Fragility and Persistence of Dominant Masculinities

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 30 2011

EDITORS: Wesley Crichlow, Hamilah DeShong and Linden Lewis invite submissions for a special issue on Fragility & Persistence of Hegemonic Masculinities in the Caribbean and its Diaspora.

Women, children, sexual ‘minorities’, nations and a host of other constructed identities experience hegemonic masculinity as oppressive, but increasingly hegemonic masculinity is itself understood as an unstable category. The fragility of hegemonic masculinity is embedded in its dependence on the affirmation of others in the master–slave dialectic, men’s self-imposed alienation from femininity, effemophobia, the feminine, and the penis as the ultimate representation of phallic power, domination and a weapon of social control. These suggest the limits of the hegemonic masculinity as an ideal for all men. The editors are interested in the following and other related questions about Caribbean men’s engagement with and relationship to masculinities:

· What is the current state of research & theory on Caribbean masculinities?
· Given the competing masculinities of the racial and ethnic identities in the Caribbean as Creole culture, what are the dominant hegemonic and competing masculinities today, especially in the Caribbean?
· As a way of recuperating fragility, what might a more fully developed, complex understanding of the psychological and social aspects of Caribbean masculinity look like?
· What are the dominant postcolonial and nationalistic constructions of masculinities that have emerged in Caribbean societies and how have these been shaped or reinvented as a result of the diversity of the colonial hierarchies and ideologies of the past?
· How have the legacies of slavery, indentureship, colonialism, nationalism, and racial and religious diversity informed the construction of Caribbean masculinities?
· How have Caribbean men’s conception of masculinity been transformed by encounters of immigration and assimilation in the Global North in the twentieth and into the twenty first century?
· From an auto–biographical and or auto–ethnographic standpoint, how can men put an end to their trauma and sufferings of & from sexual violence as survivors?
· How do we envision the future of masculinity studies?

Contrary to hegemonic norms requiring men to be stoic, strong, and invulnerable, the majority of men struggle to reconcile cultural expectations for masculinity with their own experiences of
fragility. The aim of this volume is to open a space where Caribbean men can begin the work of elaborating on and recuperating the possibilities of fragility. We seek to facilitate a conversation about the ways that cultural expectations about hegemonic masculinity influence men at the personal and interpersonal levels. The traditional belief is that men are less interested than women in self-disclosure. Indeed, boys and men are discouraged from cultivating intimacy. This call seeks to investigate the transformation of fragile and dominant masculinities through the lens of Caribbean experience.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS
The discourse of “sexual assault and rape” has entered the Caribbean to create space for men to explore their experiences as both survivors and abusers, through scholarly research and auto–biography/autoethnography the editor seeks work that promotes the healing of survivors and the reduction of abuse. We invite papers that explore theoretical, research, methodological, and experiential questions. We encourage submission of alternative forms of presentation such as performance, poetry, visual media, social media, news media, and so on. Additionally, we are seeking first–person essays, both reflective and critical, from male writers. While we are particularly interested in Caribbean masculinities, we welcome the opportunity to compare experiences across locations. Finally, a section will be devoted to review essays and memoriam by intellectual activists Professor Rex Nettleford, Professor Barry Chevannes, Professor Rafael Ramirez and Professor Robert Carr.

AUTHOR GUIDELINES
This information can be accessed on the CRGS’ website by going into Essays when the site is up – the information is on the left–hand side of the page www.sta.uwi.edu/crgs.

SUBMISSION OF BIOS
A brief biographical note of not more than 80 words about each author of manuscripts or artists of artwork accepted for publication should be supplied on a separate page. This should include information about location (institutional, geographical, etc.), and publications or exhibitions.

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All correspondence or questions regarding submissions for the Caribbean Review of Gender Studies should be addressed to:
Ms. Donna Drayton at cardon@flowtrinidad.net
Institute of Gender and Development Studies
The University of the West Indies
St. Augustine Campus