

Richardson & Robinson – Chapter 4: Men, Masculinities and Feminism

- **Men's Studies:** origins in men's movements
 - View *traditional* gender roles as restrictive for BOTH W & M
 - 'Gender' ≠ singular
- **Men's Movements** - men against sexism
 - **Mythopoetic** – Liberate men from modern feminine constraints
 - **Jungian** – Identify the masculine & feminine components of the unconscious mind
 - **Gay** – Challenge traditional notions of masculinity & femininity
 - **'Hegemonic masculinity'** - relationships b/t men & women involve certain power structure, M = dominant & W = subordinate
 - Subordinate masculinities = homosexuals
- **Waves of Men's Studies:**
 - **1st Wave** (1970's): Hegemonic masculinity – White, western, middle-class, heterosexual masculinity = universal experience
 - **2nd Wave** (1980's): Diversity – Working-class, black, & gay masculinities = Multifaceted experiences
 - **3rd Wave** (1990's): Poststructuralism – Masculinity = socially constructed & fluid
 - **Multiple Masculinities:** Plural ≠ single fixed pattern
 - Differing over: Time, Space, Context
 - Variables: Race/ethnicity, Class, Age
- **Result: The 'crisis of masculinity'** – inside & outside
- **Response:**
 - **Pro-feminist** men: Challenge the notion that you must be the subject of oppression or inequalities to be considered a "feminist", Support feminism reforms
 - **Anti-feminist** men: Reject at least one of the feminist principles, Oppose women's equality, & Preserve masculinity from "pollution" or "invasion"

- **Problem w/ Hegemonic Masculinity:** Most men do NOT fit model
 - *Are most men complicit in sustaining it?*
 - Although men benefit from oppressive structure
 - Some men change patriarchal system because....
 - Beneficiaries can **SEE** oppression & how it affects **SHARED** lives
 - Heterosexual men are committed to women & **DESIRE** to create more **EQUALITY**
 - Heterosexual men are **NOT** all the **SAME** & some may **SUFFER** under hegemonic system
 - **CHANGE** is already happening & it is impractical to cling to old hegemonic system
 - Heterosexual men have the capacity to **CARE** & certain personal circumstances bring it out
- **Claim:** Traditional understandings of heterosexual masculinity are **AFFIRMED & AUTHENTICATED** by society through: ideologies, discourse, representations, & material practices
 - 'Hegemonic masculinity' = **Dominant sexuality** → naturalized → Heterosexuality = NORM
 - Subordinate masculinities: Effeminate, unassertive, or homosexual men
 - **Sources:** Sport, intimacy, emotions, embodiment, violence, education, fatherhood, & relationships → **"heteronormativity"**
 - **Process:** Men put down the **OTHER** [women & gays] → Rid themselves of **BOTH** [femininity, & homosexuality] → **Misogyny** [hatred of women] & **Homophobia** [negative attitudes towards homosexuals]
- **Construction:** of heterosexual-homophobic-hegemonic masculinities = **Traditional Sports**
 - Globalization of dominant masculine sexuality & power
 - **HOW:** Images constructed [Ideal = dominant masculinity] & systematically promoted [competitive sport]
 - **Problem:** Ideal = homogenous Men ≠ homogenous