



**WESTERN
MICHIGAN**
UNIVERSITY

The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare

Volume 22

Issue 1 March - Special Issue on Social Work
with Minority and Ethnic Groups

Article 19

March 1995

Painful Inheritance: Health and the New Generation of Fatherless Families. Ronald J. Angel and Jacqueline L. Angel.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw>



Part of the Social Work Commons

Recommended Citation

(1995) "*Painful Inheritance: Health and the New Generation of Fatherless Families.* Ronald J. Angel and Jacqueline L. Angel.," *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*: Vol. 22 : Iss. 1 , Article 19.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/jssw/vol22/iss1/19>

This Book Note is brought to you by the Western Michigan University School of Social Work. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



**WESTERN
MICHIGAN**
UNIVERSITY

syndrome. Femininity, women's psychology and gender relationships in general are essentially survival strategies in a captive situation marked by male terror. While this is an interesting thesis, it will be contested not only by men but by many women and many feminist as well. Nevertheless, this well written book should stimulate widespread debate.

Ronald J. Angel and Jacqueline L. Angel, *Painful Inheritance: Health and the New Generation of Fatherless Families*, Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1994 \$52.00 hardcover, \$19.95 papercover.

It is widely believed that children who grow up in single parent families are seriously disadvantaged. Many believe that these children lack the emotional support they need and that they will grow up with many psychological deficits. Children of single parents are also thought to perform poorly in school, and it generally accepted that many of them will subsequently engage in deviant behaviors including crime, drug abuse and teen pregnancy.

This book explores another aspect of the debate — the health situation of children in single mother families. The authors, who are sociologists at the University of Texas at Austin, have undertaken a detailed analysis of the data. They show that children of single parent families do in fact have greater health problems than children in two-parent families. They note also that these children have inadequate access to modern health care services. However, they demonstrate that the concentration of health care problems among children of single parent families is closely associated with poverty, particularly among African-American and Hispanic fatherless families. Their study reveals that single parenthood of itself has few negative consequences for health status. Adults and children in single families with adequate incomes are as healthy as those in other family configurations.

As the authors note, poverty and racial disadvantage are major causative factors of low health status. The problem is exacerbated by poor services for these families. The authors reveal that health care services for single families are hopelessly

inadequate. Despite the extension of Medicaid coverage to pregnant women and infants, health care budgetary increases have been largely consumed by older adults. As discussions on welfare reform attract increased public attention, the findings of this important study should be heeded.

J.G.M. de Bruijn, L.D. Derksen and C.M.J. Hoberichts. *The Women's Movement: History and Theory*, Aldershot, England: Avebury, 1993. \$58.95, (Distributed in the United States by Ashgate Publishing Co, Old Post Road, Brookfield, VT 05036)

Most of the editors and contributors to this volume are faculty members at the Free University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands involved in the University's Inter-faculty Women's Study Group. Noting that the ideas and writings of Dutch feminists seldom reach a wider audience, the editors have compiled this collection in English in an attempt to draw attention to their work, and engage more actively in debates with colleagues in other countries.

The book covers three major topics. Firstly, it presents a history of the women's movement in the Netherlands. Secondly, it discusses employment and work related issues for women and the way government policies are affecting these issues. Thirdly, the book discusses the role of anthropology in women's studies drawing particular attention to the role of cultural anthropologists in feminist studies relating to Third World development.

There is much in this volume that will be of interest to feminist scholars and to social scientists generally. The opening chapter by Mossink, which traces the history of the women's movement in the Netherlands, shows how the consolidation of the movement was influenced by male pacifists and their astonishing view that women's alleged frivolity and susceptibility to seduction contributed to war. Organized efforts to refute this view facilitated the growth of organized feminism in the country. There are several important chapters dealing with work place issues and the involvement of women in development. Of particular interest is Keuper's account of the role of women in the country's development programs. The book also contains several intriguing chapters on theoretical issues. Hopkin's