
NEW MALE STUDIES – AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

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INTRODUCTION

This issue of *New Male Studies: An International Journal* offers three articles on rap, Instagram, and the dowry system and three brief articles on comics, film, and the politics of male wellbeing.

The first article, Gary Senecal and Kevin Roy's "**Eminem and the Conversion of Masculine Ideals in Rap,**" observes "Hip-hop and rap music in the 90s was overwhelmingly dominated by egregious claims to aggression, sexual dominance, and one's violent capabilities." The authors argue "Eminem's work moves in a stark contrast to the mainstream notion of hegemonic masculinity (dominant, intimidating, and stoically detached from emotions) to an expression of subordinate masculinity (empathic, emotionally vulnerable, and open to critical exposure)."

Rhea Milson's "**Instagram vs. Reality: Perfectionistic Instagram Use and Body Dissatisfaction in Young Men,**" notes that "presenting perfection on Instagram is negatively associated with body dissatisfaction" for young women. Her article investigates whether "this is the case for young men." Her "findings revealed that perfectionistic self-presentation on Instagram was positively associated with body dissatisfaction (drive for muscularity and height)." She suggests this research "may be a useful way of conceptualising perfectionistic self-presentation, to further understand male body dissatisfaction, particularly regarding drive for muscularity and height."

The final article of the issue, Shah Mirza's "**How the Dowry System Checks Hypergamy,**" acknowledges "in dowry practicing civilizations, hypergamy is of greater concern." His article demonstrates how "the dowry-system discouraged hypergamy and helped maintain an ecosystem of balanced and equal marriages, especially within a society so often characterized by monogamous marriage and private-property ownership." Mirza suggests that "perhaps it is time to revitalize some of the core principles of the dowry-system, rather than continuing to blame men for 'falling behind' or 'not stepping up' and continuing to insist that men should be the ones tasked with the financial burden of marriage."

In his brief article, "**Roughhouse Magazine: formation by imitation,**" Dominic Andres explains his rationale for creating something new for boys to read: "it would be an excellent thing if there were some magazine that boys could look forward to, that families could trust, and that contained writing that was actually worth reading," concluding "a magazine of this sort is something badly needed, both by boys

and by their parents.” Andres observes, “The positive public reception of *Roughhouse Magazine* has filled me with real optimism for the future of men, and of our society and culture.”

David Maywald’s “**When did Hollywood make movies that men actually wanted to watch?**” claims “it has been a quarter-century since the last big cluster of films that were made for men, around 1999”; he explains, “The lost decade of woke Hollywood has been a desert for positive depictions of masculinity, with superficial strong female leads and diversity-washing that has crowded out any space for healthy masculinity.” Deriving from an initial poll conducted on LinkedIn and Facebook, inviting respondents to name “the all-time best movies for men,” Maywald analyses “how the prevalence of men’s movies has varied over time.”

This issue’s final brief article, Jerome Teelucksingh’s “**Politicization of men’s issues**,” argues that “for many years, men’s issues in the Caribbean and across the globe have been forgotten or overlooked.” He explains that this “marginalization and alienation of men has contributed to premature deaths and mental health issues among men.” He adds that when “safe spaces for men” have been created, they “often seems like tokenism because the problems facing men continue to persist”—a situation “further complicated with men’s groups that are feminist-oriented.”

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 dgouws@aimhs.com.au.



Dennis Gouws
Editor