

Traveller Parenting Values, Attitudes and Practices: Co. Offaly as a Case Study

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Focus of the Research Study

- Collaboration between Offaly Traveller Movement and Athlone Institute of Technology through the AIT President's Seed Research Fund.
- Aim: Determine how Traveller parenting values, attitudes and practices are socially constructed.

Social Construction

- Our knowledge, and the reality we live in, are based upon our lived experience of the world around us (Burr, 2015).
- Parenting is influenced by the internal cultural experience and social interaction with wider external community (Bornstein, 2012).

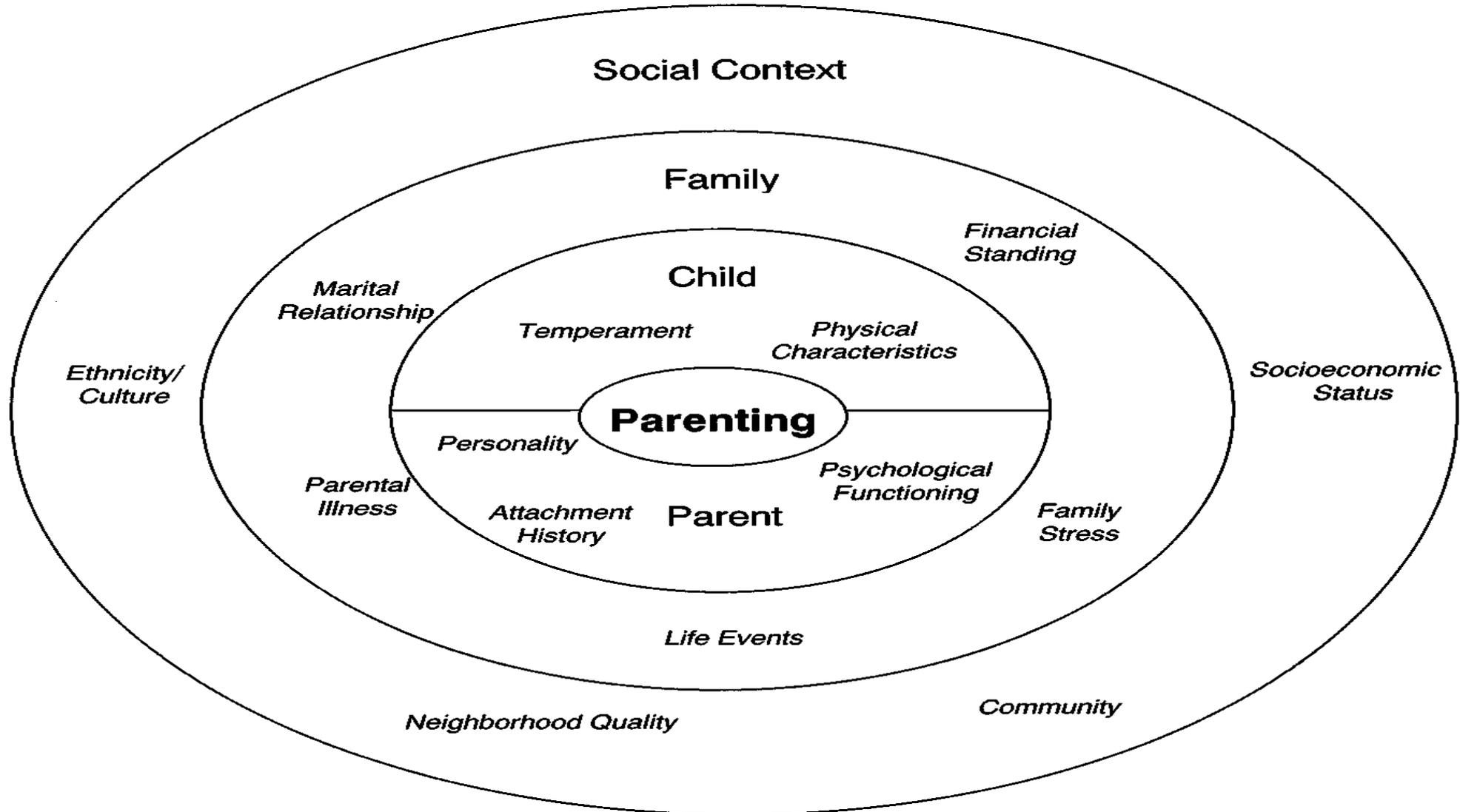
Narrative Inquiry as a Methodological Framework

- Focuses upon how the individual presents their story (Flyvbjerg, 2006).
- Narrative inquiry takes account of the relationship between the experience of the individual and the cultural context within which this experience rests (Clandinin & Connelly, 2000).

What is Parenting?

- Two-way interactions between a parent and child (Hoghughi & Long, 2004).
- Develop the child's sense of independence, identity and belonging, while ensuring that their developmental needs are met (DCYA, 2013).
- Involves multiple generations of a family.

Ecology of Parenting (Kotchik & Forehand, 2002)



Parenting Practices

Two core behaviours which influence parenting styles:

- Parental control – age and culturally appropriate boundaries.
- Parental warmth – supportive, attuned responses to children’s developmental needs (Baumrind, 1991; Kopko, 2007).

Influence of Culture on Parenting Practices

- Parenting practices are influenced and constructed by the cultural context within which we have been parented (Bornstein, 2012).
- Traveller culture is characterised by close family ties, extended social networks and sense of respect for older generations (AITHSS, 2010).

Parenting Policy within the Irish Context

- Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People, 2014 – 2020.
- Parenting Support Strategy, 2013.
- National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy, 2017 – 2021.

Traveller Culture in Ireland

- Travellers are identified, both by themselves and by others, as people with a shared history, culture and traditions including, historically, a nomadic way of life on the island of Ireland

(Equal Status Act 2000; Pavee Point, 2018).

Irish Travellers and Census 2016



An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

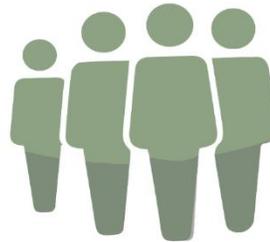
CENSUS 2016 Profile 8 Irish Travellers

census
2016
RESULTS
www.cso.ie

Number of Irish Travellers

30,987

↑ Up 5.1% since 2011



County With Highest
Number of Travellers

Galway: 2,647
↑ Up 6.7% since 2011

Town With Highest
Number of Travellers

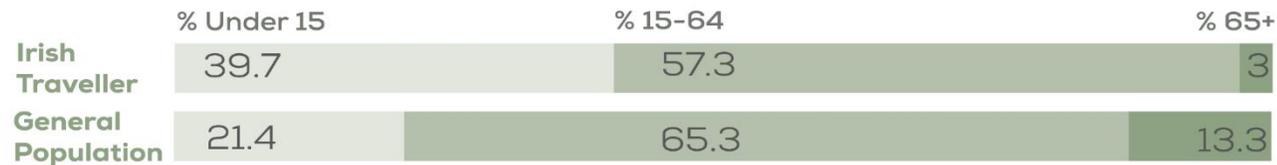
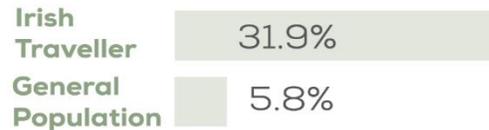
Tuam: 737

(Towns of over 1,500 population)

Married
15-29 Year Olds



Age



10,653

Irish Travellers In
The Labour Force

2,112
Employed

8,541
Unemployed

(Women Aged 40-49)
Gave Birth To 5 Or More Children

Irish
Traveller
Nearly 1 in 2
(44.5%)



General
Population
1 in 24
(4.2%)

167



With A 3rd Level
Qualification

↑ Up from 89 since 2011

Co. Offaly as a Case Study Site

- County Offaly has a significant Traveller population, with 910 Travellers residing across the county (CSO, 2016).
- Proactive, engaged and well respected Traveller community development organisation - Offaly Traveller Movement.

Offaly Traveller Movement

- Offaly Traveller Movement was launched in 1996 in response to Traveller needs.
- Empowers Travellers & works as a partnership between Travellers and settled people to achieve equality and social justice for Travellers in County Offaly.

Peer Community Health Workers as Gatekeepers on the Research Journey

'I'm only doing this because Sarah asked me to. I wouldn't be meeting you only for that.'

- Peer Community Health Workers from OTM have privileged access to a traditionally difficult to reach population.

Peer Community Health Workers as Gatekeepers on the Research Journey

- Initial and continued consultation with the PCHWs as the gatekeepers to the Traveller community across County Offaly.
- The involvement of the PCHWs validated the study from a Traveller perspective.

Research Participants

- Home based interviews.
- 17 interviews conducted to date – 10 Traveller mothers, 7 Traveller fathers.
- Additional interviews to be scheduled.
- Preliminary findings.