



Introduction

When Masculinities Journal first started out, it aimed to address the 'masculinity crisis' as a main problem, to deal with the relations between masculinity and power, and to explore new solutions developed for the 'masculinity crisis'. Looking back from the 15th issue, it can be said that almost every issue of the journal corresponds to the different types of masculinity crisis in the context of the national and global agendas. Unfortunately, some phenomena, such as the climate crisis, forced migrations, epidemics (especially Covid-19 Pandemic), and regional wars continue to bring out various manifestations of masculinity, and new problems arising from these manifestations to our agenda.

The non-functionality of the programmatic structure of the modern paradigm shows itself here as well: It is almost impossible to make predictions for the current crisis without considering its irrational and undifferentiated components. Perhaps it can be said that we are no longer in the age of rational predictions. Although some philosophers call our age a post-truth era, we are actually experiencing the always-present dilemmas of the modern paradigm. The determining dynamics of life have shown us for centuries that we cannot explain either violence or male hegemony by purely rational arguments or predictions. Moreover, in the age we live, the only thing we can predict is that masculine violence will increase in such uncertain, fragile situations.

Nietzsche thought that instead of objectivity, universal criteria, and the dominative subject; uncertainty, fragility and precariousness would lead people to create the possibility of a genuine existence. However, it is clear that the state of insecurity and uncertainty we are in, has not yet given us such an existential opportunity. Increasing security concerns after the Covid-19 Pandemic paved the way for

authoritarianism, as well as exposing how isolation and introversion from the public sphere support masculine violence. On the other hand, the crises in the Middle East and the mass migrations that followed, have shown once again how important the influence of culture and religion are on the phenomenon of masculinity and violence, as we have seen in Afghanistan most recently. In addition to the militarization of culture, the confrontation of immanent masculine codes in culture which have strong ties with the authority and power, caused the consolidation of the masses and arbitrary acts of violence by regimes. For this reason, it is still vitally important to question the immanent masculine values in cultural codes. The rationalization of the irrational aspects of culture has proceeded, itself, with a practice of imposition and it is often accompanied by masculine violence. Admittedly, some of the key topics that can most clearly identify masculine violence in cultural production are sexuality, body, and sexual experiences with the exception of heterosexual relationships. Based on Thomas Savage's *The Power of the Dog*, Blake Allmendinger analyzes the novel under the influence of normative determinations and also focuses on its reproduction and interpretation through film adaptations. The article entitled "*Cattle Castration and Male Sexuality in Thomas Savage's The Power of the Dog*" also reveals some similarities between fictional Montana in the 1920s and the real-life West today. Thus, Allmendinger reveals that the productions which are inherent in culture have a counterpart in our lives, even though we cannot express them in a rational way.

Deniz Zorlu's article deals with the reproduction of cultural values from a point where popular culture and old myths intersect. Zorlu focuses on the Turkish TV series *Resurrection: Ertuğrul* and the *Magnificent Century* in his work entitled "*Hegemonic Masculinities in Popular Culture and the Appeal of Authoritarian Rule: A Comparative Examination of Magnificent Century (2011-2014) and Resurrection: Ertuğrul (2014-2019)*" to explain how hegemonic masculinity in modern Turkey is reproduced in popular culture, by turning to the myths of the Ottoman period and how it is fed by cultural dynamics and historical

examples. The author also reveals the connection between such popular productions and authoritarianism.

The reproduction of masculinity is not just a phenomenon influenced by the specific characteristics of the culture. Nation-state processes, capitalist modes of production, post-colonial changes, political and economic factors etc. must also be taken into account. Kaushalya Ariyaratne, in the article entitled "*To be or Not to be Seen? Paradox of Recognition among Trans Men in Sri Lanka*", expounds masculinity especially based on the life experiences of young trans men, analyses power relations in Sri Lanka, the post-war position of the country and its relation to the capitalist relations of production, and examines its effects on the perception of body and identity.

We have also a work-in-progress paper in this issue. Süleyman Bölükbaş and Zeynep Özgül deal with the macho culture of Colombian and Turkish cultures in the descriptions of Gabriel Garcia Márquez and Metin Kaçan, and claim that different, even opposite images of bullying produce a common hegemonic masculinity practice in a similar way. In their study "*A Comparative Criticism of Hegemonic Masculinities in Chronicle of a Death Foretold and Ağır Roman*", they also use Butler's concept of «performativity» as the basis and point out the ascendancy of hegemonic masculinity which is achieved through culture, institutions, and persuasion, by referring to Connell and Messerschmidt.

In the last part of this issue, Şahinde Yavuz scrutinizes the book "*Türkiye'de Feminist Yöntem*" (Feminist Methodology in Turkey) edited by Emine Erdoğan and Nehir Gündoğdu as a critique of the "male subject" of traditional/positivist social sciences. In this book review, written in Turkish, Yavuz mentions the importance of this book by stating that translation and copyrighted works on feminist methodology are very limited in Turkey.

Masculinities Journal would like to thank all the authors who contributed to this 15th issue for their support and the readers for their interest. The supreme source of motivation of all ICSM members working on a voluntary basis and under difficult conditions is that you read the

journal with pleasure and share it with others. We would like to invite researchers working on relevant themes to submit their works to our journal, share this issue widely and give us feedback. Please visit the journal's website or send us an e-mail for more information.

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On Behalf on the Editorial Board of
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