, fishing, bowling, biking, and visiting the park. Mark described his leisure activities with his daughter:

She's a volleyball player, so we like to hit the volleyball back and forth. I used to play volleyball, so I can kind of help her out with that. So you know, it's kind of like, some kids play catch with their dad, I can play volleyball with my, my girl.

Otherwise, the leisure activities reported were rather diverse including: entertainment (e.g. watching movies/TV, playing games, going to theme parks), shopping/going to the mall, cooking, and educational activities (e.g. teaching their children to drive, reading, bible study). Although their leisure activities were rather diverse, the participants tended to gravitate towards activities that they themselves enjoyed, similar to Such's (2006) findings that father's tended to encourage their children to adopt sports/recreation that they enjoyed in order to foster shared interests. Accordingly, the interviewees also had a tendency to plan trips that revolved around their shared leisure with their children. For example, Evan described an upcoming vacation, "The trip we're taking next spring is we're going to go to opening day in Yankee Stadium. So, we've already planned that. We are all Yankees' fans. Die hard". Similarly, Sal described his motivation to take his daughter skiing:

Well, I loved the outdoors. And she does too. I mean, we're down here in Florida –You go fishing, or, she loves the beach, that kind of stuff. And so I thought this'd be a whole new world for her to explore.

Despite the interviewee's tendency to gravitate toward leisure activities they enjoy, they also were open to participating in leisure activities that they themselves were not interested in, but that their children favored. These differences were most prominent in parent-child groups with different genders. Shopping was the number one leisure interest cited by the participants as an activity they did not enjoy, but frequently

participated in with their children. To illustrate, Evan explained how he handled this issue, “With the girls, I usually take them shopping and find the daddy chair. Sit and wait until they are finished. I get the text to come pay the bill. So, that’s the routine.”

Similarly, Jason revealed the challenges he faced with his teenage daughter:

It seems like, you know, and the fact that she’s kind of guided to do girl things too – I just kind of follow – maybe shopping. Shopping was definitely a tough one. Oh, God, was it hard. I could have jumped off a building many times.

While most leisure activity conflict was gender based, Shawn (30s) a divorced father with two sons also experienced difficulty with his son’s interest in cooking, due to the fact that his wife had always filled the role of chef prior to their divorce. However, he rallied and quickly began to learn more about cooking in order to support his son’s interests.

It is significant to note the important role shared leisure activities played in the selection of the destination and activities the nonresident father’s chose during their vacations with their children. Seven of the ten participants selected their family travel destinations based on shared leisure interests as well as their children’s leisure interests, making shared leisure activities a significant factor in the nonresident father’s travel motivations and choices

Making Travel Happen

The second macro theme was making travel happen. The participants were unanimous in their decision to execute vacations with their children. When discussing the facets of executing a vacation with their children, three subthemes emerged: (1) the method and types of preparations they engaged in prior to their travel, (2) how they negotiated the travel constraints they encountered, and (3) the influence of family

dynamics on the planning and execution of travel in the pre-travel phase of their vacations.

Travel Planning and Preparations. In terms of the first subtheme, travel planning and preparations, the family travel literature regarding contemporary family travel decision-making has emphasized that women tend to dominate the initial stages of family vacation decision-making, including information collection (Fodness, 1992; Quinn, 2004; Zalatan, 1998). As such, it would seem logical for the participants to provide accounts of the difficulty they experienced while attempting to plan travel as well as to include examples of negative incidents that occurred due to their lack of experience in coordinating travel plans. However, despite a majority of the interviewees reporting that prior to their divorce their wives performed the traditional role of information seeking and travel coordination, none of the participants had any difficulty planning and rarely, if at all, sought help in planning and executing their family vacations. Eight out of the ten interviewees indicated that they, in fact, preferred to “wing it” in regards to travel planning, with the extent of their planning consisting of merely making plane reservations and booking a hotel. Anthony describes his approach to travel planning:

Not a whole lot. I’m not a big “plan-aheader.” Flights and hotels are planned and rental cars. Other than that, I pretty much wing it. Like when we got out to San Francisco, I... somebody mentioned, let’s go see *Wicked*. And so I bought tickets to *Wicked* while we were out there. We picked all of our restaurants while we were out there. We just kind of wing it. I find that I have a more leisurely vacation typically if I’m winging it.

Similarly, Sal explained his travel style by noting, “ You know. I love traveling. But I don’t like to schedule. I like to relax. You know. You want to sleep in, you sleep in”.

Likewise, Evan stated, “We hardly do any planning. Mainly because all three of the kids

have such structured lives, either school, extracurricular activities, or work, that when we get together, I don't really like to plan."

Even interviewees with younger children described an aversion to taking vacations that were "overly planned". For example, Dan stated: "I'm kinda more-spontaneous, just, just go with it, just relax, just chill, just whatever you want to do today, we're going to do". Ulysses also described a similar approach to travel planning:

I don't plan in the sense of thinking about every detail. For the trip that we took we had specific train reservations. We had hotel reservations. We had a couple of tours planned ahead of time to, but...but not overly. Beyond that, we had no plans. Sort of let's go and deal with it as we go.

In contrast, two participants indicated much different approaches to travel planning. One participant meticulously planned his vacations with his daughter. David described his vacations with her as, "extremely planned out because, especially being at her age when, as she still does take afternoon naps." However, once David arrived at his destination he also refrained from planning any activities or meals, choosing to let "whatever comes our way" dictate their activity schedule. On the other hand, one participant chose to not only continue to plan vacations with his ex wife, but they continued to travel as a family, which was in stark contrast to the other participants' responses. Worth noting is the fact that regardless of the age or sex of the children as well as the length of the vacation, a majority of the participants made no travel arrangements beyond flight and lodging reservations.

This practice seemed to be a complete rejection of the participants' ex-wives' travel styles. Based on conventional gender expectations/norms women tend to plan vacations more intricately, while men appear to be more spontaneous. Several interviewees described how family vacations were executed prior to their divorces. For

example, Dan described the differences in his travel style compared to his former wife: “she likes to have planning in advance and know exactly what she’s doing and exactly what she’s getting into. But me, on the other hand, I’m kinda more spontaneous”. Likewise, Mark described his former wife’s role in travel planning prior to the divorce, “usually, it’s her mom kind of picking the places and where we need to go or want to go.”

Surprisingly, although the interviewees were accustomed to their former spouses’ detailed family vacation planning, they had no difficulty adapting to planning, or not planning as most have noted, without their former wives. For example, Anthony described the almost imperceptible difference in his family travel following his divorce, “I think it’s probably pretty much the same, you know, one less airfare”. Kevin noted the ease of travel planning “it takes me fourteen seconds to-I get online, book the ticket, book the hotel, and I’m done”.

Four of the interviewees also mentioned participating in travel that revolved around a sporting or leisure activity that had a planned itinerary already in place, or joining family members on a vacation with an established itinerary. For example, Shawn took his children on a camping trip organized by his son’s Boy Scout leader. Mark also tended to travel with his daughter for swim meets because “the spot is already pre-picked by whatever’s going on”, making for an easily planned trip with his daughter. Also, Dan took his son on a family trip organized by his girlfriend’s family, resulting in him being absent from the planning process. Similarly, Sal took his daughter on a ski trip in which his friend, a current resident of their vacation destination, planned the entire trip for him.

Ultimately, despite the current trend of women becoming more involved in family travel decision-making as noted by Fodness (1992), Quinn (2004), and Zalatan (1998) in the tourism literature, the participants had no difficulty adapting to their new role as information seekers and travel organizers. However, they, for the most part, shirked the traditional methods of planning in favor of “winging it”, regardless of their children’s age or gender.

Accordingly, participants indicated that they also had no difficulty selecting a site for their vacations. Seven of the participants disclosed that their destination selections were primarily based on their children’s leisure interests. This finding is consistent with the leisure research examining the influence of children on the family travel decision-making-process for traditional husband-wife dyads. Jenkins (1978) and Thorton, Shaw and Williams (1997) noted that the kinds of activities, destination points, and dates of vacation were highly influenced by children as a result of their needs. Thus, even if the children of the interviewees were too young to voice their preference for a given location, their needs dictated where the father considered traveling. For example, Ulysses, a father of two young daughters explained that his travel revolved around safety considerations and access to public restrooms. Further, David, a father of a six-year old daughter also emphasized the paramount role his daughter’s needs play in his site selection. He explains, “At this point in time, in my mind it’s truly prioritizing what is the best interest of her”.

Otherwise, the participants’ indicated they decided on a destination based on the following considerations: father’s own leisure interests, a collaborative decision, where family is located, or based on annual travel. Two participants chose to determine the

location of their trip because their children were too indecisive. As Anthony explained, “they are the, ‘I don’t care’ kids”. This lack of preference of a travel destination seemed to only occur in the two participants with older children who were exhibiting behaviors that indicated they no longer had a desire to take vacations with their fathers.

Conversely, some children were highly motivated to travel with their fathers and arrived at the vacation decision choice through collaboration with their dads. The participants who noted their travel destination was selected based on its proximity to their family typically chose these locations due to financial constraints and access to childcare. Lastly, two participants chose to return to a past travel destination for the ease of planning this type of trip afforded them as well as to establish a routine in order to help their children become more comfortable traveling without their mothers.

As far as trip preparations, which centered primarily on packing for their vacations, the participants discussed: packing orchestrated entirely by the father, orchestrated by the child, or jointly coordinated by their spouses. A majority of the participants indicated that they were solely responsible for packing and preparing for their vacations with their children. To illustrate, Shawn described the packing process:

We packed together to make sure we got all the stuff that we needed. So went over what we needed. Socks, lots of socks...we went over what to bring, what not to bring. You know, just how to pack.

Especially for fathers with younger children, like Shawn, packing for their trips was utilized as a learning opportunity. David, a father in his 50s with a daughter in grade school, corroborates this by explaining, “But as she’s aged, engaging her and okay if you want to take this on the plane, you have to remember now, your going to take it...And again instilling that responsibility in her.”

Age was an important factor in dictating how involved each participant was in the trip preparation phase of their vacations, with the nonresident fathers with older children having little involvement in the packing process. For example, Evan, father to a teenage son and two college-aged daughters, explains that, “yeah I just have to make sure he remembers underwear, toothbrush, that sort of thing. He is a teenager. The girls are pretty self-sufficient. And we pack light.” Similarly, Mark, father to a daughter in middle school, describes his role as, “I help her pack. But she’s really very, sort of self-sufficient on that sort of thing. I helped her get things together-make sure she had everything when we left the beach.” Accordingly, the interviewees with older children just mainly had to do a “final check”, whereas the nonresident father’s with younger children had the much more arduous task of not only packing for their children, but making certain that they brought snacks and activities to entertain their children during the trip.

Lastly, two participants reported that both them and their spouses jointly packed for their children. For example, Sal explained, “She [ex-wife] gets her packed. But, ski outfits see I would buy all that.” As such, Sal and his former wife both played roles in preparing their daughter to travel. Hence, the age of the participants’ children was a major factor in determining how involved each interviewee was in the packing and preparation phase of their family vacations.

Negotiating Constraints. The participants revealed that they experienced significant travel constraints, which constitutes the second subtheme. Six types of travel constraints were reported: finances, unsupportive exes, age of their children, lack of resources such as time and money, difficulty adapting to the role of sole caretaker,

contentious sibling relationships, and difficulty choosing trips that interested their children.

Here it is important to note that the nonresident fathers with a higher income reported that lack of resources was less of a constraint than the nonresident fathers with lower incomes. Specifically, the participants from a lower socio-economic class had less flexibility at work, could take less time off for travel, and had less discretionary income to spend on travel. Also, the age of their children dramatically impacted the travel constraints experienced by the participants, however gender did not seem to be an important factor affecting nonresident fathers' travel with their children.

Unsupportive former spouses, the age of their children, and lack of resources were the most commonly cited travel constraints, which echoes Ihinger-Tallman et al.'s (1995) assertion that the factors influencing nonresident father's involvement with their children include: positive co-parent relationship with their ex-spouse, economic well-being and job stability, and support of others in their social networks. The most reported constraint was unsupportive exes. To illustrate, Mark explained:

And I haven't planned anything. And I probably won't for a couple of reasons. It's really more of a function of just kind of where I am with her mother than anything against her. If things were great and we were together and all that, then we probably would have planned some sort of trip. Or, I'm sure all three of us would have planned the trip

Dan also described the difficulty he experiences when attempting to negotiate trips with his former wife, "she, she would disagree initially on pretty much everything, you know. So, yeah, It takes a little coercing to get a straight answer. It affects me and it affects him [his son]." One participant, Evan also revealed that his college-age daughter's contentious relationship with his ex-wife created a constraint on his travel with her and her siblings. He explained:

Part of it has to do with, in all honesty, is that she and her [i.e. his daughter] mom do not get along at all and she doesn't have anything to do with picking the other two up if its going to be at the moms house...So she doesn't want to pick them up and travel.

Essentially, his daughter would not travel with him if it involved having to pick her siblings up from her mother's house, throwing a serious wrench in any of her dad's travel plans.

For a majority of the participants, lack of resources was also cited as a significant constraint. Less affluent participants reported both time and lack of discretionary income as major constraints. For example, Shawn stated:

Just time you know, from trying to get time of from work and what not. It's a little bit different now because of the fact that I am a single father and, then, you know a single parent, so, it's a little different now. Whereas, opposed to one in where, we all of us were together, we could actually have more – the resources were there.

In contrast, participants with higher incomes, if they mentioned lack of resources at all, they reported a lack of the time, not finances, as a significant constraint. For example, Mark explained, "traveling with her, is kind of a bonus if you can, if you have the time and ability...with my job I don't necessarily have the time".

However, nonresident fathers from all classes felt that their children's age constrained their travel to a great extent. Surprisingly, it was not the younger children, but the older children ranging from high school to college-age that the participants indicated made travel difficult and in some cases, no longer feasible. To illustrate, Evan, father to a college-age daughter and two younger children stated, "the oldest does not want to travel with us so much anymore. She's in college. Has adult stuff she wants to do. She loves her sister and her little brother, but in small doses." Further, Sal, a man in his 60s with a daughter in middle school, stated, "she wants to be with her

friends. She's almost in high school. Whatever. I remember going on the last family trip with my parents when I was about that age." Significant to note, Sal also mentioned he felt constrained by his daughter's desire to have a friend accompany them on their father-daughter vacations. He noted:

I don't want to take a friend with me, another little girl in a hotel room with a dad. There's too many things that, implications. There too much that could be and I just don't want to have that ever. I would not be comfortable.

He also felt that having a friend accompany them would be a significant financial burden as well. Surprisingly, only one other participant mentioned the difficulty he has encountered when his daughter wants to invite a friend to accompany them on trips. Otherwise, Mark, a father in his 40s with a daughter of similar age, reported having no reservations traveling with his daughter and a friend of hers, while the other participants made no mention of how they negotiated instances when their children wanted friends to accompany them on their vacations with their fathers. Obviously, this issue would be less of a problem with children who were of the same gender as their fathers, but it was still unexpected that more of the men with daughters did not mention this particular constraint.

Regarding the participant's difficulty adapting to the role of sole caretaker, only two participants felt constrained by their new role. Shawn explained the pressure he felt as a result of being the sole caretaker:

It's a bigger sense of responsibility because, I mean, you know. It's just going to be me as the only adult there. So it's not going to be like, he, go talk to your mom. Or hang with your mom for a second. It's gonna be just me. So I have to make sure that I'm on my p's and q's the whole time, you know. Without being of course, overly-you know, the over-protective, like, stay here, don't move. So, I mean, once it's, the planning stage is the part of the work where once it's done its fun.

It is worth noting that none of the interviewees with daughters mentioned experiencing any anxiety over being the sole caretaker, only two participants both with sons. However, once participants began to describe their most recent trips, two of the participants with daughters noted that one of the main challenges they encountered was using public restrooms with their daughters. This became a major obstacle without a same-sex spouse to aid in these situations.

Lastly, one participant, Anthony experienced a considerable constraint to traveling as a family, due to the contentious relationship his children had with one another. He stated, "They don't have a lot in common- he's a boy, she's a girl- like I said, they don't get along real well. I will probably travel with them separately." In contrast, Evan, a father with children the same age and gender as Anthony, experienced no conflicts between his children stemming from their differences in age or gender. Lastly, one participant noted that his daughter was so selective as far as what locations she was willing to travel to that he had difficulty planning trips with her because of the amount of negotiation it entailed.

Family Dynamics. In terms of the third subtheme, it was discovered that the quality of the participants' relationships with their former wives both prior to and following their divorce as well as their level of involvement in the care of their children facilitated or discouraged the men from traveling with their children.

Interviewees who indicated that they had either a positive relationship with their former spouses or were highly involved in their children's care prior to the divorce were more at ease traveling with their children, and thus, more apt to take them on family

vacations after their divorce. For example, Kevin stated that “Oh, absolutely. She loves it [travel with his kids]”. Further he described his relationship with his ex-wife:

We made a very conscious decision that we were going to be on very good terms because of the kids. And I can tell you that the fact that we do that has helped the kids through the transition and beyond immensely...it's very seamless. They go between myself and my ex-wife seamlessly, and back and forth. And there's no oh, we're in dad's world or we're in mom's world...and so I think really because we've made it so, we've tried to make it so easy on them. I think that they don't have an issue where they miss one or the other or that, but I think they're very well adjusted.

As a result, Kevin had very few constraints to combat when planning a trip with his children, and was strongly motivated by his ex-wife's encouragement and support to take his children on vacations. Further, Shawn noted his wife's supportive attitude by stating, “she knows that's kinda like our thing. So she let's us have our thing, you know. So that's really cool. I appreciate that.” His ex-wife's lack of resistance to his travel allowed him to effortlessly plan trips with his sons, while avoiding laborious negotiations for time to travel with his children that many of the participants encountered. Mark revealed that his ex-wife regularly suggested that he utilize his daughter's swim meets to take a father-daughter trip. His ex-wife's endorsement facilitated his ability to take regular trips with his daughter.

Also, the participants that reported being involved in the day-to-day care of their children were more comfortable in their new roles as sole caretakers, resulting in them experiencing fewer travel constraints. To illustrate, David when directly asked why he took over the role as caretaker with such ease, responded:

I think part of it was, while we were a family part of my job was working from home. I was able to spend a lot of time with my daughter. Take her to daycare, pick her up, have dinners with her at the kitchen table. I had experience.

Likewise, Mark discusses his past childcare experience, “so I gave lots of baths and dried lots of hair and that sort of thing, so I’m kind of, kinda used to it.” Further, Ulysses explained his role prior to his divorce:

I’m a fairly early riser and so even with my youngest daughter, when I lived in Key West with her, I’d get up at five in the morning with her and then put her into a Baby Bjorn...I’d have my cell phone with me and we’d, we’d get back home at ten or eleven in the morning and had wandered around for five or six hours by ourselves through the town. So even when I was married, I would very much independently take them and parent.

Participants, such as Ulysses, with a higher level of involvement in their children’s care prior to their divorce were better equipped to handle the role of sole caretaker, resulting in these men experiencing fewer travel constraints than the interviewees that held more traditional male roles within their marriage.

On the other hand, participants who were less involved in the day-to-day care of their children, or had a contentious relationship with their ex-wives, reported having more reservations about traveling with their children and were more constrained in general, concerning vacations with their children. To illustrate, Kevin described the difficulty he encountered as a sole caretaker:

I think the difficulties were the adjustments in the beginning. You know, cause the kid got sick and, oh my gosh, what am I going to do. You know I felt like calling my ex-wife and saying, you know, you take him.

Consequently, it took Kevin about a year until he felt comfortable enough to travel with his children, and even then he brought a nanny along to aid with childcare. As a result, it took a lot more work and money to plan a vacation with his children, due to his lack of experience as a caretaker. Similarly, Anthony found that his lack of parental involvement had negative repercussions following his divorce. In particular, his children not only preferred to communicate with his ex-wife, but they were more willing to travel

with her. He stated, “My daughter lives with her mother. And my son communicates with his mother frequently. You know, as opposed to me, and so he goes to her for his needs and advice and stuff.” As a result, he found his children resistant to taking trips with him, and did not predict that he would continue traveling with them in the future.

It appears that family dynamics, particularly that of an unsupportive spouse, created a significant travel constraint for the participants in this study. Men’s relationships with their ex wives and their roles within their families prior to their divorces served to facilitate or hinder men’s attempts to plan and execute vacations with their children.

Travelling with Dad

After discussing travel constraints and planning, the participants were asked to outline their travel experiences. Their responses form the basis of the third macro theme, traveling with dad. Four subthemes became apparent during their discussions of their most recent travel experiences with their children: (1) the characteristics of their vacations such as the duration and activities they participated in, (2) the challenges they encountered, (3) their children’s travel experience on their vacation, and (4) their own personal travel experience while on their vacations with their children.

Trip Characteristics. In terms of the first sub theme, trip characteristics, the participants’ engaged in four types of travel: travel as a function, such as to visit family or for a sporting/school event, centered around a recreational activity, planned by a third party, or visiting local attractions, such as theme parks/exhibits. A majority of the participants engaged in functional travel, making travel part of accomplishing a larger goal. For example, Mark parlayed his daughter’s swim meet in Sarasota into a weekend getaway at his parent’s beach house. Similarly, Anthony took his children on

a medical school visit to Stanford and used that trip as an opportunity for a vacation with his children. Further, Evan utilized the trip to take his daughter to camp as an occasion for him and his son to have a boys vacation in North Carolina, once they dropped his daughter off at camp. Lastly, David in an attempt to reconnect with his family transformed perfunctory family visits into a chance for his daughter and him to take a week long vacation during her Christmas break from school.

The second most reported vacations were trips centered on recreational activities. Sal planned an annual week long ski trip that revolved around skiing, snowmobiling, and shopping. Ulysses also planned a week long bike trip that included cycling through Washington D.C. and Williamsburg. Two of the participants engaged in camping trips that had been pre-planned by a third party. First, Dan and his son accompanied his girlfriend on her family's annual camping trip. While, Shawn chaperoned his eldest son on his Boy Scout camping trip. It is significant to note that both of these men had never traveled with their sons before, making a pre-planned trip a logical and ideal choice for men inexperienced in planning and executing trips with their sons. Both men also stated that due to the success of their camping trips that they felt motivated to travel more frequently with their children. Finally, two participants took vacations to visit local Florida attractions. Kevin took his boys on a four-night vacation to Disney, which revolved around visiting the theme parks and playing in the pool. Lastly, Jason took his daughter on a day trip to visit Cape Canaveral and tour the Kennedy Space Center.

On average, the participants' vacations were a week-long in duration, centering on recreational activities. The participants also tended to engage in one annual vacation with their children, while the participant with the highest income, Kevin, indicated that he

traveled more frequently with his sons, about three to four times a year. It is also significant to note that the two participants with the lowest socio economic status had distinctly different definitions of travel, considering local trips to the beach and theme parks as travel. Otherwise, the participants' definition of a vacation as travel exceeding twenty-four hours that includes an overnight stay in accommodations other than one's home was consistent with one another.

Challenges. In terms of the second subtheme, challenges, it was discovered that once the participants arrived at their destination with their children, they encountered the following challenges: age related such as homesickness and safety concerns, their children entering puberty, conflicts between siblings as well as parent-child conflicts, logistical issues, attempts to travel with friends/girlfriends, and finally attempts by their ex-wives to sabotage their trips.

Participants indicated that the majority of the challenges they faced while on vacations were attributed to the age of their children, homesickness being the main issue. Most of the interviewees with children in their early teens or younger had dealt with a homesickness issue. To illustrate, Mark, a father to two daughters age five and seven, described his experience: "yes, they do get homesick for, for people and/or things. But you know, we, we face it head on and talk about the, that can be your heart telling you, you love someone." Similarly, Mark, father to a pre-teen daughter stated, "she kind of has a little bit of a nature of being homesick, wanting to call mom and check on mom...I think she'll be a lot better this year." Although the younger male children did have issues with homesickness, the females tended to suffer from homesickness to a much larger extent. Also, three participants reported that their daughters also had

difficulty combating feelings of guilt over having fun without their mothers, which was not mentioned by any of the participants with sons. To illustrate, Jason revealed his teenage daughter's issues with guilt over her parents divorce. He stated:

But there was I could see her carrying a little sadness with her. And then I was just compelled to ask her do you feel any sense of guilt you know with the divorce and when she told me she did, then it hit me that this is what was eating on her all the time. She didn't feel entitled to have a good time.

Another challenge the participants attributed to age was safety issues they encountered while traveling. To illustrate, Shawn, a father to a son in pre-kindergarten and a son in grades school, explained:

I guess the only thing would probably be...I considered difficult was just to make sure that he was safe. You know. This was his first time. I spent eight years in the Army so I'm, I'm used to going outside and stuff. So this was his very first time, so I kept asking him, it was kinda over-zealous, are you okay? Everything okay, you okay?

Further, David, father to a daughter in grade school, describes his concerns regarding safety when traveling with his daughter, "Safety is a major concern. That's why when traveling 24/7 my eyes are on her because especially in an airport with lots of people in a blink of an eye she's gone." David and one other participant, Ulysses, explicitly stated that safety concerns make traveling very difficult, especially with children of a different gender because everyday tasks, such as using the restroom, are complicated by wanting to be with them for safety reasons, but not being able to go into female restrooms with them. Finally, three participants mentioned that the age difference between their children made it challenging to choose activities because of their different abilities. For example, Ulysses explained:

So there's a difference in activity levels between the two of them. The 7-year old will try to see how far she can walk. The 5-year old will much more quickly say, I'm tired, can you carry me. So there's some difference there.

But, we just do what we need to do if you carry them, you carry them. If we're tired, we sit out there.

Despite the children's different activity levels, all of the participants were able to easily mediate this challenge by staying behind and waiting with the younger sibling while the older rode a ride or participated in an activity that had an age requirement.

The participants also indicated that they experienced other challenges on their actual vacations related to their child's gender. Specifically, the nonresident fathers with female children reported experiencing challenges due to their daughters entering puberty. To illustrate, Jason, father to a teenage daughter, described having to cancel a trip because of his daughter's difficulty dealing with her period. He stated:

I think she was in her monthly stage because that was kind of new to her and she didn't know how to deal with that. So if she got very upset, I'd try not to argue with her and then just kind of follow through with it. And I think the worst part was making it there, getting our passport and then having to come all the way back on that trip.

Another interviewee Mark described another challenge he had encountered in reference to his daughter entering adolescence, "I still joke around about certain things. But she's a little more modest as she's starting to grow up". Surprisingly, only one participant, Ulysses, mentioned tapping into what he referred to as "the mother underground" for advice on dealing with his daughter's developmental issues, otherwise none of the participants mentioned seeking advice on how to properly deal with these changes. Instead, indicating that they felt uncomfortable, the participants took them back to their mothers. Lastly, an age related challenge that affected participants with older children was a lack of common interests with their children. Anthony explained how difficult it is to plan activities on vacations with his kids. He stated, "Now that they're older, yeah. Because again, they don't have a whole lot in common and we don't have a lot of

common interests. You know, different interests”. Jason also noted that as his daughter is at an age (a teenager) that makes it difficult to find common activities stating that, “now I find that she gets a little bit more selective”.

Attempting to travel with a third party also seemed to be a source of challenges the participants encountered on their vacations. For example, Kevin described his attempt at bringing his girlfriend on a trip with his sons:

My girlfriend and I went on a trip together with all of our kids. And that was a little challenging, not because, basically because it was really the first time they were all together and—it was just a – it took the kids a while to blend.

Two other participants, Ulysses and Dan, discussed the potential challenges of bringing their girlfriends with them on trips with their children, reporting that they wrestle with this decision because of the potential harm it could cause their children.

Regardless of the potential harm, two of the three participants indicated that they planned to take their girlfriends on a trip with their children in the future.

A small number of participants also conveyed that they experienced challenges due to conflict with their children as well as conflicts between the siblings. However, the nonresident father’s felt that this was considered “par for the course” and that normal families experience conflicts. Thus, a majority of the participants indicated that it would not prevent them from traveling with their kids in the future. Conversely, Anthony did decide to no longer travel with both of his children, due to their nonstop fighting on their most recent trip together. Also, a few of the interviewees encountered logistical challenges during their most recent trips. For example, missing a train reservation, not having as large a group as expected on a camping trip, and hotel rooms being sub-par were all mentioned as minor challenges that the participants encountered. Finally, one participant also described how his ex-wife attempted to sabotage his trip with his

daughters by calling numerous times and sending texts in order to upset his daughters and make them homesick. This was the only instance of a former wife interfering with a participant's vacation.

It is worth noting that despite the fact that a majority of the participants were not accustomed to planning and executing vacations without the assistance of their significant others, they were able to successfully overcome the challenges they experienced on their vacations with their children. This is quite an achievement for any parent travelling by themselves with children, but especially for men that are more accustomed to filling the auxiliary role of helper or playmate in parenting as noted by Ishii-Kuntz and Coltrane (1992).

Child Experiences. The third subtheme was child experiences. When the participants were asked whether they felt their children enjoyed their vacations with their fathers all but one participant indicated that their children were incredibly content on their trips and had relatively no complaints, beyond minor bouts with homesickness at the beginning of their trips. To illustrate, Dan described his son's travel experience:

TJ loved it. He enjoyed every minute and there was no, you know, he didn't whine about being bored or you know, or missing his mom or anything like that, you know. It was just all fun and happiness.

This utopian view of their family vacations was by far the norm for the interviewees.

Further, Shawn expressed how happy his son was during their camping trip. He stated, "He had a great time. I mean he, he was, the total boy came out of him that day. Like the whole Davy Crockett thing, you know...and it was just a good time". Similarly, Ulysses revealed how successful his vacation with his daughters was by saying, "they wanted to stay longer. We were busy. We were having fun." Even the children that experienced homesickness were still able to enjoy their trips with their fathers, with the

participants indicating that they felt sadness during their initial departure, but once they arrived at their destination began to thoroughly enjoy their vacations.

Unfortunately, one participant, Sal did reveal that his daughter (a teenager) did not have a good travel experience on their last ski trip. To illustrate, he explained, “I’m kinda on my own with vacations. She’s not interested in skiing anymore. And it was good for maybe, for a few years”. Basically, his daughter no longer enjoyed skiing, the activity that their travel was centered on, so she expressed her desire to no longer go on vacations with him if skiing was the primary activity. Overall, Sal’s issue seemed to be a failure to adapt to his daughter’s changing interests as she has aged. The ski vacation was something she enjoyed when she was younger, but has since grown as an individual and developed other leisure interests. He would probably be able to still have successful vacations with his daughter, if he chose a vacation that was more compatible with her current leisure interests i.e. not sports. This finding is not surprising in light of the fact that Kimm et al. (2002) in their study of the physical activity of girls during adolescence discovered that once girls entered adolescence their participation in physical activities and sports declined significantly.

Finally, participants were asked if their children expressed any preference for their travel styles compared to their former wives. As such, only two participants, Evan and Anthony, indicated that their children preferred to travel with them. First, Evan stated:

I think they prefer to travel with me. They tell me because, you know, just different things. Telling stories, telling jokes and I’ll stop and say, why don’t we try the collard greens, so I’m more adventurous and less structured.

The notion expressed by Evan that a more flexible and unstructured trip was not only a better way to travel, but more pleasing to their children on vacations was mentioned frequently by the nonresident fathers, when asked how their travel styles differed from

their ex-wives. However, none of the other fathers felt that their child preferred that travel style over their mothers'. Further, Anthony asserted that his son, but not his daughter, preferred to travel with him because they were of the same gender. He explained:

I think he probably would prefer to travel with me because I give him more freedom-independence and we have more in common. Cause we're guys. And his mother's kind of a pain in the neck sometimes. And so I think that'd be my, I'm just speculating, but I would think that he would prefer to probably travel with me.

Although this is not the only example as to when gender was influential on travel styles, Anthony was the only participant to attribute gender as a contributing factor in travel preference. His belief that "because we're guys" meant that his son preferred to travel with him because they are the same gender was not shared by the other participants. In contrast, the participants, for the most part, seemed to not be too concerned with their children's gender when it came to the preferences of their children, with none of the other interviewees suggesting that their children would have had a better time with their parent of the same gender.

Father Experiences. Regarding the fourth subtheme, father experiences, when the participants recounted their most recent vacations with their children, they gravitated toward discussing the following: the challenges they faced, the influence of their personal travel experiences both past and present, what they valued most about traveling with their children, and their desires to keep traveling with their children.

All of the participants discussed the challenges they faced, or lack thereof, when giving an account of their experiences on their family vacations. Seven of the ten participants indicated that they faced no challenges, not only traveling with their children, but also taking over the role of sole caretaker. Participants also reported

anticipating that it would be more challenging to travel with their children than it actually was. To illustrate, Dan explained: “Well, I think what I didn’t anticipate, I thought it would be more challenging. But it really wasn’t.” Similarly, Shawn stated, in reference to assuming the role of sole caretaker, “Actually, it, I thought it would but I didn’t find it difficult at all. I said okay, we need this, let’s make sure we have this.” The remaining three participants related that the only challenges they encountered were in regards to their daughters entering puberty. For example, Mark explains: “at this point I’m pretty good with stuff that comes up. There’s, I think, the only unanticipated issue that I’m dreading is her becoming a lady”. Otherwise, the interviewee’s stated that they had relatively challenge free family vacations.

The second most discussed topic was the participants’ past travel experiences. Many participants attributed their past travel experiences to the main reason they felt so at ease planning vacations for their children without their ex wives’ help. To illustrate, Kevin stated, “yeah, I mean, I travel up to ten times a month. So for me, you know, I’m going away three times in the next nine days. So, when I plan a trip...it’s easy for me.”

Also, past travel experiences both solo and with their families during their childhood were mentioned as motivating them to travel with their children. For example, when David was asked why he was so motivated to travel with his daughter he stated, “because for the last 26 years of my life, I’ve traveled extensively on my own.” Further Dan described how his childhood family vacations motivated him to travel with his son.

He explained:

You know, my parents, you know, once, at least once a year we went on a vacation, or you know, somewhere different. So, It’s like, I want that for my son, too, you know. I want to carry on in that tradition and be able to show him through experiences.

Shawn also reported his motivation for traveling with his sons as, “it was fun because I was a Boy Scout, too, and so it was a passing the torch kind of thing.”

Closely following the topic of past travel, a majority of the participants emphasized how much they valued their trips with their children. For example, Dan noted, “I really valued spending quality time with him. I valued just how excited he was. His just whole demeanor throughout the whole trip was just awesome.” Similarly, Kevin stated, “I value the twenty four seven time with them. And see, like I said seeing them just really love where they are and love what they are doing.” Shawn also explained that he valued, “just the fact that I can actually spend time with them.”

Other than spending quality time with their children, the participants also indicated that they valued the teaching opportunities travel presented. To illustrate, David explained:

I value the most those times where I can find those teachable moments, because they're unique to that type of travel. Those children who don't travel well they don't know there's proper protocol to getting you know on an airplane. So I value as a parent to find those opportunities where I can teach her something new.

Also, Jason revealed that he valued travel because it had afforded him the opportunity to discover commonalities between him and his daughter. He explained:

I think what I value the most is that we started developing common grounds. Above all things you know we do like this...so, we find that we have common grounds on a lot of things. So eight out of ten things, which is not bad at all, you know.

Lastly, all of the participants expressed a desire to continue to travel with their children in the future. However, worth noting is that one participant, Mark, stated that although he wanted to continue to travel with his daughter, it was not a priority for him. This seemed to be the result of the financial burden he was under, due to undergoing

divorce proceedings. Another participant, Sal, also noted that he was going to have to modify his travel plans, in order to keep his daughter interested in traveling with him, after she expressed her desire to no longer take ski vacations. In spite of his daughter's loss of interest in their vacations together, he still expressed a strong desire to continue to travel with her. Otherwise, all of the men were enthusiastic and optimistic about future travel plans with their children.

Childcare. Lastly, childcare was the fifth subtheme. Only two participants reported receiving aid with childcare on their vacations. First, Kevin was the only participant to receive full-time help via a nanny on all of the vacations he took with his children. He explained the arrangement by stating:

So the kids, in the morning if they wake up, they'll go wake her up. And she basically is on from the time the kids get up in the morning until the time the kids go to sleep. But it's not like I leave the kids with her and I'd go do something else. We're all together. It's just she allows me to maximize the experience with both kids.

Kevin primarily utilized the nanny to help mediate issues that arose due to the significant age difference of his two sons. He explained:

A lot of activities that my oldest son wants to do, he, my youngest, can't do. So for example, like Disney. So if I didn't have her [the nanny], my oldest son wouldn't be able to ride some of the rides that he wants to do...It really allows me to give both my kids the optimal experience that they can get when we go away.

Conversely, participants with multiple children of a similar age did not have the means, nor express the need for fulltime childcare on their vacations with their children.

The only other example of a participant receiving assistance with childcare was mentioned by Dan. He received minimal assistance from his girlfriend's parents, while on a camping trip with his son and his girlfriend's family. He described the assistance he received as:

So, we had an adult day on the river. And we went down tubing on the river. And so her mom, you know, spent time with him back at the campsite and watched him and did their thing there.

In my opinion, this seemed to be a typical arrangement for people traveling with their children to visit friends and relatives. In contrast, being accompanied by a full-time nanny while traveling with your children seemed to be a rather extraordinary experience that stood in stark contrast to the other participants' childcare arrangements.

Happy Memories

Following their vacations, the participants reflected on their vacations and the experiences that they had with their children, which comprised the fourth macro theme, happy memories. Upon reflection, the subtheme of benefits was identified.

Travel Benefits. In terms of the subtheme travel benefits, the tourism literature on the benefits of family travel indicates that leisure-travel aids in ensuring the stability of the family unit, the social development of children, creating memorable experiences and contributes to greater communication and solidarity between family members (Lehto et al, 2009; Shaw, 2008). Similarly, the participants mentioned the following benefits: opportunity for bonding/quality time, creating shared experiences, learning opportunities, exposure to new experiences, creating memorable experiences, stress relief/escapism, and acquiring confidence in their parenting abilities.

The number one stated benefit by the nonresident fathers was creating opportunities for family bonding and shared experiences, which became especially relevant to the participants since they no longer resided with their children. To illustrate, Anthony explained:

I think even in the bad times they're it's positive. I mean I think we've spent quality time together and when you're a divorced father, I don't spend as much time with them. My daughter lives with her mother. And my son

communicates with his mother frequently...And so I think it's good to have whatever time I have with them.

Further, Mark noted how important his travel has become with his daughter following his divorce, due to the fact that he no longer has day-to-day interaction with her. He stated:

I feel more connected. Traveling, I think, heightens that because there's more dependence. It's not just, we're going to the movie or we're going to dinner together...You know, I mean it's got a longer duration and you kind of go through the whole cycle of a day. I think it gets you back in the comfort zone of being a parent and having that one-on-one experience. You kind of experience a whole day. So, it's definitely better. I think she feels better and that you know getting kind of more connected with me, since we don't live in the same house together.

The participants also mentioned that the shared experiences created by their vacations contributed to the formation of a deeper bond with their children. For example, Mark stated, "I think anytime you have experiences together you, you remember those experiences and you build from those experiences." Developing better communication with their children was another benefit of travel that led to the participants feeling more connected with each other. For example, Shawn stated that, "communication was the main thing I guess that was the whole base of the whole trip in the first place. You know communication with your child and just to bond."

The second most stated benefit of family travel was being able to educate and expose their children to new experiences. To illustrate, Dan explained that he associated travel with the following: "educational benefits, such as being able to relate to other parts of the world or other cultures or being in different environments. I want to show my son the world, so he has a good picture of everything." Ulysses also felt that travel provided his daughters with learning opportunities they would not have gotten at home. He stated, "I think you can in travel teach and learn more than in other

things...they provide a reference point of experiences that are very different than what you get by watching a television show or reading a book together.”

Not only did participants utilize the travel experiences to educate their children, but they also employed the planning and preparation stages of travel as opportunities to impart knowledge. For instance, Mark explained:

It's also beneficial in that I think you teach a young person how to plan. How to plan for clothing and different temperatures and different things you going to do and think it out ahead so that you pack the right stuff and you don't pack too much stuff, and that's a big part you know learning how to get on in life.

Likewise, Shawn described how he utilized the packing process to teach his oldest son (a pre-teen) responsibility. He stated, “I'm trying to get him to understand, too that now he's getting older and he's got to take more responsibility for himself. And then, you know now he has his little brother and he can help him pack.” David also described the learning opportunities afforded by travel, “in any type of travel something will go wrong. It's how you react to it, adjust and make the best of the situation. It's learning independence and how to be a problem solver.”

Another benefit of travel noted by the participants was that they gained confidence in their parenting skills and, as a result, were inspired to plan more trips with their children. To illustrate, Dan stated, “It makes me want to take him on more vacations. You know, it gives me ease that I can plan further vacations.” Further, Kevin found that his vacations also imparted his children with confidence in his parenting skills, which he felt deepened his relationship with them. He revealed:

I think it's important that kids, especially who have divorced parents know that both can deal with all situations. So I think from the standpoint that the boys know they can go away with me and they're just fine and safe in their way with me as they are with their mother. Versus kids that when we're with dad this is all he really can do. He can't go out of the box because he

really doesn't want to get on a plane with us because he doesn't feel confident and I think that's a little debilitating for the kids. So in a way it's helped to round out my relationship with them.

Worth noting was the significant role travel played in building the participants confidence in their parenting abilities, following their divorce. Following successful execution of a vacation and the childcare responsibilities it entails, led the participants to feel more competent and involved as parents.

Also, creating lasting memorable experiences was another benefit reported by the interviewees. Kevin, for instance, noted, "that's all the more reason I like to travel with them because I really instinctively know that looking back, they will recall those times." Sal also noted as a result of their travel that his daughter, "has a lot of memories. You know she'll remember we had good times. It was fun."

Finally, participants noted that travel provided the benefit of an experience that was a source of great excitement for them and their children. To illustrate, Jason explained:

Travel gives us the feel like we're finally going to do something out of our common circle, you know. And there's a growing sense of looking forward to this new thing. So it becomes a little more exciting.

Kevin also described the enjoyment he garners from his kids excitement. He stated, "my favorite things to do with them is to be with them while they experience where we are...I absolutely love just watching that, you know, I mean they just get so excited." Similarly, Dan noted, "his whole demeanor throughout the whole trip was just awesome. I wish I could duplicate that every day."

Finally, the participants noted that travel was also a means to escape the stresses of their everyday lives, especially their divorces. For example, Dan stated:

Yeah, it, it was a little difficult. But, you know, as, as, as far as when we got there, it, you know, it was like a weight was kind of lifted off his shoulders and, you know, he kind of forgot about everything that was going on back home, and, you know. And it was nice because there was no, you know, complaints, or, or anything like that.

Likewise, Sal noted, "I think it was giving her a break. You know, being with her dad." Shawn also mentioned that travel allowed both him and his son to loosen the grip technology had on both of their lives. He affirmed:

I think it [travel] helps and I think it can be therapeutic for a lot of people, a lot of guys, you know. Just to get away from anything electronic. I mean cause I think that's the main thing. My PDA, his Nintendo DS, two things that are probably attached to us. But to get away from both of those pieces of equipmen. It was pretty cool.

The participants emphasized the value they placed on the benefits they associated with travel, specifically stating how much they treasured the time they were able to spend with their children now that they no longer resided with their children. As such, all of the participants indicated that they planned to continue to travel with their children in the future. Most of the sample stating they would also like to, in the not so distant future, travel internationally with their children, if they could gain their former spouses approval to take their children out of the country.

Summary

In sum, the data revealed that travel is an integral part of the participants' time spent with their children. Travel primarily functioned as a means to facilitate and maintain close relationships with their children, which as a result of their divorce and, consequently, their departure from the household and the everyday lives of their children, was a struggle mentioned by all of the participants. Overall, the interviewees seemed to tackle their new role as sole caretaker with relative ease, gaining added confidence in their abilities through their travel experiences with their children. Thus,

despite having to negotiate some constraints on their travel, the benefits served to outweigh any negatives for all of the participants. Resulting in their continued desire to travel with their children in the future.

Table 4-1. Respondent Themes

Macro Theme	Subthemes
Creating a New Normal	Motivations Past Travel Former Wives' Travel Shared Leisure
Making Travel Happen	Travel Planning and Preparations Negotiating Constraints Family Dynamics
Travelling with Dad	Trip Characteristics Challenges Child Experiences Father Experiences Childcare
Happy Memories	Benefits

CHAPTER 5 DISCUSSION

This study investigated the pleasure travel characteristics, motivations, and experiences of United States nonresident fathers traveling with their children using a grounded theory approach. Marsiglio et al's (2005) theory of Situated Fatherhood was the guiding theory for this study. However, while this theory does have some relevance to understanding the experiences of nonresident fathers traveling with their children, the findings also lend themselves to Fridgen's (1984) adaptation of Clawson and Knetch's (1966) Recreation Framework to help us interpret the temporal nature of travel experiences. The findings demonstrate that the travel experiences of nonresident fathers are not limited to their actual trip experience, but that the pre-travel and post-travel phases of their trip are integral parts of their vacations and shape their overall travel experience. As a result, I propose a grounded theory model (Figure 5-1) of nonresident father's pleasure travel with their children that takes into account the interconnectedness of the three phases of travel: pre-travel, the actual travel experience, and post-travel, suggesting that one must utilize a temporal view of the travel process in order to truly capture the totality of nonresident fathers' travel experiences.

Fridgen emphasized the importance of examining the phases of travel which include: pre-travel referred to as anticipation by Fridgen, actual travel, which included the phases of travel to the site, on-site behavior, and return travel. Lastly, he noted the importance of the post-travel phase, entitled recollection. Fridgen emphasized that one must look both at on-site travel behaviors and beyond the actual travel experience in order to capture the totality of the travel experience. He noted the importance of the

pre-travel phase, anticipation, due to the influence one's home, work, and school life have on the travel decision-making process and their role in fostering or inhibiting actual travel. Meanwhile, he also noted that the post-travel phase of recollection must be considered because one's memories, emotions, and evaluations of their travel experience not only impact the recollection of their trip, but also their future travel preferences. Similarly, when the participants discussed their travel experiences they acknowledge the significant influence their home, work, and leisure activities had on their travel experiences. Also, the participants noted that following their trip they enjoyed reminiscing about the shared adventures they had experienced together. They also planned their future trips based on their recollection and memories of their most recent travel experience with their children. Thus, the pre-travel themes including: creating a new normal and making travel happen correspond with Fridgen's (1984) anticipation stage of travel, while the theme travelling with dad mirrors Fridgen's phases of travel to the site, on-site behavior and return travel. Lastly, the post-travel theme happy memories closely resemble the phase of recollection proposed by Fridgen. As a result, the themes were organized based on Fridgen's proposed temporal framework with the four macro themes and 13 subthemes situated in the model based on their temporal relationship with one another. The two-macro themes creating a new normal and making travel happen consisting of the preparation and behaviors that influence the participants' travel behaviors prior to their travels are positioned in the pre-travel phase of the model. Next, the macro theme travelling with dad consisted of the travel experiences of the interviewees while on their vacations, which are situated in the actual travel phase of the model. Lastly, the macro theme happy memories, which includes

the recollections the men expressed following their vacations, is situated in the post-travel phase of the model.

Also, Marsiglio et al.'s (2005) theory of Situated Fatherhood also emphasized the importance of the temporal dimension in the act of fathering. In the theory, Marsiglio et al highlighted not only the effect of the temporal and physical context on men's attempts at fathering, but also the social processes that foster or inhibit their attempts at fathering. As a result, five of the primary properties and four of the secondary properties of situated fatherhood were utilized to analyze and interpret the findings in this study. The following properties of the theory Situated Fatherhood were found to be significant in interpreting how travel impacts men's attempts to bond with their children through the act of fathering: physical conditions of the participants destination, the temporal dynamic on their vacations, the symbolic perceptual processes, the social structural context, and the public and private nature of the vacation space, institutional/cultural conditions at their vacation destination, the transitional elements of travel, the participants perception of their personal power and control, and the gender attributes of a specific destination. These properties were all taken into account during the data analysis, forming a basis from which to interpret the environmental and social processes that impact the act of fathering while men are on vacation with their children.

Creating a New Normal

The first macro theme situated in the pre-travel phase of the model is Creating a New Normal. To begin, the factors contributing to the participants' attempts to create a "new normal" through travel for both themselves and their children following their divorces were recognized. Four subthemes were associated with this theme: motivations for travel, past travel experiences, shared leisure, and former wives' travel

behaviors. The subthemes consist of the factors that were identified as having significant influence on the interviewees' travel behaviors prior to their vacations in their attempt to establish a new family identity. For the most part, in reference to their travel motivations their responses were consistent with the "push" factors identified by Crompton (1979), such as a desire to develop kinship with family members, to enhance familial relationships by escaping routine, relaxation, desire to educate children, and the urge to have novel experiences. However, the desire to create a "new normal" and to provide travel experiences for their children because of the inability or the unwillingness of their former wives to travel with their children were two motives that were unique to this population and not mentioned in the travel literature regarding travel motivations.

Secondly, past travel experiences and shared leisure, two of the other subthemes listed under creating a new normal in the pre-travel phase, were also identified as significant "push" factors that encouraged men to travel with their children. These two sub-themes served as a foundation from which the participants selected their travel destination and activities. The final subtheme of former wives' travel also shaped the activities and destinations the participants selected. The interviewees expressed a desire to either plan trips to provide experiences for their children that their former wives could not, or that were in contrast to their former wives in an attempt to create a "new normal" for their children by establishing a routine and a separate travel identity independent of their former wives' vacations. In the wake of their divorce and the resulting custody arrangements that left them living separately from their children, the motivation to create a separate and revised family identity with their children was mentioned as paramount to a majority of the participants, outweighing the traditional

“push” factors noted by Crompton (1979) and Shaw (2008). This phenomenon is not surprising, due to the emotional and physical upheaval of their divorce for both the participants and their children, illuminating the influence that personal circumstances can have on travel motivations, and the resultant travel behaviors. This emphasizes the impact that not only physical conditions, but temporal circumstances can have on the act of fathering of nonresident fathers as noted by Marsiglio et al (2005).

Marsiglio et al. assert that physical spaces can create unique opportunities for fathers to be involved in their children’s lives. As such, travel was utilized by the participants to create a unique space for them to interact with their children as well as creating a new normal following their divorces. Also, the social upheaval of the participants’ divorce provides an important temporal dynamic, which Marsiglio et al. highlight as central to analyzing men’s fathering experiences, that motivated these men to assume new parenting roles in order to spend time with their children. Quite possibly, under different circumstances, they would not have been motivated to plan or execute a vacation with their children. Thus, analyzing the data through the lens of situated fatherhood highlights the significance of the interviewees’ social context as well as aids in the understanding of the unique physical condition that travel afforded them in their pursuit to create a new normal with their children, resulting in a better understanding of why the participants appeared so highly motivated to travel. Lastly, this discovery bolsters Jenkins and Lyons (2006) and Swinton et al’s (2008) claim that this unique population requires the attention of researchers and scholars in the field of tourism and leisure research, due to the unique travel motivations and challenges

nonresident fathers experiences as well as the significant role travel plays in their relationships with their children.

Making Travel Happen

Beyond the factors that impacted the participants' motivation to travel and the activities they selected for their vacations, they also related the elements that influenced the planning and execution of their trips with their children in the pre-travel phase. These elements comprise the second macro theme in the pre-travel phase called making travel happen. This macro theme has three subthemes: family dynamics, travel planning and preparations, and negotiating constraints. Family dynamics, the first subtheme, was mentioned as an important "push" factor, or a constraint, depending on the quality of the participants' relationship with their former wives, as well as their level of involvement in the day-to-day care of their children. For example, participants who revealed either they had good relationships with their former wives, or had a high level of involvement in their child's care, were more motivated to travel because they felt more comfortable taking trips with their former wives' approval, taking over the role of sole caretaker was described as less daunting to them. This is not surprising considering Marsiglio et al.'s (2005) theory that emphasizes the impact that social expectations have on how men interact with their children. As such, the negative impact of the participants' contentious relationship with their wives on their attempts at planning their vacations, is in congruence with the social structural property of situated fatherhood, confirming the significant influence that men's relationships with other people can have on their attempts at fathering.

However, when participants discussed the constraints, the second subtheme under making travel happen that prevented them, not from traveling (because all of the

participants traveled regardless of the constraints they experienced), but from taking the vacations they truly desired, a contentious relationship with their former wives was the number one reported constraint. This illustrates that Ihinger-Tallman et al's (1995) contention that a positive co-parent relationship with nonresident fathers' former spouses promotes nonresident fathers involvement with their children not only in day-to-day childcare situations, but is also applicable to promoting involvement in activities outside of the realm of everyday childcare, such as travel. Otherwise, lack of resources such as time and money, contentious sibling relationships, age of their children and difficulty choosing trips that interested their children were cited not only by the participants in this study, but are generally noted in the literature as structural and interpersonal constraints that tend to affect people attempting to engage in leisure-travel (Nyaupane & Andereck, 2007). Similarly, the theory of situated fatherhood also highlights the role that structural constraints such as income can impact men's attempts at fathering. Marsiglio et al (2005) propose that income and class can impede men's attempts to father their children. In relation to this study some of the fathers noted that income in particular impacted the type of travel locations they visit and how they interacted with their children at a particular location. This could further highlight the important consideration structural constraints should be given when analyzing nonresident fathers' travel experiences with their children.

Accordingly, the extent to which the participants were affected by structural constraints (i.e. lack of financial resources) appeared to be greater than traditional husband-wife dyads, due to their unique social circumstances i.e. the temporal dynamic described in theory of Situated Fatherhood, highlighting the impact the participants'

unique family structure has on their attempts to plan and execute vacations. As such, the timing, i.e. following their divorces, of their travels occur when most of the participants finances had been largely reduced by their divorce proceedings. For instance, the participants reported that they received little, if any, financial assistance from their former spouses. Also, the financial strain their divorces had placed on them resulted in an overall strain on their finances, specifically the discretionary income they typically utilized to fund their vacations with their families. Thus, many of the participants had little discretionary income for travel because they had to pay to support two households as a result of their separation from their wives, or they no longer had the supplementary income from their former spouses from which to aid in the financing of their vacations with their children. While this did not prevent the participants from traveling with their children, it did influence what they defined as “travel”. Participants with less financial resources defined travel as day trips to parks or other recreational facilities, whereas the participants with higher incomes defined travel as a trip spent away from home for longer than 24 hours.

Lastly, the final subtheme of travel planning and preparations under the theme making travel happen consisted of the participants’ reports of the difficulties or ease they encountered prior to their actual vacations, such as taking over the role of sole caretaker and travel planner, that fostered or inhibited their desires to take a vacation with their children. Surprisingly, only two participants reported initially experiencing difficulty adapting to the role of sole caretaker. Although this did make them apprehensive about travelling with their children, it did not prevent it. The difficulty these participants reported was most likely attributed to the fact that they fulfilled the

traditional role as breadwinner, providing little assistance in the care of their children, prior to their divorces. As such, their perceptions of their own personal power and control over their children was very low, which based on the theory of Situated Fatherhood may lead to a feeling of powerlessness as a parent. Further, Marsiglio et al. (2005) assert that these feelings may negatively influence their interaction with their children. Thus, the participants' lack of power and control as parents, may be a possible explanation as to why some of the participants had reservations traveling with their children. In contrast, a majority of the participants revealed that they were very instrumental in the day-to-day care of their children, occupying the cultural ideal of the "new father", outlined by Cabrera et al (2000), a father that is involved in the more nurturing role of childcare as well as the traditional breadwinner role. This experience with the care of their children prior to their divorce and their desire to spend time with their children after the divorce, seemed to account for the ease with which the interviewee's assumed their new role as caretaker on vacation. Similarly, when discussing the difficulty the participants encountered taking over the role of information seeker and travel planner in the pre-travel phase, a role that McGehee et al. (1996) and Small (2005) discovered to be traditionally dominated by women in husband-wife dyads, the participants indicated experiencing minor, if any, difficulty coordinating the travel preparations or assuming the role of travel planner. Most likely, the participants did not feel constrained by this stage of the family travel process because their apprehensions were mediated by their motivation to take a vacation with their children. Further, the participants' motivations to remain involved parents did not appear to stem from feelings of obligation, instead their motivation seemed to originate from the fact that they defined

themselves by their role as involved fathers. This finding appears to support Cooper's (2000) finding that men are more motivated to be involved with their children if their definition of themselves is dependent on their role as fathers. In turn, this may explain why the participants may have encountered fewer obstacles in assuming roles traditionally held by women in the planning and execution of family travel.

Many of the participants also noted that they felt their former spouses' intricate planning in regards to family travel was unnecessary, choosing to "wing it" instead. This incident is most likely attributed to gender differences that result in different planning styles. The traditional role of travel planner and family organizer noted by Ishii-Kuntz and Coltrane (1992) and Zalatan (1998) may predispose women to be more structured and organized in the planning and execution of their family vacations, while men's traditional role as playmate as observed by Such (2006) may lead them to favor a more free form "fun" oriented vacation with an aversion to the unpleasantness of planning and organizing that their former wives previously undertook. The participants' aversions to a set schedule or planned activities may have also contributed to their lack of constraints in the pre-travel stage. The pre-travel stage shaped the men's overall travel experience, serving as a foundation from which they planned and selected a destination for their vacations.

Travelling with Dad

The participants' accounts of their actual travel experiences with their children were classified under the theme of Travelling with Dad located in the actual travel phase of the model. This theme is associated with five subthemes: trip characteristics, challenges, child experiences, father experiences, and childcare. The first subtheme, challenges, includes the difficulties the men reported while travelling with their children.

Although the participants' reports of their experiences were overwhelmingly positive with few problems or regrets expressed, the main issue the interviewees encountered on their vacations was their children having minor bouts of homesickness at the beginning of their travels. As such, the influence of age and gender played a much larger role in this stage of the fathers' travel experience. With younger children reporting more issues with homesickness, and the parents having more challenges regarding childcare and safety. The difficulties the participants felt appear to be attributed to the transition from the private space of home to public spaces, such as airports or train stations, which as Marsiglio et al. (2005) emphasize in the theory of Situated Fatherhood influence men's fathering experiences. In this study, the transition from private space to public spaces that travel demanded at first challenged the participants, but once they were able to negotiate the challenges that arose, such as attempting to use a public restroom with their young children, they gained more confidence in their parenting skills allowing them to develop a deeper bond with their children over their shared victory surmounting the challenges they faced on their vacations.

In addition, the fathers with older children reported having more difficulty selecting activities that appealed to their children as well as reporting their children experiencing boredom and a lack of interest in traveling with their parents. Finally, gender also presented a challenge to fathers traveling with teenage daughters entering puberty and dealing with the issues that arose as a result of this developmental stage. Trouble adapting to their daughters "girly interests" such as shopping were also reported, although all of the participants with daughters were quick to emphasize that despite their daughters being drawn to some activities that were more female-oriented they had

no trouble finding commonalities. In fact, similar to Swinton (2008) and Lehto et al. (2009), these results suggest travel served as a means to not only highlight commonalities, but also created new shared interests, which deepened the bond the participants had with their children. Similarly, Marsiglio et al (2005) also highlighted the impact gendered environments, such as malls or dance recitals that are commonly viewed as feminine, can have on men's attempts at fathering, these environments potentially encourage men to step outside of their comfort zone and connect with their children, which appears to support some of the experiences reported by the fathers in this study.

The participants' description of their travel experiences as well as their own children's experiences were captured in the following subthemes: child experiences, father experiences, and trip characteristics, which are also part of the travelling with dad theme in the actual travel phase of the model. Overall, the participants expressed that both they and their children had incredibly positive travel experiences. This utopian view of their travel experiences appears to be attributed to what Marsiglio et al (2005) deem the symbolic perception of a space in their theory of situated fatherhood. They assert that if a certain location is perceived as leisure-centered it can influence how fathers and children perceive or treat one another. Thus, the symbolic nature of the participants' travel locations as a leisure/fun-centered fostered bonding and enabled both the fathers and their children to create successful and happy travel experiences.

The participants also revealed that travel was especially important to them following their divorce because they had very few opportunities to develop commonalities with their children, since they no longer shared a residence with them.

As a result, travel was a priority to a majority of the participants because of the unique “space” or physical condition, as described in the theory of Situated Fatherhood. It offered men a chance to bond with their children, especially now that they had limited opportunities to spend quality time with their children. Also, the participants may have been particularly attracted to travel as a means to bond with their children because it is a form of leisure, which have been noted in the literature as the type of activities that most father-child relationships revolve around (Craig, 2006; Kay, 2006a; Lamb, 1987; Such, 2006). Thus, the comfort and ease that characterized the participants’ travel experiences may have been because the activities on their vacations were merely extended opportunities to participate in the play and leisure time that they had spent a majority of their time engaged in with their children prior to their divorces.

Happy Memories

Lastly, the participants’ recollections of their travel experiences are classified as one subtheme under the macro theme Happy Memories located in the post-travel phase of the model. This theme has one subtheme: benefits, which include the positive outcomes of the participants’ travel experiences with their children. When recalling their travel experiences in the post-travel phase, the participants noted that their vacations helped to foster and expose commonalities between them and their children. Other benefits the participants reported included: cultivating a deeper bond with their children, creating shared experiences, exposing their children to new experiences and learning opportunities, creating memories, and stress relief/escapism.

These findings were consistent with the findings of Lehto et al (2009) and Shaw (2008) in their research about the benefits of family travel in traditional family units. However, with regard to the participants in this study, the benefits of travel had different

implications. Instead of travel supplementing familial relationships in traditional family structures as noted by Lehto et al and Shaw, the fathers in this study indicated that travel was the primary setting in which they attempted to maintain a relationship with their children. Travel was not an adjunct activity to develop a deeper bond with their children. Instead, travel was the primary means by which the participants remained close to their children by developing common interests and shared experiences that helped to maintain the connections they struggled to maintain after their divorces. Indeed, the theory of situated fatherhood suggests that unique physical spaces, i.e. travel destinations, can create opportunities for fathers to be more involved with and bond with their children. This appears to mirror the experiences of the fathers in this study.

Another finding that was unique to this population was that travel aided men in acquiring confidence in their parental skills. Upon reflection, the participants realized that their travels with their children not only instilled confidence in their children that they were capable caretakers, but also in themselves. This appeared to be attributed, in part, to the fact that in traditional husband-wife dyads women are responsible for the execution and planning of travel (McGehee et al., 1996; Small, 2005). As a result, once children observe their fathers fulfilling the role that they associate with their mother, the primary caretaker, their image of their father is transformed to one of both playmate and caretaker. Also, the transitional elements of travel, defined in the theory of Situated Fatherhood as the movement between private and public settings that create significant changes in the context within which men father their children, may have also contributed to the participants' feelings of confidence in their parenting skills because they were

able to successfully negotiate the challenges presented by the transition elements that are innate to travel. This contributed to the value the participants placed on travel with their children and increased their desire to plan more extensive and exotic vacations with their children. This desire was shared by all of the participants when they discussed the trips they envisioned taking with their children in the future.

Summary

Overall, the findings appear to support Marsiglio et al's 2005 suppositions that both the physical "situation" and social context impact their fathering experiences and interactions with their children. As such, the data revealed that the five properties and five secondary properties of the theory Situated Fatherhood highlight the unique aspects of the participants' travel experiences with their children, and in turn impact the men's attempts at fathering their children. The unique space their vacation destination afforded the participants, and the time spent with their children during the difficult transition of creating a new normal following their divorces, outlined as the physical conditions and temporal dynamic in the theory of Situated Fatherhood, appeared to have the most impact on their relationships with their children. Consequently, the time spent with their children without distractions that travel affords was attributed a much greater importance by the participants than their vacation destinations because of their motivation to recapture the time they had lost with their children following their departure from their family homes. This may indicate, as Fridgen (1984) suggested, that there are certain social cues that can facilitate a change in the importance placed on the environmental setting of family vacations.

Accordingly, the social processes of preparing for their travels, during their trip, and recollecting their travel experiences after their vacations appear to collectively

impact their relationships with their children by deepening their bond with their children. Their vacations created a setting for the participants to “father” their children, which the participants had struggled to find opportunities for following their divorces. Hence, the temporal model presented in this study provides a more holistic view of such vacations that appears to be more applicable when examining the travel experiences of these nonresident fathers. In the tourism context, this model takes into account the interplay of physical spaces and the social/symbolic processes described in the situated fathering conceptual framework at all phases of the travel experience and frames these processes in a temporal model. In turn, this aids in the understanding of the unique dynamics of fathers and their children in vacation contexts by encompassing the pre-travel and post-travel phases, which as noted by Fridgen (1984) are integral pieces of the travel experience that must be considered in tourism.

Limitations and Delimitations

There are potential threats to the purity of data collected in this study. The limitations of this study centered on the interview process. First, the participant recall of their most recent travel with their children as well as their past travel experiences may have been affected by time, as some of their travel experiences occurred several years ago. Keeping this potential bias in mind, the researcher took extensive notes and asked follow-up questions as much as possible to obtain an accurate and robust account of the participants’ travel experiences. Secondly, due to the semi-structured nature of the research, it was not possible to ask every participant the same exact questions, which at times made it difficult to compare results. However, an interview guide was utilized to ensure, as much as possible, that each participant was asked similar questions. The participants could have also reported socially acceptable accounts of their experiences

because they felt the interviewer was judging their parenting skills. However, the researcher attempted to establish a rapport with the participants during the interviews in order to elicit rich and accurate accounts to ensure the trustworthiness of the data.

Purposive and snowball sampling was utilized to increase the external validity and to include men with diverse backgrounds in terms of age, income, ethnicity, number of children, sex of children, and age of children. Further, as the participants were limited to Florida it is possible that the data may not be transferable to individuals living in different geographical locations.

Implications and Future Research

The goal of this study was not to provide generalizable findings, but to provide insights on a topic that has not received prior academic attention. The findings reflect the experiences of a unique population of nonresident fathers who live in the Southeastern United States and as such may be different to those who live elsewhere. The findings of this study make a unique contribution to the literature by expanding our understanding of nonresidential parenting practices and leisure-travel activities, specifically how this population utilized travel as a means to create a revised family unit or “new normal”. Little is known about nonresident fathers and their travel with their children because of the lack of research on nonresident fathers in the travel and fatherhood literature, adding to the significance of this study to both of these fields of study. The important role travel plays in mediating the effects of divorce on family units is a significant contribution to the academic literature and families that are in the midst of a divorce. Also, this study offers a model from which to further investigate the travel experiences of nonresident fathers in the travel context. This information would have useful implications for both public and private tourism providers, offering them a better

understanding of the needs and preferences of nonresident fathers traveling with their children, so that they can better accommodate an underserved segment of the population. Lastly, a major implication the study of nonresident fathers travel with their children can provide a better understanding of techniques that men can employ, following a separation or divorce, to foster a continued relationship with their children. This has significant implications for both the field of tourism but also sociology and family studies as travel has been shown in this study as a means by which men mediate the ill effects of no longer residing with their children. I also recommend the travel and tourism industry promote travel packages that are pre-planned in order to encourage more nonresident fathers to travel with their children, providing them with an opportunity to heal the wounds that divorce has inflicted on them and their children.

Further research is needed to provide a more in-depth analysis of this population and to test the validity of the model presented in this study. A larger study consisting of a more representative sample would be useful in establishing the generalizability of the findings as well as increasing our overall knowledge of a population that has been largely ignored in the literature. A future study comparing the experiences of custodial fathers to nonresident fathers would also be useful in further highlighting the unique experiences of nonresident fathers. Also, a study that takes into account the length the participants have been divorced would also provide richer data about this population. Further, engaging in a longitudinal study to explore the effects of the age of the children would provide a greater understanding of how the travel of this population evolves as their children age. Also, further research on nonresident fathers travel with their children would further expose the unique benefits travel offers this population. In a society with

a growing incidence of divorce and nontraditional family structures (Chesworth, 2003; Gardyn, 2001), more research on this topic would also serve to expose the benefits of travel not only to traditional family units, but the nontraditional families that are becoming more prevalent in our society. Thus, encouraging the ability of the tourism industry to better serve nontraditional family units.

Conclusion

Utilizing a temporal model to study nonresident father's travel with their children offers a more holistic view of their travel experience, offering a better understanding of the travel experiences of this population. Travel serves as an important means by which men attempt to mediate the distance and disconnection they experience both physically and emotionally from their children following their divorce. The benefits family travel offers nontraditional family units, such as the opportunity for single fathers to gain confidence in their parenting skills and create a platform to bond with their children through shared experiences are significant. As nontraditional family units become more prevalent the need for research highlighting the unique travel experiences of these populations would provide valuable insight for the related academic literature and the tourism industry.

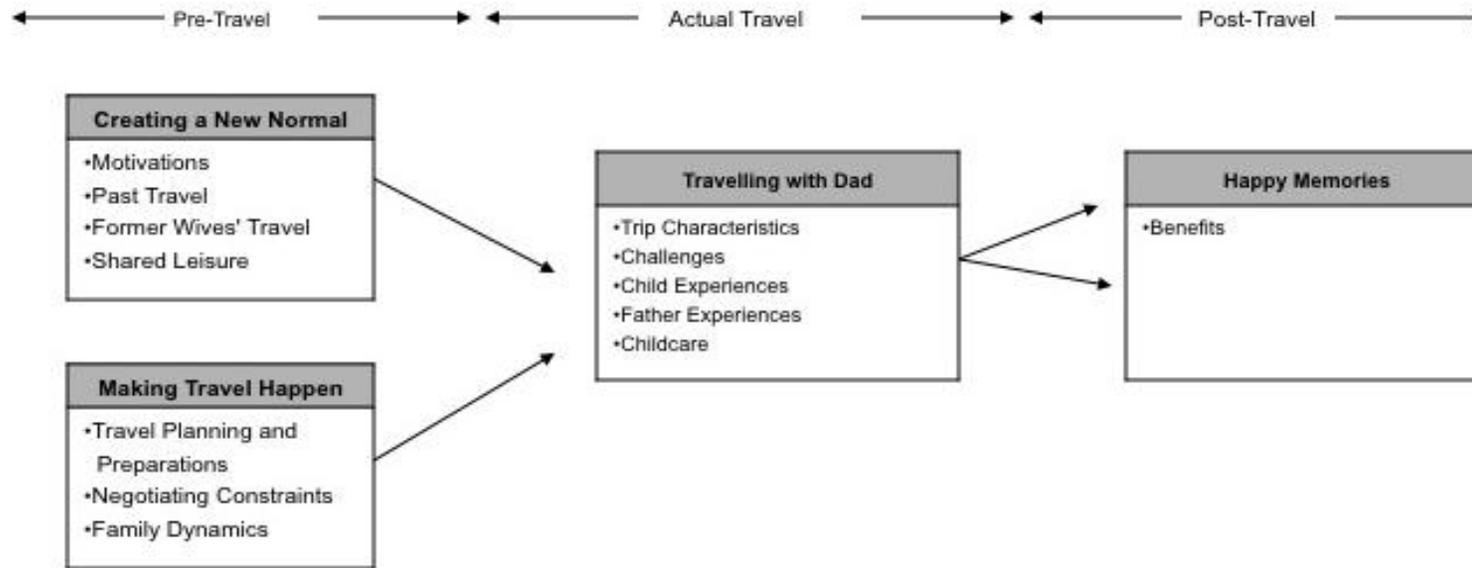


Figure 5-1. Proposed Temporal Model of Nonresident Fathers' Travel Experiences with their Children

APPENDIX A
INTERVIEW GUIDE

1. Tell me about a recent trip you took with your children within the last 12 months.
Probe: How often do you take trips like this?
What activities do you do with your children?

2. Tell me how you selected this destination/and activities.
Probe: Do you typically select destinations based on your own interests or your children's? (i.e. based on gender attributes of a destination)
Did this destination have planned leisure activities specifically for children?
Did this destination have childcare professionals that supervised your children at any time during your vacation?
What activities did you participate in during your vacation?
What are your favorite things to do with your children on vacation?
What activities do you children enjoy on vacations?
What activities do you children not enjoy on vacations?

3. Talk to me about the impact of these trips on your relationship with your children.
Probe: As a result of your travel with your children, do you feel more connected with them?
Does leisure-travel make you feel more involved in your children's lives?
Did you feel there were any negative impacts?
Is pleasure travel with your children a priority to you?
What do you value about your trips with your children?
What benefits do you associate with travel?

4. Tell me about any particular challenges you face when traveling with your children.
Probe: Are there any specific tasks that your partner/wife/significant other was responsible for or typically performed on your vacations with your children that you are now responsible for (i.e. organizing, packing, planning, monitoring the children etc)?
Was it difficult for you to take over those tasks?
Did you have to rely on other people (relatives, friends, new partners) to help you with these tasks, following your divorce/breakup with your children's mother? (i.e. change fatherhood discourse)
Are there in tasks that you still find challenging?
Do you find it difficult to plan family travel?
Do you experience difficulty in executing day-to-day childcare duties (while on vacation)?
Did you face any constraints on your choice of destination/trip?
Do your children have trouble adjusting to being away from home?

5. Please share with me other trips you would like to take with your children.
Probe: Where would you go?

What would you do?

Why is this location important to visit? (i.e. influence of physical setting)

What is stopping you?

6. Tell me about yourself

Probe: What is your name, age, highest level of education, occupation, age of your children, and custody arrangement?

What is it that you enjoy doing for leisure?

Do you and your children engage in these leisure activities together? How often?

What else would you like to add? What are your closing feelings about traveling with your children?

APPENDIX B
IRB APPROVAL

UF Institutional Review Board
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

PO Box 112250
Gainesville, FL32611-2250
352-392-0433 (Phone)
352-392-9234 (Fax)
irb2@ufl.edu

DATE: October 5, 2010

TO: Adrienne C. Kendall
1904 S. Hesperides St.
Tampa, FL 33629

FROM: Ira S. Fischler, PhD; Chair *ISF:dl*
University of Florida
Institutional Review Board 02

SUBJECT: Approval of Protocol #2010-U-0850
Single Fathers and Travel

SPONSOR: None

I am pleased to advise you that the University of Florida Institutional Review Board has recommended approval of this protocol. Based on its review, the UFIRB determined that this research presents no more than minimal risk to participants. Your protocol was approved as an expedited study under category 7: *Research on individual or group characteristics or behavior (including, but not limited to, research on perception, cognition, motivation, identity, language, communication, cultural beliefs or practices, and social behavior) or research employing survey, interview, oral history, focus group, program evaluation, human factors evaluation, or quality assurance methodologies.*

Given this status, it is essential that you obtain signed documentation of informed consent from each participant. Enclosed is the dated, IRB-approved informed consent to be used when recruiting participants for the research. If you wish to make any changes to this protocol, *including the need to increase the number of participants authorized*, you must disclose your plans before you implement them so that the Board can assess their impact on your protocol. In addition, you must report to the Board any unexpected complications that affect your participants.

It is essential that each of your participants sign a copy of your approved informed consent that bears the IRB approval stamp and expiration date.

Your approval is valid through **October 1, 2011**. If you have not completed the protocol by this date, please telephone our office (392-0433), and we will discuss the renewal process with you. It is important that you keep your Department Chair informed about the status of this research protocol.

ISF:dl

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Adrienne Christine Kendall was born in 1985 in Collier County, Florida. She is the middle child of Richard Kendall and Kay Nolan and sister of Alec and Megan. She spent all of her childhood in Tampa, FL. Adrienne attended St. John's Episcopal Day School and Tampa Preparatory High School graduating in 2003. Her research interests developed during her travels with her father, following her parents' divorce. As a result, she has cultivated an interest in sociological and tourism research investigating unique family structures.

Adrienne gained admission to the University of Florida in the spring of 2005 and earned a cum laude Bachelor of Science in tourism, recreation, and sport management with a specialization in event management in 2009. Adrienne's research interests fostered during her undergraduate education led her to earn a Master of Science in recreation, parks, and tourism in the spring of 2012 while working full-time at Gray Robinson. Following the completion of her master's degree, Adrienne enrolled at the University of Kentucky College of Law, in order to utilize her research skills to serve the needs of underrepresented populations in society.