



NEW MALE STUDIES – AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

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PREFACE

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

The two refereed articles in this issue respectively explore the impact of intimate partner violence and pathological gynocentrism on males. Steve Moxon's "How and why partner violence is normal female behaviour but aberrational male behaviour," suggests a "new theory" of intimate partner violence (IPV) to "address the failure of current theory to fit the data." He argues that the indicators of IPV "point not just to the predominance of female perpetration but its distinct functionality and aetiology, none of which applies to male IPV." Furthermore, he concludes that "in having no apparent function, being the result of dysfunction, and more by displacement than targeting, male perpetration is better considered the aberrational minority de facto counterpart to female perpetration of IPV per se."

Peter Wright's "Gynocentrism as a narcissistic pathology," examines "gynocentric behaviors" using "clinical descriptions of narcissism to discover how closely, and in what ways, the two concepts align." He "concludes that narcissistic behavior is significantly correlated with behaviors of gynocentrically oriented women, and that gynocentrism is a gendered expression of narcissism operating within the limiting context of heterosexual relationships and exchanges." Wright's table, comparing nine DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for Narcissistic Personality Disorder with characteristics of gynocentric behaviors, offers a sound point of departure for more research on this topic.



The first of the three shorter pieces, John Davis's "Campus sex courts: Beyond a reasonable doubt," publishes the commentary he "drafted for the U. S. Department of Education on the subject with complete citations to U. S. Supreme Court rulings," along with an introduction to the topic. His introductory comments explain the nature and use of the beyond-a-reasonable-doubt standard; the commentary he submitted to the U. S. Department of Education justifies the use of this standard in campus sexual-misconduct hearings. In his first contribution to *New Male Studies*, "Male disadvantage in art and life," Diego Morales "undertakes a text-to-world analysis of two plays and a film (Seneca's *Phaedra*, August Strindberg's *The Father*, and Sam Wood's *Casanova Brown*), offering fresh insights into the consequences for men when people overvalue female sexuality and unquestioningly believe all women, dramatizing the disturbing experience for men of female-perpetrated domestic abuse, and exploring the frustrating limitations of fathers' rights." Of particular interest is his evaluation of Strindberg's Laura using Robert Hare's "twenty characteristics indicative of psychopathy." The final short article, Jerome Teelucksingh's "Confronting the dinosaur in the room: The international day for the elimination of violence against men and boys," observes that "Violence against men and boys is under-reported, ridiculed and often ignored," despite its urgency making it the proverbial elephant in the room. He informs us that "in response to this obvious-but-often-ignored problem, the inaugural observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Men and Boys was commemorated on 31 January, 2020. This observance will continue annually because men and boys need a special day that draws our attention to their experience of violence." The author is best known in male-issues circles for reviving International Men's Day (19 November), an event now celebrated in more than seventy countries.

Jan Andersen has contributed two arrangements of photographs to this issue: each contains four images of figures responding to their claustrophobic enclosure. The viewer sees them through an opaque membrane that highlights his or her separation from them. The photographs' titles have in common the phrase *ecce homo*, behold the man; this phrase reminds the viewer of Pontius Pilate's words on seeing the scourged Christ. These photos represent man's wounds as internal, the suffering as solitary.



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 sex, gender, relationships, and issues related to male experience. Thank you to the article reviewers for their contribution to this issue.



Dennis Gouws
Editor in Chief

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