Abstract

A new fashionable word occurred in masculinity studies several years ago. Toxic masculinity describes negative side effects of the hegemonic image of masculinity. This image affects men in their behaviour and thus society as a whole. However there seem to be no alternatives to the toxic hegemonic way of being masculine. Especially the strict hierarchal binary in which men face sanctions if they behave effeminately, which is perceived ‘unmanly’, makes being a ‘good man’ seem to be impossible. But is it?

Based on Connell’s hegemonic masculinity and the younger concept of progressive masculinities, the contribution investigates the precondition and the potential of a politically aware and responsible understanding of queer progressive masculine gender-performance, as a way of escaping the toxic effects of hegemonic gender performance. But why not give up the whole thing? Why still call it masculinities? Because major changes like this require steps which many can follow. So instead of calling for the end of all gender traits the solution is making them become a matter of choice.

The article investigates the position of queer progressive gender performances as an alternative and a link between the strict gender-binary and a gender-diverse future, also stating that queerness and political awareness open ‘gender’ up for intersectional perspectives.