

NEW MALE STUDIES – AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

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PREFACE

Volume eight, issue one of *New Male Studies - An International Journal* publishes articles on topics as various as genome integrity and sexuality in twentieth-century film—all intended to better our understanding of maleness, of boys’ and men’s embodied experience.

The refereed articles in this issue differ markedly in subject matter. Aqualus M. Gordon’s “Male sexual shame, masculinity and mental health” investigates “the relationship between male sexual shame, traditional masculine ideology, and psychological symptomology.” His study suggests that a “greater endorsement of traditionally masculine values was associated with increased sexual shame, and that male sexual shame was predicative of symptomology associated with depression but not anxiety.” In the second refereed article, Steve Moxon argues, “There has been a failure to recognise that the male contribution to reproduction is as effortful and vital as is that by the female – hardly mere insemination.” In addition, “Male effort has been mis-read and dismissed as mere bidding for power.” He concludes, “The underlying biological reality of the male being the vehicle for the heightened expression and exposure of deleterious mutation (so as to eliminate it through selection) appears to have been translated into negative attitudes towards males generically.”

The founding editor of *New Male Studies*, Miles Groth, examines “the effects on boys’ well-being of changing family dynamics” in his contribution to our current issue. Asserting that, “mentoring remains crucial to raising healthy males,” he urges those who raise or work with young males to support and listen to their efforts at expressing themselves. John Davis’s “Men committing suicide: A response to Louise Perry,” addresses a controversial essay published in *Quillette* that “implies that men are at fault for the gender suicide gap and men committing suicide.” His article refutes those parts of the *Quillette* piece “premised on fiction

and myth about male suicide currently in fashion among intersectional feminists.” Paul Nathanson’s “From sex to sexual harassment in the movie industry” maintains that current public scrutiny of sexual mores “actually turned back the cultural clock by endorsing the sexual prudery that had characterized the 1900s, denying equality that movies had promoted as an ideal during the 1930s and 1940s.” Alaric Naudé’s contribution to *New Male Studies*, “A biological approach to understanding true masculinity and femininity,” argues that “sexual dimorphism is a highly advantageous strategy that allows for specialization and increases the efficiency of the family unit in their attempts at survival.” His paper “discusses how following the parameters of biology allows for happier individuals, both male and female, who are more supportive of their mates and better at rearing socially and emotionally stable children.”

The issue concludes with a photographic feature by Danish photographer, Jan Andersen. The opinions expressed by the authors herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Editorial Team. The papers published here are offered in a spirit of open, evidence-based dialogue regarding gender, relationships and issues related to male experience. The Editorial Team thanks the article reviewers for generously contributing their time and their insights.



Dennis Gouws
Editor in Chief

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