

INTRODUCTION

Please welcome the second issue of the *Masculinities Journal* published by ICSM, Initiative for Critical Studies on Masculinities (Eleştirel Erkeklik İncelemeleri İnisiyatifi). We are delighted to have received many excellent contributions from readers after the debut of our journal and we hope you enjoy reading some of them in this issue.

2014 has been a productive and challenging year for our initiative. In addition to workshops in İzmir, Trabzon, İstanbul and Ankara in the period 2013-2014, ICSM also organizes the first international symposium to be held in Turkey on Men and Masculinities, during 11-13 September 2014 at Tepekule Convention Center, in İzmir. We hope the international symposium to serve as a major step to increase the popularity of critical study of masculinities and awareness about gender inequalities in Turkey and worldwide, and to provide support for pro-feminist activism of men, in addition to feminist and LGBTQ activism.

The symposium and the second issue of the journal would not have been possible without the voluntary work of ICSM members. I would like to thank them all. In this issue, we have eleven contributions from researchers worldwide: eight articles covering masculinity in relation to topics as varied as dandyism, geekdom, motorcycle clubs and being a Morrissey fan, a book review and two reports on workshops organized by ICSM. The increase in the number of articles and the variety of topics indicate that *Masculinities Journal* is gradually evolving into a popular platform for scholars of masculinity worldwide.

This issue includes a diverse assembly of scholarship. In his article "Missing from Masculinity Studies: Aesthetics, Erotics, Existence," Henning Bech focuses on the history of hierarchical and dichotomous relations between masculinity and femininity. Bech discusses the collapse of gender as a hierarchical and dichotomous relation, taking his lead from several thinkers and critical theorists as well his own work in

the field, and gives a detailed discussion on the transformation of gender into a matter of taste.

Antoine Defeyt contributes with a discussion on the famous 19th century figure “the dandy” as a sexual being. In his article entitled “Masculine Plural and Singularly Masculine. Oscar Wilde, Charles Baudelaire and Jules Barbey d’Aurevilly: Three Dandies Seen through the Prism of the Masculinity of the Nineteenth Century,” Defeyt charts the markers of masculinity and femininity that prevailed in the nineteenth century and examines iconic figures of dandyism taking the attitudes to masculinity at his explicit focus.

Ashley Morgan’s paper “The Rise of the Geek: Exploring Masculine Identity in *The Big Bang Theory* (2007)” provides an interesting discussion on the representation of geeks as a form of masculinity in popular culture. Focusing on the worldwide famous US TV sitcom, *The Big Bang Theory*, which derives much of its comedy from the encounter of the scientists with the non-scientists, Morgan discusses different types of masculinities as represented in the show and elaborates on how the geek becomes a central character in popular culture, in parallel to the decline in support of corporate capitalism and the increase of interest in science, which alludes to a transformation of masculinities in popular culture.

Kathryn King, in her contribution “But I Do Clean Up Real Fuckin’ Pretty: True Detective and Motorcycle Subculture Representation as Spectacle and Diversion,” discusses how the subculture of outlaw motorcycle clubs (O.M.C.’s) is represented in the TV series *True Detective*. King argues that the show’s representation of subcultures reinforces misconceptions and occludes a larger discussion about race, gender, and class in the United States.

José G. Anguiano in his contribution “No, It’s Not Like Any Other Love: Latino Morrissey Fans, Masculinity, and Class” focuses on Latino fans of British musician Morrissey. Anguiano discusses the projection of the image of Morrissey on Latino masculinity and, in comparison with icons such as James Dean and Elvis Presley, examines how the love and

desire felt for Morrissey transforms Latino masculinities beyond hyper masculine American or Latino ideals.

Melinda Mills, in her piece “The Pleasures and Perils of the Performance of Music, Masculinity, and Cool” examines performances of masculinity in two songs from 1977 and 2013, which are linked by allegations of copyright infringement. Mills conducts a comparative analysis of Robin Thicke’s “Blurred Lines” (2013) and Marvin Gaye’s “Got To Give It Up” (1977) and argues that some performances or forms of masculinities remain the same despite several cultural transformations, pointing out at the lyrical commonalities that normalize violence against women and rape culture.

Hediye Özkan in “Does Patriarchy only Oppress Female: The Role of Masculinity and Fatherhood in Our Social Realm” discusses how patriarchy plays a crucial role defining the roles of men and the concept of masculinity, taking her lead from male characters of the popular movie *Babam ve Oğlum* (My Father and My Son, 2005). Özkan underlines the dominance of the father figure in the traditional Turkish family as suggested in the film, and examines how men are shaped under it.

Terrance H. McDonald in his paper “Towards an Interrogation of Masculinity’s Commodification: Deleuze’s Control Society & The Big Lebowski” examines the commodification of gender in Coen brothers’ cult movie *The Big Lebowski* in the light of Gilles Deleuze’s theoretical concept of control society. McDonald discusses the potential resistance of creative and revolutionary subjectivities to the confines of late capitalism.

In our book review section, Ronald Saladin from University of Trier, Germany, reviews *Manga Girl Seeks Herbivore Boy: Studying Japanese Gender at Cambridge* edited by Brigitte Steger and Angelika Koch. This issue also includes two reports in Turkish on the workshop organized by ICSM in collaboration with KASAUM, Center for Women’s Studies at Ankara University, on 26 April 2014. Beyhan Yeni from Ankara University and Eda Acara from Queen’s University provide accounts of the talks and elaborate on the discussions that followed.

We encourage you to take a look at the second issue, keeping in mind that Masculinities Journal is still in development. We consider the journal as an important tool in communicating with activists and members of NGO's who work on men and masculinities in addition to its role as a milieu of academic exchange between researchers worldwide who have an interest in the study of men and masculinities. We welcome any feedback, ideas and suggestions.

We cordially invite submissions for our next issue which will be online in February 2015. We encourage contributions both in English and in Turkish. Contributions in any form are greatly appreciated as we seek to reach out a wider community and strengthen the expertise in this field. We would like to thank also for the positive feedback and encouragement that was given following the release of our first issue.

Çimen Günay-Erkol,

On Behalf of the Editorial Board of the *Masculinities Journal*