

Studies on fatherhood after a divorce usually focus on the father in terms of his negative or positive effect on the development of the child rather than as an actor experiencing a complicated personal and social situation. This study focuses on fatherhood as it is experienced and constructed by men who are divorced, do not have custody of their children, and no longer share a household with their children. It is aimed at analysing the changes in the role, identity, and practices of fathers after a divorce. The methodology used in the research is draws on a constructivist version of grounded theory, based on the assumption that observed reality arises out of the interpretative process and its temporal and cultural context. Thus the aim is not to identify a single objective reality but to observe the ways in which the subjects construct and interpret their own subjective reality.

In the theoretical introduction to the study, contemporary theories on private life are discussed, in particular the theory of the individualised process, presented by Ulrich Beck and Elisabeth Beck-Gersheim, François de Singly and Anthony Giddens. The main factor for the increasing fragility of contemporary marriage and the failure of partner relationships is seen as lying in the individualisation of society. Theoretical findings relating to the issue of personal separations and divorce and its effects on parenthood are also presented here, along with analyses of gender aspects of parenthood and the forms and transformation of fatherhood in recent decades. The empirical qualitative research that the second part of the study focuses on draws on theories of fatherhood, especially the concept of identity theory (W. Marsiglio, M. Ihinger-Tallman) and the constructivist approach of F. de Singly. This research is preceded by an analysis of Czech legislation relating to parenthood as one of the primary normative frameworks affecting post-divorce fatherhood.