Spring 2020 Newsletter

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Lots of publication opportunities to consider.

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Contribute to the Next Newsletter!

We encourage you to support your colleagues by sharing details of your latest publications, events, presentations, media, funding successes, and other items with them via this newsletter. Nothing is too big or too small!

Please email your items in a referenced format to ensure the information listed is correct.

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Email us at: amsamail@gmail.com
Dear AMSA members, friends, and colleagues,

In my last newsletter message, I wrote with great excitement and anticipation for the 2020 AMSA conference at the University of Northern Colorado. We were, at the time, just a few weeks out from what had shaped up to be an incredibly meaningful, diverse, and engaging lineup of papers, panels, and workshops. Our conference planning team, including our conference coordinator Cliff Leek and our conference convenors Paola Ehrmantraut and Mark Justad, worked tirelessly to put together this conference. We owe to them a debt of gratitude for their commitment to the conference and to AMSA. In contrast, I find myself writing this message with a sense of heartbreak and loss, and, as discussed below, a renewed sense of hope and appreciation for our AMSA community.

As many of you are already aware, the AMSA Board of Directors decided to postpone the 2020 conference and reschedule it for 2021 at the University of Washington Tacoma. Having participated in these conversations, I can tell you that we did not make this decision lightly. We recognized the hard work and heart that our conference planning team put into getting the conference organized. We also recognized all of the work that our presenters, especially our exciting keynote speakers, put into preparing for the conference. However, our concerns for the health and wellbeing of our colleagues and the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic locally, nationally, and globally made it increasingly difficult to justify holding the conference as planned.

While certainly not our primary concern, the financial impacts of postponing the conference also weighed heavily on our minds as we discussed options. AMSA is a relatively small, fully-volunteer, membership organization that relies on our annual conference to sustain our operations throughout the year. We understood that postponing the conference would have significant financial consequences for the organization. In the end, however, we felt the most appropriate course of action was to postpone the conference and offer participants options regarding their registration fees.

If there is a silver lining related to our decision to postpone the conference, the responses from those who were scheduled to attend the conference is it. Our members, friends, and colleagues who were planning to attend the conference have been incredibly thoughtful and generous in choosing which option to pursue regarding their registration fees. In recognition of the precarious employment situation for many academics and the financial constraints on students, the AMSA Board of Directors set a goal of providing a full refund to all those who requested it. We also extended an invitation to those whose circumstances allowed, to either carry forward their registration to the rescheduled conference in 2021 or forego their refund in exchange for two years of AMSA membership. To date, more than half of those who have completed the refund questionnaire have chosen one of these latter-two options. This is providing AMSA with the opportunity to offset the costs associated with postponing the 2020 conference and provide full refunds to those who have asked for one, while maintaining financial viability as an organization.

I can’t express adequately the deep sense of gratitude I have for all those who have responded to the refund survey. While I am not surprised, I am always delighted to be reminded of how caring and compassionate our AMSA community is. Whether you were someone who requested a full refund in recognition of your individual circumstances or someone who selected a different option, know that we appreciate you, your work, and your continued commitment to the critical study of men and masculinities. While we haven’t yet finalized the details for the rescheduled conference in 2021, you will find more information about our intentions for that conference in this newsletter.

be well and take good care, jeff
Conference 2020 2.0

The 2020 Conference, Masculinities in Transition, has been postponed due to COVID-19 and will be rescheduled for 2021.

We know that the conference will take place at the University of Washington Tacoma, Tacoma, WA, USA. We hope to hold the conference around the same dates that AMSA conferences are traditionally held (March-April).

The AMSA Board of Directors intends to make the rescheduled 2021 conference an event to be remembered!

To honor all of the hard work and dedication of the 2020 conference planning team, Cliff Leek, Paola Ehrmantraut and Mark Justad, we have extended an invitation to our two keynote speakers and to all those who were scheduled to present at this year’s conference to join us in 2021.

In addition, we will be reopening the call for proposals and expanding the theme to be inclusive of the incredibly important work related to transitions, most notably trans and queer men and masculinites, and responsive to the global pandemic we are all navigating.

Be on the lookout for more information about AMSA 2021 in the coming weeks and months.
TOXIC MASCULINITY, CASINO CAPITALISM, AND AMERICA'S FAVOURITE CARD GAME

Toxic Masculinity, Casino Capitalism, and America's Favorite Card Game: The Poker Mindset (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020) by Andrew Manno examines poker as a gendered activity, and specifically how valued characteristics of traditional masculinity are embedded in the rhetoric of the game, as well as in our larger culture. Manno connects the rise in poker's popularity to the increase of inter-related social problems, such as toxic masculinity, the impact of casino capitalism, and post-industrial worker disenfranchisement. Toxic Masculinity, Casino Capitalism and America's Favorite Card Game demonstrates how the Poker Mindset protects the status quo and reinforces traditional masculine gender values, maintaining and exacerbating damaging systems of inequality.

"Andrew Manno presents a rigorous and compelling case for the profound relationship between poker and contemporary culture. Toxic Masculinity, Casino Capitalism, and America's Favorite Card Game: The Poker Mindset argues that the practices and attitudes rewarded in poker are being adopted more broadly with troubling results. Building on the work of researchers like Christopher Paul and Anastasia Salter and Bridget Blodgett, this book is a vital interrogation of poker as cultural form and an essential contribution to game studies."

-- Carly A. Kocurek, author of Coin-Operated Americans: Rebooting Boyhood at the Video Game Arcade

CALL FOR PAPERS: SITUATING MASCULINITIES (SIMONE DE BEAUVIR STUDIES)

Eds. Todd W. Reeser and Kaliane Ung

As a burgeoning wing of gender studies, Critical Studies on Men and Masculinities (CSMM) (or “Masculinity Studies”) has been, and continues to be, deeply influenced by feminist thought. This special issue aims to place Beauvoir’s corpus and her legacy into closer dialogue with CSMM, asking questions such as: In what ways and to what extent does Beauvoir theorize male or female masculinity? Do men “become” men or are they “born” men? How is Sartre’s masculinity discussed? How has or could Beauvoir factor in to CSMM? We welcome work in masculinity studies that does not directly treat Beauvoir. For this special issue of Simone de Beauvoir Studies (32.2, October 2021), we seek completed articles of 7000–8000 words (in English or in French) discussing masculinities in some form or fashion.

Completed papers that follow the SdBS “Instructions for Authors” should be submitted on-line by March 1, 2021 at www.brill.com/sdbs. All submissions will be anonymously reviewed. Submitted articles that are not selected for this Special Issue may be considered for other issues of SdBS.
What’s with the men in menstruation? This is the question Men in Menstruation: A Social Transaction sets out to answer. From earliest times men have been puzzled and perplexed by the menstrual cycle and have constructed elaborate taboos, superstitions, and practices attempting to explain why women have a periodical emission of a fluid that resembles blood but is not the result of an injury or affliction. In other words, men want to know why it is possible to bleed and not die. In order to understand what goes on between men and women in the presence of menstruation, this book examines a variety of encounters, referred to as “menstrual transactions.” From the three women in the Bible who are identified as menstruating to contemporary films, advertising, TV programs, and literature, the book explores a wide range of transactions, even including Prince Charles’s close encounter of a menstrual kind. The book will appeal to anyone interested in gaining insights into the mystery of menstruation as well as students of gender and women’s studies or media theory and history.

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Call for Papers!
Journal of Bodies, Sexualities & Masculinities

The Journal of Bodies, Sexualities and Masculinities (JBSM) edited by Dr. Jonathan A. Allan, Dr. Chris Haywood, and Dr. Frank G. Karioris is a new peer-reviewed interdisciplinary journal that brings together critical studies of men and masculinities and sexuality studies. Its remit is to bring these two fields together to better understand the complexities of masculinities and sexualities, and especially the way they intersect with one another.

The journal provides a venue for research on men’s sexualities and all of their complexities – temporal, medical, geographic, cultural, ethnic, legal – by welcoming submissions from the social sciences, humanities, life sciences, and health studies that are theoretically rigorous, methodologically sound, and draw on interdisciplinary approaches. The journal not only reports cutting edge empirical research findings, but is committed to providing an avenue for theoretically-driven and conceptual articles that offer new theoretical, methodological and empirical insights.

Link: https://www.berghahnjournals.com/view/journals/jbsm/jbsm-overview.xml
GETTING TO EQUAL: MEN, GENDER EQUALITY, AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS

Through a review and analysis of the latest global evidence, the Getting to Equal report offers up a new way to think about men and sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) from two angles: First, it reinforces what we already know – that men’s partnership and active participation are crucial to achieving SRHR for everyone; and secondly, it makes the case that SRHR is central to men’s own lives. Discussing men’s bodies, relationships, reproduction, and lives, the report reveals that reimagining men’s important roles in SRHR could contribute to the broader achievement of SRHR and other related health and development outcomes for individuals of all gender identities.

From the Foreword by Gary Barker, President and CEO, Promundo-US and Margaret Greene, Senior Advisor for Gender and Health, Promundo-US

Men’s limited participation in sexual and reproductive health and rights doesn’t fall out of the sky. It is the result of gender inequalities, of historical divisions related to who does what in the home, of patriarchal control over women’s bodies, and of our deep discomfort in talking to our sons and daughters about sexuality. This report is part of Promundo's effort to change this: bringing men in as full partners in sexual and reproductive health and rights, and starting early with daughters and sons using comprehensive, gender-transformative sexuality education. This cause requires us to walk the talk. You would have to ask our son and daughter if we have succeeded, but we affirm that open discussions of sexuality, gender, and intimacy have been key aspects of how we have raised them.
Call for Papers! Studies on Men and Masculinities: Examples and Interpretations

Guest Editors: Prof. Urszula Kluczyńska, Collegium Da Vinci, Poznań
Dr. Katarzyna Suwada, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland

Critical Studies on Men and Masculinities (CSMM) have been an independent sub-discipline for over thirty years (Brod 1987; Kimmel, Hearn, and Connell 2005). CSMM aim for a critical reflection on diverse and changing patterns of men and masculinities. Although CSMM are primarily based on Western analysis and theoretical concepts, this research area has also become increasingly popular globally.

Gender is perceived as one of the most important aspects of our social reality; however, more critical analyses that define men’s situation from a gender studies perspective are still required. It is due to the fact that gender inequality is not just a lack of equality between men and women, but also between various groups of men themselves. Men as a group are more diverse than one might expect. Individuals who define themselves as men belong to many social categories, depending on age, social class, religion, race, ethnicity and/or nationality, place of residence, (dis)ability, sexuality, family bonds, attitude to equality, perception of one’s body or in what ways care is present in their lives. These categories overlap, interweave and influence one another, not limiting themselves to the above set.

Today research results clearly show that patterns of men and masculinities are changing; thus, new theoretical tools to describe and understand the new situation are indispensable. Consequently, there is a whole network of concepts that deal with gender relations and masculinities. First, there is Connell’s (1995) classic hegemonic masculinity theory, Andersson’s (2009) inclusive masculinity theory, then more recent caring masculinity theory (Elliott 2015) and even the hybrid masculinity concept (Bridges and Pascoe 2014). All of them reflect a changeable society, especially in the context of gender and social inequalities.

Bearing in mind the complexity and diversity of men and masculinities in contemporary society, we would like to invite other academics to contribute to the discussion. We are expecting papers based on CSMM theories and concepts, which present the latest research results, new theories or focus on various aspects of research methodology on men and masculinities.

The deadline for submitting complete contributions, compliant with editorial guidelines is August 31, 2020. The issue will be published in 2020/2021. Authors must register online on the Society Register’s webpage: https://pressto.amu.edu.pl/index.php/sr
Men are commonly expected to act “masculine” (e.g., unemotional, self-reliant, tough, dominant, and fixated on sex) while avoiding stereotypically “feminine” traits (e.g., emotional expressivity, empathy, compassion, and nurturance). Few, however, realize that these qualities—when taken to the extreme—can cause emotional constriction, substance abuse, depression, poor physical health, aggression, and violence in men. Further, even though most men are not violent, decades of research have shown that masculinity is directly and indirectly related to sexual and gun violence and men’s poorer health. Considering how girls and women have benefitted from conversations on how to navigate their gender in a changing world, similar processes are urgently needed for boys and men. The Tough Standard connects the dots between masculinity and the present moment in American culture (defined by high-profile movements such as #MeToo, #MarchForOurLives, and #BlackLivesMatter), synthesizes over four decades of research in the psychology of men and masculinities, and proposes solutions to corresponding social problems.

“The Tough Standard is the most important book on men and masculinity available today, and it couldn’t come at a more opportune moment. At a time when sex and gender issues are confusing and conflicted, Dr. Levant and Ms. Pryor offer a scientifically sound exploration of what it means to be a good man in today’s world. Drawing on 45 years of experience as a leader in the field of men and masculinities, Dr. Levant gives us a book that will change lives for the better. Unlike many evidence-based experts, he shares his own personal journey as a husband, father, and a man. I highly recommend this book for all those who want to understand why men are the way they are and how we can expand our understanding of masculinity to become our best selves.”

--Jed Diamond, PhD, author of 12 Rules for Good Men and The Irritable Male Syndrome

NEW IN PAPERBACK

Dr. Frank G. Karioris's An Education in Sexuality and Sociality: Heteronormativity on Campus is now available in paperback. This book has been reviewed widely by leading scholars.

"An Education in Sexuality and Sociality: Heteronormativity on Campus contributes to research on male identity, masculinity, and homosociality. It would be particularly useful for scholars interested in gender, homosociality, identity development and ethnographic fieldwork." (Gender and Society)
CROSSING GENDER BARRIERS: FASHION TO CREATE, DISRUPT AND TRANSCEND

Andrew Reilly and Ben Barry, Eds.

This volume presents a collection of the most recent knowledge on the relationship between gender and fashion in historical and contemporary contexts. Through fourteen essays divided into three segments – how dress creates, disrupts and transcends gender – the chapters investigate gender issues through the lens of fashion. Crossing Gender Boundaries first examines how clothing has been, and continues to be, used to create and maintain the binary gender division that has come to permeate Western and westernized cultures. Next, it explores how dress can be used to contest and subvert binary gender expectations, before a final section that considers the meaning of gender and how dress can transcend it, focusing on unisex and genderless clothing.

The essays consider how fashion can both constrict and free gender expression, explore the ways dress and gender are products of one other and illuminate the construction of gender through social norms. Readers will find that through analysis of the relationship between gender and fashion, they gain a better understanding of the world around them.

NEW COURSE!

Dr. Paola Ehrmantraut has written to tell us about a new and exciting course offered at the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota. The course is called "Making and Unmaking Masculinities," and is housed in the Women, Gender and Sexualities Program.

This course deals with how masculinities are constructed historically, negotiated and contested culturally, and therefore, how they are subject to change. As the title of the course underlines, masculinities can be built and taken apart, changed and challenged. In this course, we will approach the topic from a feminist perspective with an interdisciplinary approach to gender theory.

Students at St. Thomas have been asking for this course, and so it will be the first time it is offered.

If you have developed a new course, please tell us about it!
MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

In each issue of the AMSA News, we want to highlight the publications of our members. Please send us regular updates about what you are working on and publishing so that we can share these results with colleagues and friends. Email us your contributions at amsamail@gmail.com in a proper citation format.

Journal Articles


Media Articles


Media Appearances


Creative Research and Outputs

- Karioris, F. G. "Breakfast together" and "Sharing these small moments." Lots of Literary Light (February 2020)
- Karioris, F. G. “Ballad of the Streets of History” and "Help, we need." Headline Poetry and Press (February 2020)
- Karioris, F. G. "Primarily these primaries” and "Cardenal." Headline Poetry and Press (March 2020)
- Karioris, F. G. "To meet at the port." Ghost Heart Literary Journal (April 2020)

PODCAST WITH MIRIAM ABELSON

American masculinity is being critiqued, questioned, and reinterpreted for a new era. In Men in Place: Trans Masculinity, Race, and Sexuality in America(University of Minnesota Press, 2019), Miriam J. Abelson makes an original contribution to this conversation through in-depth interviews with trans men in the U.S. West, Southeast, and Midwest, showing how the places and spaces men inhabit are fundamental to their experiences of race, sexuality, and gender.

In this interview, Dr. Abelson and I discuss the various types of masculinity she identified in her study, such as hypermasculine men, regular guys, and men who seek to embody what Abelson calls “Goldilocks masculinity.” Additionally, we discuss how race and space affect expressions and embodiment of masculinity. For example, trans men in rural spaces were more likely to embody a redneck masculinity. On the other hand, urban trans men were more likely to embody a masculinity of the “urban thug.” Lastly, Abelson explains the significance of health care settings and public bathroom as spaces for upholding the gender binary and potential instances of violence. I recommend this book for students, professors, and anyone else interested in gender, sexuality, race, and studies of place.

Dr. Miriam Abelson (@AbelsonDr) is an Associate Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Portland State University. Krystina Millar is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology at Indiana University. Her research interests include gender, sociology of the body, and sexuality. You can find her on Twitter at @KrystinaMillar.