



NEW MALE STUDIES – AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

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INTRODUCTION

Gary Misan



WELCOME

Welcome to New Male Studies, Volume 6, Issue 1, the first issue for 2017. This issue sees the Journal live up to its name as an International Journal by offering challenging and thought provoking submissions from the USA, Canada, the UK, Australia, Denmark and Germany. As is the Journals reputation, the pieces challenge currently accepted 'wisdom' and traditional schools of thought regarding gender, relationships, sexuality, education, men's health and related issues. And as always, the authors present their positions based on well-reasoned argument underpinned by considered thought and sound evidence.

Volume 6.1 opens with a brief article by *Gerhard Amendt*, Emeritus Professor from the University of Bremen, which argues that gender ideologies based on assumptions that relations between men and women are based on male oppression and female victimhood, in fact belittle female contributions to society and culture and underscore the absence of pride from some quarters, in women's own natural abilities and cultural contributions. *Jim Shelly*, the Director of the Men's Resource Center at Lakeland Community College, in Kirtland, Ohio examines possible reasons for the gender gap in college enrolment rates together with the lagging in academic persistence and performance of males in US colleges today. *Tim Patten*, a leading author on the topic of male empowerment offers a discussion of heroism and how men and women react differently and the double standards that exist for men and women in society.

Gerhard Amendt returns with a refreshing examination of the complex implications of employment policies that are falsely portrayed as enhancing equality of the sexes and their consequent impact on gender relations and the sexes' lifestyles. Visiting Professor *Gary Senecal* from The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, *USA*, enriches our understanding of the social and theoretical psychology of violence and its implications for career transitions for contact sport athletes who have retired from careers that exposed them to regular violent endeavors in the sporting arena.

Paul Hopkins, Visiting Fellow at the University of Gloucestershire in the UK, presents an overview of *Mengage*, an initiative of several male health practitioners that offers an evidence based, salutogenic approach to male health by providing workshops for teachers on improving boys' education, in addition to generic training on male health to a range of sectors including sporting organisations. Paul then partners with *Gary Misan* (yours truly) in proposing a theoretical foundation for the success of men's sheds — a growing, volunteer led, grass-roots movement that aims to improve *mens'* social and emotional wellbeing by providing a communal space for older men to meet, socialise, learn new skills and voluntarily take part in meaningful activities — in Australia and the UK, based on the core components of the social marketing framework now being used extensively for health promotion in the public health space in the UK and elsewhere.

Professor *Miles Groth*, from Wagner College in the US and Editor in Chief of *the Journal*, offers a thought provoking, *phenomenological* based discourse that reconceptualises the understanding of male homosexuality and posits a modification of the psychoanalytic theory of male-male intimate experience and behavior that some readers may find challenging or even, as he puts it, uncongenial. The penultimate offering is from Professor *Douglas Gosse* from the Schulich School of Education at Nipissing University, Canada, who using the example of box-office hit, *The Heat*, starring Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCarthy, amusingly pinpoints the movie's superficial appropriation of feminism that upholds a professional womanhood as heroic, while the female characters paradoxically embrace the very traits of hegemonic, *bawdy*, uncivilized and narcissistic masculine behaviours that feminism so vehemently decries.



Last but not least, is a photographic excerpt from *De Profundis Hominum – From the depths of man*. This inspiring photo collection is from renowned photographer and visual artist Jan H Andersen from Denmark, which explores in a series of beautiful images, man's belief in something greater than himself.

We hope you enjoy the issue.

Comments are welcome and submissions for future issues, even more so.

Best wishes,

Gary Misan PhD
Production Editor
New Males Studies – An International Journal

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