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CONSTRUCCIÓN DE LA MASCULINIDAD

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Abstracts

Masculinity / ies. A concept in construction

Nelson Minello Martini

Discusses the concept of masculinity, and in doing so contributes to rise its abstraction level.

The author presents: *1)* the main theoretical trends and conceptions, as well as a basic bibliography. *2)* the analysis of some problems that affect masculinity studies. *3)* more field research is needed in different disciplines, that should include the symbolic aspects, the body and its meanings, the historical processes and the social structures, as well as the concrete men and women. *4)* statistically, he studies the use of hegemonic masculinity's notion. *5)* aims to understand masculinity as part of gender relations and suggests several ways of approaching this topic empirically.

Key words: masculinity, gender, concepts elaboration.
Texts received on May 25th, 2001, approved on January 23rd, 2002.

The masculinity in question: reflections from anthropology

Joan Venderell Ferré

The Masculinity's "crisis" is a crisis of a hierarchical relations between genders and, therefore, of legitimacy; which circumscribes to occidental society in a historical moment, but this crisis has been projected ethnocentrically, to the point of turning it into a supposed anthropological problem of universal range.

To support this argument, the author presents a debate of ideas constructed from authors that have very diverse points of view. From ethnographical data about masculine initiation rituals, to problems of masculinity, as perceived by social scientists of past decades. The author reaches the conclusion that it is necessary to *re-sociologize* a problem that should never have lost its socio-cultural character. And, lastly, he wonders if the "masculinity question" is a false anthropological problem.

Key words: masculinity, crisis, domination, gender.
Text received on December 18th, 2000, approved on September 22nd, 2001.

Power and Desire. Intimacy relationships

Gabriel Medina Carrasco

This paper is about power dynamics within the sexual intimacy's space, beginning with Michel Foucault's contributions to sexualitys studies (specially, aving established a genealogical perspective in the analysis). It questions the hegemony of scientific discourse as the unique producer of truth, and Foucault's reading of Greeks sexuality that has dominated the analysis of power relations of intimacy. Such analysis loads to the false conclusion that power is attributed to men in contraposition to women, restricting the possibilities of observing the kind of relationships that can be established by people from the same sex. In this context, the author proposes the construction of intimacy spaces, starting from the re-dimensioning of the importance of desire and seduction in the generation and distribution of power between lovers.

Key words: gender, sexuality, power relations, intimacy.
Text received May 20h, 2001, approved December 14th, 2001.

Alterity and sexual order. Masculine homophobia in the mirror

José Arturo Granados Cosme

This article explores the explanatory value of anthropology, gender studies and psychoanalysis, accepting that sexuality, its practices and its classificatory categories, are cultural elaborations. Gender identity is the axe through which the assignation of masculinity and its complement: homophobia, are constructed. It offers evidence that masculine homophobia is part of masculinity's social assignation, it is not a question of the normal rejection towards an "unnatural" phenomenon, it is a practice intended to control the homosexual desire previously stigmatized by means of an ideological argumentation of a particular way to think about the body, desire and affections. There is a perception scheme, clasiflying subjects according to the ways in which they strive their sexual pleasure.

Key words: homophobia, difference, homosexuality, sexual order, gender.
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Women and Masculinity's negotiation

Matthew C. Gutmann

How should we conceive, in a non-trivial manner, the cultural relation that women have to the construction of masculinities in all its meanings? This article is based on ethnographic fieldwork on the development and transformation of male identities by both men and women in a *colonia popular* of Mexico City. Distinct conceptual and methodological approaches employed by anthropologists studying manhood are compared. Examining men as engendered and engendering is presented, not as a complement to the study of women, but rather as integral to understanding the ambiguities of gender differences.

Key words: masculinity, identity, gender, alterity, ambiguities, differences.
Text received on May 18th, 2000, approved on August 22nd, 2001.

Gender and masculinity in Cuba: The other side of a story?

Julio César González Pagés

A non hegemonic masculinity view that incorporates homosexuality, transvestiteism and feminism, which are ignored in Cuba's historical studies is presented by the author.

Masculinity is analyzed from the different perspectives in the academic world, *machismos* repercussions and homophobia in the Cuban context and the way in which they are validated by culture.

Homosexuality and tranvestiteism are studied as well as their relationship with the construction of hegemonic masculinity that excluded other sexual orientations and turned heterosexuality into the rule. And last feminism and the struggle against the patriarchal discourse that seeks imposing an homogenizing pattern under which masculinity is a greatness attribute, to which women can not aspire.

Key words: gender, homosexuality, tranvestiteism, feminism, masculinity, hierarchies.
Text received on August 18th, 2001, approved in February 23rd, 2002.

Local elites and their political culture in democratic consolidation

Pablo Vargas González

Political elites that place their regional interests before the general progress of society, with the persistence of traditional relationships (*clientelismo, caudillismo, Caciquism*) hinder the democratic consolidation processes. The author shows the circumstances under which local elites prevent the transito from "limited democracies" to "consolidated democracies" by means of: *a)* the local political elites role and their political culture; *b)* the existing experiences in different countries, where the values of political groups are decisive in generating agreements or disagreements; *c)* the articulation between local and national power; and *d)* especific functioning characteristics of the local political scope.

Key words: political culture, local elites, democracy, political values, power, political system.
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The imaginary and the city lights in Mexican rural childhood

Othón Baños Ramírez

The process of social change is affected by the subjective perceptions of present and future events. The imaginary of girls and boys about their housing and future employment, allows us to learn about, the impact suffered by the symbolic substratum of everyday life and, the housing in a rural Mayan community, which is transformed into actions on behalf of the users. The occupational aspirations of these children reveal a potential diversified profile of goals, which although they may not be fully achieved, will be capable of incentivating the new dynamics of the rural social warp.

Key words: social change, expectations, fragmentation, traditions, imaginary, symbols.
Text received on March 20th, 2001, approved on November 14th, 2001.

Culture-environment relationship in anthropology: recount and perspectives

Leticia Durand

A historical recount of the main ideas explaining the environment-society relationship that have emerged from anthropology is offered in this article. Considering, that reality is socially constructed, on the one hand, and on the other, that not every-

thing that exists in reality is a cultural construction of meaning. For this reason, environmental problems do exist, even when the interpretation and the perception varies between social groups. The contribution that anthropology must make for the understandig of environmental problems, is to explain it as the outcome of a particular relation of the environment; this also contributes to the explain why some environmental problems have been transformed into social problems that deserve social action and concern, and why others don't it.

Key words: anthropology, culture, society-environment relationship, perspectives
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