

***How Family Friendly Policies Shape Parenthood: Comparing the US and Canada***  
**(With Dr. Erin Rehel)**

This project is a collaboration with my colleague, Dr. Erin Rehel. Drawing on more than 100 qualitative in-depth interviews with parents in two Canadian cities (Montreal and Toronto) and one American city (Chicago), we examine the effects of paternity leave policies on the configuration of fatherhood and motherhood. We demonstrate how the distinctive design of family friendly policies motivate parents in the US and Canada to develop different ways of thinking about work, family, care work and their intersections. This study analyzes the trajectories through which parents with new-born babies reconstruct masculinities and femininities as they rethink the cultural ideals of parenthood in the caregiving processes. We also reveal how the influence of family friendly policies need to be assessed not just within the nuclear household, but also in the larger kinship networks.