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**Volume 5, Number 1 / Spring 2013**  
 Journal [Culture, Society and Masculinities](#)  
 Publisher Men's Studies Press  
 ISSN 1941-5583 (Print)  
 1941-5591 (Online)  
 Online Date Wednesday, May 22, 2013

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Online Date	Wednesday, May 22, 2013

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## Authors

Pam Nilan<sup>1</sup>, Argyo Demartoto<sup>2</sup>, Alex Broom<sup>3</sup><sup>1</sup>School of Humanities and Social Science, University of Newcastle, NSW Australia<sup>2</sup>Department of Sociology, Universitas Sebelas Maret, Solo, Indonesia<sup>3</sup>School of Social Sciences, University of Queensland, St Lucia, NSW Australia

## Abstract

In qualitative interviews conducted during 2009/2010, 86 male interviewees frequently "explained" violence between men in Indonesia as resulting from low socioeconomic status. This paper is not about how violence actually happens, but about how it is explained by Indonesian men. We unpack the discursive assertions of interviewees, and first explore the cultural utility and validity of the "hydraulic pressure" model of male violence found popular in the Indonesian mass media. While some men used this simple model of explosive violence caused by pressure, others acknowledged the active choice of men in marginal economic circumstances to use violence. We then consider this range of explanations for the link between socioeconomic disadvantage and male violence through the lens of Messerschmidt's "compensatory" thesis on violence and masculinity.

## Keywords

Indonesia, masculinity, violence, unemployment, economic pressure

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Issue [Volume 5, Number 1 / Spring 2013](#)  
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DOI 10.3149/CSM.0501.21  
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## Authors

Jarred Martin<sup>1</sup>, Kaymarlin Govender<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>School of Psychology, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa<sup>2</sup>Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa

## Abstract

This paper investigates the relationship between traditional masculine role norms, body image discrepancy, body appearance schemas, and sociocultural attitudes toward appearance in a sample of 495 South African Indian school going boys aged 13 to 18 years. Constructs were measured using the Masculine Role Norms Inventory, Lynch and Zellner's Body Figure Drawings (1999), Appearance Schemas Inventory, and the Sociocultural Attitudes towards Appearance Scale-3. Analysis revealed a localized hegemonic masculinity of nonviolence, and a significant association between traditional masculinity norms of status-seeking, heteronormativity, anti-femininity, and restrictive emotionality, with body image discrepancy. Sociocultural attitudes towards appearance favoured athletic muscularity as a body ideal coinciding with heterosexist scripts, perceptions of mesomorph physiques in Bollywood cinema, and steroid use.

## Keywords

indentured masculinity, body image discrepancy, traditional masculine role norms, South African Indians, steroids

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**Authors**

Romit Chowdhury<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, India

**Abstract**

Feminists have sought to dismantle the feminization of care work within patriarchal cultures in a variety of ways. Responding to a growing interest in men and masculinities, a significant thrust within such initiatives has been to expand the role of the father and husband/partner beyond the patriarchal confines of reproduction and breadwinning, to greater involvement in care and other domestic work. This paper brings into focus three contemporary Bengali films which, through their representation of different forms of men's care work, make it possible to expand the prevailing understanding of male caregiving practices in a number of ways. The paper tries to complicate the habitual equation of the genitor with fatherhood to show that that role is often played by other (male) persons in the community. It attempts to understand forms of men's support that undermine patriarchal authority in the family. It explores an ethics of care that can be dislocated from the domain of the private to inform practices of support that are situational and emanate from the kindness of strange men.

**Keywords**

care, masculinity, fatherhood, South Asia, cinema

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## Authors

Amit Sarwal<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>Centre for Citizenship and Globalization, Faculty of Arts & Education, Deakin University

## Abstract

Gender plays an important role in how we constitute ourselves and how writers create a subject in the domestic as well as the public life in their narratives. Despite similarities in basic immigrant experience and cultural environment, the socio-economic experience of male and female immigrants affects the construction of a gendered self and role. This paper shows how the South Asian diaspora community has changed in relation to the gender discourse over the years, by analyzing representations of male protagonists in selected short stories of South Asian diaspora in Australia. Drawing from the theories of Judith Butler, Robert E. Park, Milton Gordon, Ronald F. Levant, and others on gender (masculinity) and sexuality, this paper shifts the focus from the politics of sensory and spatial locations that diaspora studies usually highlight toward a politics of gendered location and difference. This is to see whether the stereotypical image of the marginal immigrant male still holds in postcolonial, post-patriarchal, and globalized South Asian diasporic society.

## Keywords

South Asian diaspora, Australia, male, culture, masculinist crisis, margin, short stories

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Pages 75-88  
DOI 10.3149/CSM.0501.75  
Online Date Wednesday, May 22, 2013

 [PDF \(152.4 KB\)](#)

## Authors

Jennie Olofsson<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>HUMLab, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden

## Abstract

Dissecting the iconic image of the male firefighter this article offers an understanding of how housing preferences and instrumental use are componential to the professional identity of retired firefighters. Drawing on an ethnographic account at a fire station in Luleå, a small town in the Northern parts of Sweden, the intention is to show how retired firefighters performed masculinity, not through embodied viability, but through housing preferences and instrumental use. Distancing themselves from the residential areas and the instrumental management of their professional heirs, the retired firefighters were thus able to retain their status, despite the fact that they were no longer active as firefighters. Exploring the masculine enactments of the retired firefighters, this article seeks to highlight the dynamic of change within the fire service. In doing so, the intention is to provide a deeper understanding of the temporary constructions of masculine values and ideals that pervade this organization.

## Keywords

firefighting, masculine enactments, generation, instrumental use, housing preferences, Sweden

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## Authors

Justin Charlebois<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup>Aichi Shukutoku University, Japan

## Abstract

Various sociocultural changes have influenced the emergence of non-hegemonic, oppositional masculinities in Japan. Herbivore masculinity exemplifies a non-hegemonic masculinity that has emerged in the wake of a shifting social landscape and thus departs from salaryman hegemonic masculinity. This paper provides an overview and critical investigation of the gender practices constituting herbivore masculinity. Results of the analysis indicate that many gender practices that constitute herbivore masculinity appear to resist salaryman hegemonic masculinity and in the process legitimate an equal relationship between men and women, masculinity and femininity. Nevertheless, herbivore masculinity is simultaneously underpinned by gender practices which rather than depart from, reify the hegemonic status quo. An implication of this investigation is that non-hegemonic masculinities are not necessarily more democratic than their hegemonic counterparts.

## Keywords

herbivore masculinity, Japan, professional housewife femininity, salaryman masculinity

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