

INTRODUCTION

The contested yet liberating process of studying men and masculinities is akin to publishing a journal. It is challenging. There are (in)visible barriers that make you either fall into the traps of taken-for-grantedness or lost in the avenues of questions and/or problems. A long process with the awaited “success” which has never been fully ended, as always being dependent on other factors, defines the overall emotional/ professional/ academic journey. However, seeing the “output” throws all of the pain into a sharper relief with new questions in mind.

Today, with our double issue, we are looking back in disquiet, but we are proud to be still dedicated to continue supporting our colleagues to voice their critical evaluations that have the potential to open new avenues of discussions to reveal the intricate ways in which hegemonic power relations are hidden.

The double issue (9th and 10th) of *Masculinities: A Journal of Identity and Culture* covering masculinities in relation to different topics as varied as media professionals’ narratives of masculinities, masculinist reasoning in defending democracy, representations of masculinity in photography, performances of black masculinity, gendered identity construction among radical leftist, aging men, masculine identity negotiation and re-positioning of masculinity in Kurdish political movement welcomes readers. The articles, six in English and two in Turkish, cover different representations and constructions of masculinities and offer critical analyses focusing on different geographies including Turkey, Germany, Egypt, France and Greece.

In the current issue, Joel W. Abdelmoez's article opens a discussion on how ideas of masculinities are perceived by English-language media professionals and media audiences in Egypt. The author analyzes the ways in which men are exclusively seen as possessors of power as the head of household and the head of the state both being portrayed as iconized leaders.

Yasmine Taan, in her article entitled "Disrupting Masculinity in Marie al-Khazen's Photographs" analyzes how gender is represented socially and culturally in a number of photographs by an influential artist through complex conventions and significations with a specific focus on representations of masculinity and patriarchy. Taan's analysis is important to reflect different meanings of masculinities as heroic.

Árdís Kristín Ingvarsdóttir's piece, which is based on an ethnographic fieldwork carried out in Greece, shifts the focus towards a multi-dimensional analysis on political movements. The author analyzes Greek radical leftist men who are engaging in a grassroots movement in a precarious environment. The article, entitled "Acts of caring in the shadow of violence: Men's gender construction among radical leftists in Athens", provides a detailed discussion on how different practices and discourses shape the male identity and the other.

Marion Loeffler in her article, "In Defense of Democracy?" analyzes masculinist reasoning, homophobia, and the impossibility of gender democracy in Thomas Mann's *Mario and the Magician*. In her discussion, the author provides the interpretation of the novella from a political science perspective by elaborating on 'masculinist reasoning' advocated by Hans Blüher, who supported pre-fascist male associations in the Weimar Republic. The analysis of *Mario and the Magician* reveals how the alleged defense of democracy promotes a hegemonic project of masculinity.

Kathleen Gyssels in her valuable contribution to this issue compares James Baldwin and Leon Damas on their lens on defining the other. The article touches upon important issues at the intersection of

black diaspora, sexual ambiguity and African-American post-Restoration novel.

In their work, Luigi Wenzl and Birgit Blättel-Mink discuss constructions of masculinities among men over 50 years of age who perform care work outside their biological family in Germany. The article provides insights on care crisis in the country, aging men, and also traditional gender roles. It shifts the focus on the intersection of masculinities, age and care in a case somewhat contrary to the conventional norms of caring and breadwinning.

In one of the articles in Turkish, Meral Gezici Yalçın and Veysi Tanrıverdi make a social psychological analysis of masculinities of university students in Turkey. Based on a qualitative analysis, they offer a perspective that is based on their interviewees' own interpretation of masculinity. The article provides different paradigms of masculinist norms with reference to biological/physical differences, different roles and the inequalities within, sexuality and, male violence.

The following article in Turkish written by Bahar Mermertaş provides an important critical analysis on masculine identity construction in the Kurdish political movement. With a focus on Peace and Democracy Party, she contributes to the literature by addressing the questions of how representative of this party interpret the libertarian discourse vis a vis their close relations with women and also how relations between men and women are constructed during their personal life practices. The inquiry into these important questions also reveals how the patriarchy is positioned in the context of this libertarian discourse from a macro perspective.

In the book review section of this double issue, Deniz Gündoğan evaluates Mel Y. Chen's "Animacies, Biopolitics, Racial Mattering and Queer Effect" and Haktan Ural reviews "Masculinities Under Neoliberalism" by Andrea Cornwall, Frank Karioris and Nancy Lindisfarne.

Finally, it is also important to note that we have a new section in our Journal. *Research in Progress* part welcomes your research that are not totally ended and need further elaboration. In this double issue, we have two works as research in progress whose authors would appreciate your comments and feedbacks.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the authors who sent their work to our journal, the reviewers who kindly reviewed the manuscripts and the readers who spread the word. As the editor in chief of this issue, I am also personally indebted to the members of the Editorial Board who have relentlessly worked. Since the very beginning, despite all negative external circumstances we do believe in solidarity and with the power of being together, I am taking this opportunity to invite you, the researchers of the critical studies on men and masculinities to voice your questions, puzzles, interventions and insights.

Selin Akyüz

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