

NEW MALE STUDIES – AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

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PREFACE

Volume eight, issue two of *New Male Studies - An International Journal* offers its readers six articles and a selection of photographs intended to enhance our understanding of *maleness*, of boys' and men's embodied experience.

The three refereed articles in this issue examine misunderstood maleness. K. C. Glover's "Acquainted with the night: Mass shootings and 'Toxic Masculinity'" seeks to confute the idea that 'toxic masculinity' is to blame for mass shootings. His contrasting of gender-feminist, sketchy interpretations of masculinity with Gilmore's "more nuanced take" on *masculinity* convinces the reader that the latter's definition effectively describes "the uniquely masculine way of nurturing others." In addition, the reader is urged not to "rely on mythological explanations such as mental illness or toxic masculinity," but rather to "look to our already-crumbled institutions, outmoded by the ever-accelerating pace of change and our contemptuous treatment of boys to understand why many are dropping out of society or even opting out of life entirely."

In the second refereed article, "The falsity of identity politics (PC): negative attitude is to males who are different, in policing male sexual access by gate-keeping group membership," Steve Moxon argues, "Identity politics is extreme misrepresentation of social and inter-personal reality" because the evidence suggests that "philogyny and misandry extend to apply across all victim categories, trumping race or sexual orientation." Of particular interest is his point that "supposed homophobia" serves "to gate-keep male full admission to the group, serving to police male access, maximising reproductive efficiency, not to deal with out-group threat, and not to oppress (least of all females)."

J. M. Stolzer's, "Where have all the boys gone? How the systematic labeling of young males is affecting school performance, attendance, and graduation rates in America," explores "the various corollaries related to the deteriorating performance of males in the American education system," challenges "the existing structures that perpetuate the systematic failure of males in the academic setting," and discusses "specific strategies aimed at improving the declining status of males in the education system." Her suggested strategies offer effective ways to attend to the plight of males in our gynocentric education environments.

Two of the three shorter pieces treat the consequences of misunderstood maleness. John Davis's "Family court reform, suicide and "Repeated Social Defeat" for men," observes that feminist-dominated family courts "have become gynocentric tools for divorcing spouses to abuse men." He then describes the "repeated social defeat and its devastating consequences" that males experience "because of their poor treatment in family court." In his "The three enemies: Destructive myths about males," Miles Groth examines how "the myth of gender non-difference, the myth of men's power, and the myth of the affectively impoverished male pervade much of the West." He argues that "these myths excuse how males are treated" and that "absent inhibiting and encouraging forces, males are as capable of identifying and speaking what they feel," as are females. The final short article, Jerome Teelucksingh's "The relevance of International Men's Day, "describes how this November 19th celebration "has moved from the fringe to the mainstream of the men's rights movement." While maintaining that "in the future, IMD will continue being serious and uncompromising, " he suggests that "this movement must also be seen as exciting and interesting to reach the younger generation and those young at heart."

Jan Andersen has contributed six photographs to this issue; he has titled them "Sorrows." His photographs manage to capture the vulnerability of young males while celebrating their dignity—an effective rejoinder to the toxic-masculinity trend that pervades so many media at the moment.

It should be noted that 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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