

# NEW MALE STUDIES – AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

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## PREFACE

The first of our tenth-anniversary issues of *New Male Studies: An International Journal* examines practical and theoretical aspects of the male experience from boyhood through manhood. Jerome Teelucksingh's brief essay on "the boy wound" considers those "experiences of abuse, hurt, neglect and hate resulting in a painful stage of incompleteness" that complicate a boy's "transition into manhood." Teelucksingh advocates for healing this wound through "nurturing our boys," otherwise "the wrong persons will be their role models."

The two refereed articles in this issue treat the negotiation of commitment in male-female relationships. Steve Moxon's examination of "male heterogeneity and female choice in human mating" suggests that "pair bonding ensures successive highest-possible-quality offspring while offsetting age-related fertility decline, and dissuading low-mate-value social-sexual approach." Moxon argues a "failure properly to incorporate male heterogeneity and female discernment explains a longstanding theoretical impasse, with infanticide prevention a default mistaken hypothesis attempting to account for monogamy's chimerical opportunity costs."

Jane Ogden and Annie Patterson report the findings of their qualitative study in "It's just a girl thing, they're like that'. An Exploration into Men's Experience of Difficult Relationships with Women." Their male subjects "experienced controlling, shouting and blocking behaviours which had immediate and longer-term negative effects." These men "tended to normalise these experiences, reducing their victim status and making their partner's behaviour more acceptable." Ogden and Patterson conclude, "as the literature has been reluctant to accept men as victims, so are the men themselves."

The impact on males of theories explaining masculine expression is the subject of three of this issue's shorter articles. In an essay written before the 2020 U. S. Presidential Election, Gerard Nicol discusses "critical gender theory," his moniker for those Obama-era programs that justified the scapegoating of men. Nicol predicts "a Biden Administration will reimplement" those programs, and "American society will be cast back into the Obama-era world of critical gender theory and College Title IX kangaroo courts."

Tim Goldich investigates whether masculinity "needs 'redefining,'" and concludes that rather than "a redefinition of masculinity, we need an improved understanding of what masculinity truly is—an understanding divested of stereotypes and misandry." He argues that redefining masculinity denies its reality and renders it "a mere plaything for would-be sociologists, feminists, and special-interest groups to re-define at their whim."

Rick Bradford' review of Louise Liddon and John Barry's *Perspectives in Male Psychology: An Introduction* suggests this book offers the kind of "improved understanding" that Goldich seeks. Bradford observes, "the ethos the authors promote is that science, as an empirically grounded discipline, is not politics, and so male psychology, if it is to be a science, is not gender politics." The book, Bradford concludes, "provokes the reader into thinking more deeply about what lies behind the many phenomena involving male psychology whose treatment at present is either neglected or unconvincing."

Jan Andersen's photographs, titled "Forever Young," depict an aspect of the complicated transition to manhood described by Jerome Teelucksingh: the Keatsian melancholy, instead of the ecstasy, inherent in being young. Rather than joyful youth, these photos dramatize the troubled isolation boys experience once their embodied maleness codes their contingent value to society. The photographed subject is on the threshold of manhood. Becoming men usually means becoming physically useful. Boys' private contemplation of the male soma and the pressures, rather than just the pleasures it experiences often occurs within the bathroom sanctuary.

The opinions expressed by the authors in this issue do not necessarily reflect those of the Editorial Team. The papers published here are offered in a spirit of open, evidence-based dialogue regarding sex, gender, relationships, and issues related to male experience.

Thank you to the article reviewers for their contributions to this issue.



Dennis S. Gouws  
**Editor in Chief**

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