

Daughters and absent fathers: Triumph, loss and pain

Gloria Njeri Kamau

University of the Witwatersrand

Nick Davies

University of the Witwatersrand

Abstract

Against a backdrop of a perceived privileging of the father-son relationship in the psychoanalytic literature, and an ongoing discourse in South Africa around absent fathers, this article broaches the daughter-absent father relationship. An analysis of empirical data relating to young black women's subjective experiences of growing up without a father highlights ambivalence and complexity arising from this experience. Potential clinical implications for such cases are noted.