

Maureen Waller

Web Bio

Information

Biography

Biographical Statement

Maureen R. Waller is Associate Professor of Policy Analysis and Management at Cornell University. After receiving a Ph.D. in Sociology from Princeton University, Waller was a research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California.

Teaching

Professional

Current Professional Activities

Waller is an affiliate of the Cornell Population Center (CPC), the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research (BCTR), and the Center for the Study of Inequality (CSI). She is also a research associate on the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study.

Editorial board, *Journal of Marriage and Family*

Research

Current Research Activities

Maureen Waller's research has examined what major transitions in parenting and family structure have meant to families in low-income communities, and how social policies designed to address these changes correspond to their lived experiences. Her current research explores unmarried parents' perceptions of engaging the legal system to establish parenting time agreements.

In previous research, *My Baby's Father* (Cornell University Press) drew on intensive interviews with unmarried men and women with children receiving welfare to examine how they made sense of the decision to have a child outside of marriage, how they defined unmarried fathers' obligation to their children, how they negotiated paternal involvement and support, and how these practices interacted with mandatory welfare and child support regulations. Subsequent research used longitudinal, qualitative interviews Waller conducted with a sub-sample of parents in the Fragile Families Study and the nationally representative survey data

from this study to examine why some unmarried fathers are more successful than others at maintaining early ties to mothers and children.

Funding for Waller's research has been provided by NICHD, NSF, NIFA, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Public Policy Institute of California, the Cornell Population Center, the Institute for Social Sciences, and the Bronfenbrenner Life Course Center at Cornell University.

Extension

Current Extension Activities

Parents Apart Advisory Committee
Child Custody Decisions in Low-Income Families, Principal Investigator

Education

Education

PhD in Sociology, Princeton University

Courses

Courses Taught

PAM 3120/ SOC 3150: Research Design, Practice and Policy
PAM 3350: Families, Poverty and Public Policy
PAM 4160/SOC 4160: The Ethnography of Poverty and Inequality
PAM 6040: Qualitative, Survey & Mixed Method Approaches to Policy Research

Websites

Administration

Administrative Responsibilities

Cornell University Faculty Senate
Provost's Office of Faculty Development and Diversity Advisory Board
PAM Graduate Admissions Committee
College of Human Ecology Diversity Committee
College of Human Ecology Nominations Committee

Publications

Selected Publications

Book

Waller, Maureen R. (2002). *My Baby's Father: Unmarried Parents and Paternal Responsibility*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. [[book](#)]

[[Google book preview](#)]

Articles

Waller, Maureen R. and Maggie R. Jones. (2014). "Who is the Residential Parent? Understanding Discrepancies in Unmarried Parents' Reports." *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 76, 73-93.

Waller, Maureen R. and Allison Dwyer Emory. (2014) "Parents Apart: Differences between Unmarried and Divorcing Parents in Separated Families." *Family Court Review*, 52: 686-703.

Waller, Maureen R. (2012) "Cooperation, Conflict, or Disengagement? Coparenting Styles and Father Involvement in Fragile Families. *Family Process*, Volume Number (51): 325-342.

McHale, James, Waller, Maureen R. and Pearson, Jessica. (2012). "Coparenting Interventions for Fragile Families: What Do We Know and Where Do We Need to Go Next?" *Family Process*, Volume Number (51): 284-306.

Waller, Maureen R. (2010). "Viewing Low-Income Fathers' Ties to Families through a Cultural Lens: Insights for Research and Policy." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 629: 102-124. [[abstract](#)]

Waller, Maureen R. (2009). "Family Man in the Other America: New Opportunities, Motivations, and Supports for Paternal Caregiving." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol 624, No. 1, 156-176 (2009) [[abstract](#)]

Waller, Maureen R. and H. Elizabeth Peters. (2008) "The Risk of Divorce as a Barrier to Marriage among Parents of Young Children." *Social Science Research* 37(4): 1188-1199. [[paper](#)]

Waller, Maureen R. (2008). "How Do Disadvantaged Parents View Tensions in their Relationships? Insights for Relationship Longevity among At-Risk Couples." *Family Relations* 57(2): 128-143. [[abstract](#)]

Waller, Maureen R. and Marianne Bitler. (2008). "The Link between Couples' Pregnancy Intentions and Behavior: Does It Matter Who Is Asked?" *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 40(4): 194-201. [[abstract](#)]

Swisher, Raymond and Maureen Waller. (2008). "Confining Fatherhood: Incarceration and Paternal Involvement among Nonresident White, African-American and Latino Fathers." *Journal of Family Issues* 29(8): 1067-1088. [[abstract](#)]

Crowley, Jocelyn E., Margaret Watson, and Maureen R. Waller. (2008). Understanding "Power Talk:" Language, Public Policy, and Democracy. *Perspectives on Politics* 6(1): 71-88. [[abstract](#)]

Waller, Maureen R. and Raymond Swisher. (2006). Fathers' Risk Factors in Fragile Families: Implications for "Healthy" Relationships and Father Involvement. *Social Problems*. 53 (3): 392-420. [[paper](#)]

Waller, Maureen R. and Sara S. McLanahan. (2005). "His" and "Her" Marriage Expectations: Determinants and Consequences. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 67: 53-67. [[abstract](#)]

Waller, Maureen R. and Robert Plotnick. (2001). "Effective Child Support Policy for Low-Income Families: Evidence from Street Level Research". *The Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 20(1): 89-110. [[abstract](#)]

Waller, Maureen R. (2001). "High Hopes: Unwed Parents' Expectations about Marriage." *Children and Youth Services Review*, 2