



## Introduction

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In the age of *Omicron*, the vaccine apartheid and increased inequalities, we present the 16th issue of the *Masculinities Journal*. In the claustrophobic atmosphere of demands for equity and the refusal to share, lockdowns and global efforts for vaccination, we are now about to reach at the 9th year of the journal. The pandemic continues as universal access to the coronavirus vaccine is prevented by the wealthy countries, causing several others suffer very high death rates and the trauma of the pandemic. As we present our new issue, we would like to remind that a critical look at power monopolies and the violence caused by them today is more welcome than ever, and that men and masculinities require intensified critical analyses in that sense.

MJ 16 reaches the eve of 2022 with three research articles, translation of a brilliant article into Turkish, and reviews of a book and a film with distinguished impact in the field of critical masculinity studies. Abdulkadir Deveci in his article “From Al-Qaida to ISIS: Transformation of Islamist-jihadist hegemonic masculinities and their relations with Western masculinities” explores jihadist masculinities in a contemporary global discussion of militarization and discusses the militarized forms of masculinities in fratriarchies. The ISIS example Deveci shows, requires a political and historical discussion of the changing hegemony of Al-Qaeda in the greater Middle East. Richard Vytنيorgu in “Gay Nettersexuality: Grindr, Porn, and Non-being in Nick Comilla’s *Candyass*” analyzes Nick Comilla’s debut novel *Candyass* around the questions about digitalized socialization via dating apps such as Grindr and its manipulation of gay men’s sexuality. “Nettersexuality” appears as the primary theoretical terrain here, in which Vytنيorgu explores gay masculinities from an existential point of view. Mustafa Büyükgebiz in his “Posthuman

Experiences of Men and Masculinities in Ian McEwan's *Machines Like Me*" delves into posthuman experiences of men and masculinities to question the changing norms of gender with Ian McEwan's novel *Machines Like Me* at his explicit focus. Büyükgebiz analyzes how cyborgs provoke the fear of losing masculinity in the heteronormative society.

Nancy Lindisfarne and Jonathan Neale's article "Masculinities and the Lived Experience of Neoliberalism [Erkeklikler ve Neoliberal Yaşantı]" is a gem to understand contemporary challenges to men and masculinities in the intersections of gender with the neoliberal atmosphere of the globalizing world. In Bilhan Gözcü's insightful translation into Turkish, we are sure that this article will open new horizons for many researchers in Turkey who are interested in discussing gender, sexism and violence in relation to class relations, rising inequalities and diverse economical hegemonies. Lindisfarne and Neale succinctly describe how neoliberalism maintains an unequal society under violence and ruling-class victories, and discuss why making sense of masculinities under neoliberalism is vital to understand the contemporary ideologies of gender inequality.

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Finally, a book review and a film review close this issue. Sourav Chattarje reviewed Per Sivefors's *Representing Masculinity in Early Modern English Satire, 1590-1603: "A Kingdom for a Man"* (Routledge, 2020) which is a critical analysis of Elizabethan understandings of masculinity in literature and Julia Szołtysek reviewed Mikko Mäkelä's debut film "A Moment in the Reeds" (2017), a successful and powerfully reflected gay romance by the Finnish director.

As members of the Initiative for Critical Studies of Masculinities (ICSM) and the Editorial Board of the *Masculinities Journal*, we are grateful to our contributors, reviewers and readers, who shared their expertise and time with us. We would like to invite your research papers and also working papers to our forthcoming issues. We also would like to kindly invite potential reviewers not only for books but also for films

that make essential contributions to the field of critical masculinity studies. Please contact [masculinitiesjournal@gmail.com](mailto:masculinitiesjournal@gmail.com) if you are interested in reviewing for MJ and want to suggest titles. Please consult the webpage of the journal for the CFP of the next issue. We hope you enjoy the 16th MJ...

**Çimen Günay-Erkol**

On behalf of the Editorial Board of  
*Masculinities: A Journal of Culture and Society*