



IGDS
Interdisciplinary Gender Studies
Dr. Rosalind Hall-Lynn

GRADUATE RESEARCH SEMINARS

**FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2026
10 AM TO 12 NOON**

**FIRST SEMINAR K FORDE
ONLINE VIA ZOOM**



www.sta.uwi.edu/igds



Keston Forde

**MPhil Candidate
Interdisciplinary Gender Studies
Supervisor Dr. Sue Ann Barratt**

Interrogating the 'I' in Patriarchy/ The Implicit 'Me' in the Male Breadwinner Model

Research Area: Masculinity studies and socioeconomic analysis. Background: Caribbean Masculinities

Please note that the zoom online room will be locked 5 minutes before the start of the seminar. No late arrivals are allowed.

Register in advance. Zoom Meeting ID: 984 7518 3521
<https://uwi.zoom.us/join/98475183521>

Abstract - Despite historical evidence that women have always contributed significantly to the economic and social survival of households, the male breadwinner model persists as a dominant, institutionalized patriarchal ideology in the Caribbean. This ideology strictly links a man's identity, social status, and productive citizenship to his capacity to earn income and provide for dependents, creating a rigid framework of masculinity characterized by dominance, aggression, and emotional invulnerability. When men are unable to fulfil these unrealistic expectations, they experience profound gender-role strain, which often manifests as discrepancy, dysfunction, or trauma strain. This strain can trigger detrimental coping strategies, including deteriorating mental health, a reluctance to seek medical help, and hyper-masculine over-articulations such as hyperviolence and hypersexuality.

Using an interpretive paradigm and an emergent qualitative research design, this study examines how a selection of prime working-age men (ages 25–54) in Trinidad and Tobago internalize and negotiate, the economic and social pressures of the male breadwinner model of idealised Caribbean masculinity. Incorporating autoethnographic elements alongside these men's perspectives gathered through a purposive sample, the study captures detailed personal narratives from 24 participants balanced across six age cohorts and four occupational skill levels (unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled, and professional). Data is collected via in-depth, semi-structured interviews—with the option for skill-level grouped focus sessions—and evaluated using narrative analysis to decode structural themes, plots, and characters within the participants' stories.

Ultimately, this thesis aims to expose the systemic and structural policing mechanisms of contemporary capitalist patriarchy. By critically evaluating how men evaluate their value and perform gendered roles within their close relationships and communities, the study seeks to deconstruct toxic expressions of manhood. The findings will guide targeted health interventions, gender-based violence prevention initiatives, and social equity policies while exploring alternative expressions of masculine identity that can expand men's freedom, well-being, and capacity for equitable citizenship.

Keston Forde is a master's student in the Institute of Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies. His research explores the male breadwinner model in Trinidad and Tobago. Keston plans to publish his thesis and further conduct research in the field of Masculinity Studies.

ZOOM - FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2026 - 10:00 AM

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IGDS Official Research Seminars - Duration One hour

Note: Guests will be allowed to enter from the Zoom waiting room ten minutes before the seminar begins. The zoom room will close 5 minutes after starting.

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