

---

# NEW MALE STUDIES – AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

## VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2 – 2023

---



### INTRODUCTION

Issue two of *New Male Studies: An International Journal* for 2023 offers a variety of articles representing the current state of male-related scholarship. The authors examine topics as varied as the maternal influence on sons, gynocentric female characters in film, a mythological alternative to conventional feminist understandings of masculinities, and the harm done by gynocentrism and misandry. Suggestions are made to improve the plight of males by offering male-celebratory rewards, by suggesting ways to engage men in wellbeing initiatives, by overcoming gynocentric and misandric bias, and by understanding what might be at stake in the boysosphere.

The first of three Analysis and Opinion pieces in this issue, Gerhard Amendt's "You are not born a man, you are made one...by your mother, too Or: How mothers want their sons to be," observes that men "seem unable to speak about their collective disparagement by feminism and gender politics." Amendt argues, "reflection on the relationship of mothers to their sons is not only promising but momentous because it is the first of many steps in overcoming the pervasive feminist perpetrator-victim ideology." An ideal goal of this reflection would see "the tradition of reconciliatory dialogue" regaining "a future."

David Maywald's "The ripples of social change" suggests that "progress on gender relations and masculinity will be made in the centre, with moderate women and moderate men finding better ways of collaborating together." Because "many men are not achieving their leadership potential," he and likeminded Canberrans have created the Awards for Under-Represented Men in Leadership, intended to "provide tangible support plus inspiration for the male leaders of our future." Maywald reports on this year's event.

The issue's final Analysis and Opinion piece, Peter Wright's "The one true masculinity," argues for an archetypal understanding of masculinities, rather than the now-pervasive feminist

---

---

one. He perceptively distinguishes between “feminist and archetypalist views” of masculinities, noting “the latter admits that archetypal styles arise from biology even if they are socially manipulated; that they are not socially conferred onto blank slates by society, as some sociologists might view it.”

Tim Goldich’s “The ‘strong female’ caricature,” the first of this issue’s four Brief Articles, wittily describes the straw-leaking silliness of the caricature female character, Rey, in episodes eight and nine of the Star Wars series. Goldich argues, “the problem with Rey is that she’s not a character: she’s a feminist revenge fantasy. Rey is a “strong female” caricature.”

In “Taking misandry seriously,” Paul Nathanson surveys the research he has undertaken with Katherine K. Young on the damaging impact of gynocentrism and misandry on male wellbeing. He observes that “boys and young men must now try to grow up without a healthy identity (that is, with nothing distinctive, necessary or publicly valued to contribute).” Nathanson argues, “Neither gynocentrism (which entails the failure to acknowledge that boys and men actually have distinctive needs and serious problems) nor misandry (which entails the fostering, or at least the tacit condoning, of hatred toward men) encourages healthy masculine identity.”

Andrew Pain explores how one might foster healthy masculine identity in his “How do we get men to engage with our wellbeing initiatives?” He maintains that “addressing men’s mental health and understanding how to engage men, starts with understanding that men’s mental health is everyone’s challenge.” Pain suggests “there are concrete steps we can take to make a difference, to start the conversation around men’s mental health and create healthier working environments for everyone.”

In the last of our Brief Articles, “The boyosphere, the boy cave and the boy box,” Jerome Teelucksingh suggests the terms given in the title to describe how boys connect with other boys, how boys are socialized, how boys learn to survive and eventually emerge into manhood.” He notes, “within the boy box, there is a war against boys, and unless there is more constructive intervention to save our boys, then the world will continue to blame boys for social problems.”

The issue concludes with photographs by Jan H. Andersen: the images, collectively titled “Inherent,” record flashes of the darker side of masculine desire.

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

We appreciate the authors’ thoughtful contributions to this issue. This journal is made possible through the generous support of our donors. If you would like to donate to *New Male Studies: An International Journal*, please contact me at [dr.dennis.gouws@gmail.com](mailto:dr.dennis.gouws@gmail.com).



**Dennis Gouws**  
Editor in Chief