

Historicizing Men and Masculinities in the Modern Middle East

Masculinity studies are one aspect of gender studies that only recently raised the awareness of scholars of Middle Eastern history. The history of women in the Middle East, their lives, identities and participation in historical process received much attention, but much less was devoted to the men's identities as gendered subjects, their practices, concepts and ideals and to the influence of their masculine identity on historical processes. This course will examine various issues concerning men and masculinities in the history of the modern Middle East, among others issues of Hegemonic Masculinity and power relations, the link between masculinity and colonialism, class formation and modernization, issues of sport, youth movements, sexuality and family. The lens of masculinity studies allows us to look from a different angle on questions that were traditionally answered from other standpoints and answer them in a different way, and indeed to pose new questions.

Suggested meetings and syllabus:

1. **Introduction to masculinity studies:** on the difference between sex and gender, why do we need to study men in a historical context?
2. **The development of masculinity studies**
 - a. *Manly States: Masculinities, International Relations, and Gender Politics* / Charlotte Hooper – Chapter 1
3. **Theories of masculinity**
 - a. *Masculinities* / R.W. Connell, "Chapter 3: The Social Organization of Masculinity"
 - b. "Masculinity as Homophobia: Fear, Shame and Silence in the Construction of Gender Identity" / Michael Kimmel
 - c. *Manhood in the making: Cultural concepts of masculinity* / David Gilmore – Introduction Chapter

4. **General Outlook** on Masculinity in the Middle East
 - a. "Middle East Masculinity Studies: Discourses of "Men in Crisis," Industries of Gender in Revolution" / Paul Amar
 - b. "Islamist Masculinity and Muslim Masculinities" / Shahin Gerami
 - c. "Sociology of Masculinity in the Middle East" / Hossein Adibi
 - d. "The Paradoxes of Masculinity: Some thoughts on segregated societies" / Deniz Kandiyoti
5. **Male Sexuality** – theoretical aspects
 - a. "The Love of Boys in Arabic Poetry of the Early Ottoman Period, 1500–1800," Khaled El-Rouayheb, *Middle Eastern Literatures*
 - b. "The Will Not to Know – Islamic Accommodations of Male Homosexuality", Stephen Murray in *Islamic Homosexualities*
6. **Male Sexuality** – Case studies
 - a. *Sexual Politics in Modern Iran* / Janet Afary – "Chapter 3: Class, Status-Defined Homosexuality and rituals of Courtship"
 - b. "The Sohari Khanith" / Stephen Murray in *Islamic Homosexualities*
7. **Masculinity and Nationalism**
 - a. "'Brothers of the Iranian Race': Manhood, Nationhood and Modernity in Iran c.1870-1914" / Joanna de Groot
 - b. "Conceiving the masculine: Gender and Palestinian nationalism" / Joseph Massad
8. **Dress Codes and Modernization in Iran and Turkey**
 - a. *Men of Order: Authoritarian Modernization under Ataturk and Reza Shah* / Touraj Atabeki and Erik J. Zürcher – "Chapter 8: Dress codes for men in Turkey and Iran"
 - b. "Staging the Emperor's New Clothes: Dress Codes and Nation-Building under Reza Shah" / Houchang Chehabi

- c. *French Hats in Iran* / Heydar Radjavi – Chapter 4 – "My Father's Wardrobe"

9. Sport and Body Culture

- a. "Creating and Displaying Future Soldiers: Male Physical Education"
Mikiya Koyagi – Chapter 2 of MA thesis
- a. "Overcoming "Simply Being": Straight Sex, Masculinity and Physical Culture in Modern Egypt" / Wilson Chacko Jacob in *Gender & History*

10. Men and Conflict

- a. "Male Gender Rituals of Resistance in the Palestinian Intifada: A Cultural Politics of Violence" / Julie Peteet in *Imagined Masculinities*
- b. "The Military as a Second Bar Mitzvah: Combat Service as Initiation to Zionist Masculinity" / Danny Kaplan in *Imagined Masculinity*
- c. Concluding remarks