

Deconstructing Masculinity: Masculinity and Colonialism Part 1

By D.O.P.E. Collective - dopewny.org



Gender Binary:

- Gender binary - a classification of sex and gender with distinct and opposite qualities i.e. male/men, masculine; female/women, feminine.
- Cisgender/Cis - to identify with the same gender assigned at birth; cis is latin for "this/same side."
- Gender roles - norms dictating acceptable, appropriate, or desirable behaviors based on their actual or perceived sex.
- Genderism/Genderizing - to categorize by gender distinctions; systems or beliefs based on two genders and sexes.

Western Hegemonic Masculinity:

Origins: The term "hegemonic masculinity" was developed by Australian sociologist, Raewyn Connell, in her 1987 paper "Gender and Power." The concept is linked between masculinity studies, popular anxieties among men and boys, feminist theory and sociological gender models.

- Definition: Definition: A highly valued minority group of men who adhere to behaviors and have characteristics aligning with the dominant society which subjugates women, femininity and heavily polices other men outside of or challenging the dominant society.
- Characteristics: whiteness, violence, fatherhood, passionate, dominant/competitive, head-of-household, honesty, heterosexuality, able-bodied, strong, financial provider, etc.

Masculine Hierarchy:

1. Hegemonic - dominant minority
2. Complicit - "a [majority group] of masculinity in which a man does not fit in all the characteristics of hegemonic masculinity but does NOT challenge it AND benefits from it."
3. Marginalized - "[a group of men who do] not have access to hegemonic masculinity because of certain characteristics such as race and ability.
4. Subordinate - men who have qualities that are opposite to hegemonic masculinity such as physical weakness and exhibition of emotions like sadness such as effeminate; and [not heterosexual, MSM/gay/bi/queer men.]"
5. *Hypermasculinity - men who have exaggerated masculine characteristics such as an emphasis on physical strength, aggression, and sexuality.

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Disabled Masculinity - genetic v. acquired disability

“...to expand their masculine repertoire... [men with genetic disabilities] reformulated or rejected hegemonic masculinity by “seeking emotional support” and “emphasizing sensitivity and interdependence””

Gender and Sex as a Social Construct:

Social Construct - Systems of use or function created by mental categorizes, meanings, and measurements that are attached to objects, events, environments, people, relationships, and interactions.

Characteristics of social construct - it can be taught, it differs from culture to culture, and it changes over time.

Sex: “Clearly, there are not only females who are XX and males who are XY, but rather, there is a range of chromosome complements, hormone balances, and phenotypic variations that determine sex.”
 – (World Health Organization, “Gender and Genetics,” www.who.int/genomics/gender/)

One X or Y	Monosomy or Turner Syndrome - are phenotypically female, abnormal growth patterns, are short in stature, generally lack prominent female secondary sexual characteristics and are sterile.	XXY or XY/XXY Mosaic	Klinefelter syndrome - phenotypically male, abnormal development of the testis, leading to hypogonadism and infertility.
XXX	phenotypically female, normal development of sexual traits and are fertile.		Hermaphroditism or Ovotestes - having sex glands containing both ovarian and testicular tissue, can be present in place of one or both ovaries or testes.
XYY	phenotypically male, higher than levels of testosterone, are typically fertile and many are unaware that they have a chromosomal abnormality.		Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia or Adrenogenital Syndrome – can effect boys and girls, deficiency of cortisol, a steroid hormone produced by the adrenal cortex, prone to look more “masculine.”
XX Males and XY Females	XX males have a male appearance and male external genitalia. XY females have a female appearance and female external genitalia.		Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome - recessive X, external female genitalia and breast development despite being genetically male.

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XXXXY	phenotypically male	Intersex - a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy outside of XX female or XY males.
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Gender Spectrum: “Intersex people INTERRUPT the idea that there are only two biological sexes [and] transgender people INTERRUPT the idea that biological sex determines your gender.”
 - Ashley Wilde, YouTuber, “Gender as a Spectrum”

Agender	Intersex
Androgyne	Neither/Nongender
Androgynous	Neutrois
Bigender	Non-binary
Cis Man	Other
Cis Woman	Pangender
Gender Fluid	Trans
Genderless	Trans Man
Gender Nonconforming	Trans Woman
Gender Questioning	Transfeminine
Gender Variant	Transmasculine
Genderqueer	Two-Spirit

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Colonialism

- the invading of land/territories for settlement and/or resource exploitation.

Norms:

white / cis / male / hetero / able-bodied

- International
- Trade/Economic System
- Spirituality/Belief System

Power:

white supremacy / cis supremacy / patriarchy /

heteronormativity / ableism

- Imperialism
- Capitalism
- Christianity

Censure - within the masculinity hierarchy censoring is used to reprimand men to adhere to hegemony (western) or on men who cannot access it. This can be expressed through taunting, shaming, attacking, criminalizing, etc.

*The absence or lessening the possibility of censoring men within the dominant society is an *invisible* method in protecting and maintaining hegemonic masculinity.

Marginalized Masculinity

Emasculation of Asian Men by The Love Life Of An Asian Guy

There's a reason why Asian men in television and film are portrayed as sexually awkward and emasculate... and it has a lot to do with this picture.

In the early 1900's, a massive wave of Filipino men (aka, Manongs) immigrated to California to work on farms, canning factories, and fishing boats. The pay was shit but the allure of owning a home in America was too tantalizing to pass up. Since Filipina women were prohibited from immigrating with men, towns all around California quickly filled up with single, sweaty, and good lookin' Filipino men. These Manilatowns were packed to the brim with stylish Filipino bachelors who spent their money on new suits and their time at taxi dance halls #AmericasFirstFuckboys #JustKidding #SorryGrandpa

Taxi dance halls were immensely popular among Filipino bachelors which provided both entertainment and sexual attention. For only ten cents, Filipino men could dance with first-generation European immigrant women, show off their outfits of the day, and romance their way to secret relationships that were illegal under anti-miscegenation laws.

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Despite racist laws, these interracial relationships continued to blossom and included relationships between Filipino men and Italians, Irish, Mexicans, and Black women. Word spread about the Manongs and white men were (for lack of a better term) TRIGGERED AS FUCK: "Some of these [Filipino] boys, with perfect candor, told me bluntly and boastfully that they practice the art of love with more perfection than white boys, and occasionally one of the [white] girls has supplied me with information to the same effect."

The reality of Filipino men -- who were seen as small, weak, and inferior to white American men -- falling in love with white women become such a problem that mobs of masked white men started to raid, brutalize, and even kill the Manongs. Many of their assaults were directed at Filipino men's groins: "Another man, the one called Jake, tied me to a tree. Then he started beating me with his fists... A tooth fell out of my mouth, and blood trickled down my shirt. The man called Lester grabbed my testicles with his left hand and smashed them with his right fist. The pain was so swift and searing."

So the next time you hear one of those bullshit stereotypes about Asian men, look back in American history and ask yourself, "WHY was America so obsessed with emasculating Asian men?" or "Why do they constantly talk about Asian men's penises?" You'll quickly realize that it has nothing to do with stereotypes being true or false, and everything to do with white male insecurity.

Hypermasculinity:

***What's the problem with Black Masculinities?* by Dr Ornette D. Clennon**

"...it is patriarchy not masculinity that is the problem. This distinction recognises patriarchy as more than an economic system of male power and privilege and acknowledges the ways in which gendered relationships of power are also racialised, infusing identity, emotions and perspective... [The] notion of "patriarchal terrorism"...hijacks black masculinity... the image of black men as hypermasculine can become a cultural tool of self-regulation and self-loathing. This act of hijacking of what it means to be a man is a double whammy of [deceit] in modern culture where black masculinity has been co-opted as a purveyor of the market. In the Western neoliberal market cultural "blackness" sells... [The] very idea of commercial "blackness"...threatens to hold us ideologically captive... It infiltrates our lines of resistance like the Trojan horse, as it is mediated through cultural images and market brandings of black hypermasculinity. [...] The market fetishisation of the black male physique means that black men are necessarily kept on a perverse pedestal of hyper masculinity. There is little scope to explore other aspects of what makes a man a man – whatever that may be. [...]

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The legacy of this human objectification is that the black male body has indeed been marketed to designate the epitome of masculinity that is both feared and revered in equal measure. [...] We can see this in the fetishisation and market abstraction of the black male physique and the pornographic perception of his superior reproductive powers (penis or fucking), both images of which are postslavery, post-colonial dehumanising constructs... The power of this version of black masculinity is such that westernised men (and women) are falling under the spell of black priapism and aspiring to this limiting commercial branding of masculinity that pivots on homophobia, misogyny and emotional infantilism. As black men, we run the risk of limiting ourselves socially and emotionally. For instance, a study of young people in the UK by psychologists Frosh, Phoenix and Pattman found that...black boys as hypermasculine – physical, sporty and super-cool – [rejected] the pursuit of intellectual activities [and deemed them as]‘gay’.

In other areas of social life such as family relationships, there is little room for the black man to be considered a “father” because in the archetype he is only expected to sire offspring using his superior reproductive powers. The black man is not expected to be a “husband”, rather as a stud or breeding machine. [...] How can a black man truly respect women? How is the black man supposed to be a father when all that is required of him is to sire? How can a black man explore other sexual orientations, other masculinities or ways of transacting with other men) such as being gay/bi/trans, or at the very least being emotionally aware/sensitive/literate when all other men are sexual competition or threats? [...]We also need to come to grips with the darker legacies of our ancestral journeys in order to move on and to develop resilience.