

Science & Masculinity in History

A Global Perspective

Seminar

GESS, ETH Zurich,

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"Distinguished British Men of Science, 1807-8", (wiki commons)

Tue 1.15—3 pm

Venue: CHN G 46

Teaching Materials: <https://moodle-app2.let.ethz.ch/course/view.php?id=4875>

Technical Support: monique.ligtenberg@gmw.gess.ethz.ch

18 Sept	<p>Welcome, Introduction, Requirements</p> <p>➔ Watch the screencast!</p>
25 Sept	<p>Theories & Concepts: What is Masculinity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beynon, Masculinity and Culture, 2002, Chap. 1. • Bird, Masculinity Studies, 2008 • Kimmel, Masculinity, 2008 <p>The term masculinity/masculinities refers both to an analytical concept and, to a social and cultural reality. Try to take notes while reading the texts and collect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Definitions of masculinities offered by the authors; - Examples of what masculinities 'look like' in social and cultural reality. <p>Upload your notes on to <i>moodle</i>.</p>
2 Oct	<p>Assignment 1: Masculinities youtube</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A variety of films on <i>youtube</i> discuss masculinities: masculinity is either seen to be in a state of 'crisis', under threat, in need of reform, or defense. Choose from one of the examples below and discuss in pairs or in groups of three: What features of masculinities -- as discussed by Beynon (2002), Bird (2008), and Kimmel (2008) – do these <i>youtube</i> films address, what do they leave out? Write a short analytical commentary on the film of your choice to share on <i>moodle</i>. You may either start a new post, if you are the first to comment, or add to an ongoing thread if others have already commented on your film before you. Try to engage with arguments from your fellow students by adding to their views, nuancing them or explaining how and why you might disagree. • The Mask of Masculinity: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmkFdAMFGXo&t=121s • Why modern Masculinity is flawed: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHOZE8b_JZY&t=47s • Unmasking Masculinity: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBdnjqEoiXA • My search for Masculinity: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_XdcRsnoU4 • Why I'm done trying to be "man enough": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cetg4gu0oQQ

9 Oct **How did Science become masculine?**

- Golinski, *Masculine Birth of Science*, 2002
- Milam & Nye, *Scientific Masculinities*, 2015, p. 1-7

These texts offer a first introduction in to the history of scientific masculinities. Take notes while reading the texts and try to answer these three questions:

- 1) How & why, according to Golinski, did science become 'masculine' early on in history?
- 2) What questions, according to Milam & Nye, do historians of scientific masculinity ask?
- 3) What remains unclear and would you like to discuss in our first in-class meeting on 6 November?

Additionally: Produce a short video (c. 5 min) to introduce yourself by discussing the question: *how did masculinity or gender shape my family's and/or my opportunities and choices in higher education?*

(Optional: you can work in groups of 2 or 3 and interview each other.)

- ➔ Try to upload this video on to moodle by 16 October at the latest. You can use screencast for this: <https://screencast-o-matic.com/>

16 Oct **Assignment 2: 19th century 'Men of Science'**

- Galton, *English Men of Science*, 1874, p. 1-39

Charles Darwin's cousin, Francis Galton, was one of the most influential 19th century scientists in Europe. Among other things, he was a key-figure in the development of eugenics and 'scientific racism'. In one of his earlier works, he tried to uncover the laws of heredity and 'geniality'. In this text, he tries to explain, why scientific success in Britain was supposedly only attainable for a few men.

The aim of this exercise is to familiarize yourself with an influential 19th century historical source of 'masculinist' thinking and to give you an opportunity to practice your analytical skills. Read through most of chapter number 1 (skim through the rest of the book, if you like) and discuss in groups of two or three:

What kind of 'Masculinity' (Beynon 2002, Kimmel 2008) shaped Galton's thinking about 'English Men of Science'? In answering this question you might find it helpful to pay attention to

- what roles Galton ascribed to women, wives, or mothers? (You can find all passages on the subject-matter by using the full text search tool.)
- what role he ascribed to the factor of 'race'?

Extra challenge:

- What role did he ascribe to social inequalities ['class']?

Share some of your answers on moodle.

23 Oct Masculinity and Imperial Globality in Early Modern Science

- Boddice, *The Manly Mind*, 2011
- Schiebinger, *Feminist History of Colonial Science*, 2004

Pick (at least) one text. Take notes while and after reading:

- How did Early Modern gender regimes influence science/the production of knowledge (&ignorance)?
- What should we discuss in class on 6 November?

30 Oct Masculinity and Imperial Globality in Modern Science

- Smith, *Gender and Scientific History*, 1995
- Haraway, *Teddy Bear Patriarchy*, 1984

Pick (at least) one text. Take notes while and after reading:

- How did modern gender regimes influence science/the production of knowledge (&ignorance)?
- What should we discuss in class on 6 November?



ETH, Department of Computer Science

6 Nov First In Class Meeting!

Prepare by going over your notes.

We will split the class in small groups. Prepare to present a short summary of your readings from 23rd and 30th October to your colleagues, who read other texts.

We will discuss your findings together in class.

13 Nov “Computer Buns” & “Boys and their Toys”

- Ensmenger, *Masculine Culture in Computing*, 2015
- Mellström, *Machines and Masculine Subjectivities*, 2004

Assignment to be announced

20 Nov Queering Masculinity

- Ha, *Detecting and Teaching Desire*, 2015
- Garlick, *What Is A Man?*, 2003

Assignment to be announced



National Science and Technology Week in China, 2016

27 Nov Masculinity and Science in China & Africa

- Lean, *Recipes for Men*, 2015
- Sithole, *Indigenous Physics and the Academy*, 2016

Assignment to be announced

<i>4 Dec</i>	<p>Masculinities & the ‘Gender Gap’ in Higher Education today</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khwaja et al., <i>Critical Approaches</i>, 2017 • O’Connor et al, <i>Critical Review</i>, 2015 <p>Assignment to be announced</p>
<i>11 Dec</i>	<p>Assignment 3: What about ETH?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legacies of Masculinities and the struggle for Equality - www.equal.ethz.ch/ <p>Assignment to be announced</p>
<i>18 Dec</i>	<p>Final Discussion & Evaluation</p>

Literature

A useful website on masculinity studies: <http://xyonline.net/books/bibliography>

- Beynon, John, *Masculinities and Culture* (Buckingham: Open University Press, 2002)
- Bird, Sharon R., 'Masculinity Studies', in *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, ed. by William A. Darity, 2nd edn (Detroit: Macmillan, 2008).
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- Ensmenger, Nathan: «Beards, Sandals, and Other Signs of Rugged Individualism»: Masculine Culture with the Computing Professions, in: *Osiris* 30, 2015, S. 38–65.
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- Mellström, Ulf: Machines and Masculinity. Technology as an Integral Part of Men's Life Experiences, in: *Men and Masculinities* 6 (4), 2004, S. 368–382.
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- Smith, Bonnie G., 'Gender and the Practices of Scientific History: The Seminar and Archival Research in the Nineteenth Century', *The American Historical Review*, 100 (1995), 1150–76