

A photograph of a man curled on his side on a concrete floor in a dark, industrial environment. The man is shirtless and appears to be resting or sleeping. The background is filled with pipes, wires, and structural elements, illuminated by a single bright light source from above, creating strong shadows and highlights. The overall mood is somber and gritty.

Decoding Masculinity

A CONVERSATION ON RACE, RELIGION & MASCULINITY

KEY QUESTIONS.

How have the intersections of masculinity been challenged through time and place?

Which social constructs add value or demean masculinity in the creative sectors?

How do we envision these constructs in the future?

How does your work add to the narrative of Masculinity?

KEY TERMS.

AFAB Assigned female at birth

AMAB Assigned male at birth

Ally A person of one social identity group who stands up in support of members of another group; typically a member of a dominant group standing beside member(s) of a group being discriminated against or treated unjustly

Cisgender Denoting or relating to a person whose self-identity conforms with the gender that corresponds to their biological sex; not transgender.

Colonial Masculinity On one hand it's the scripts given to White, European, Colonising men. A masculinity defined against the behaviours of colonial subjects who could be considered men. At the same time, it's the scripts beaten, disciplined into colonial subjects of what a colonised male subject should be, do, aspire to.

Critical Race Theory A theoretical framework in the social sciences focused upon the application of critical theory, a critical examination of society and culture, to the intersection of race, law, and power. CRT proposes that white supremacy and racial power are maintained over time, and that the law may play a role in this process and investigated the possibility of transforming the relationship between law and racial power.

Cultural Appropriation This almost always involves members of the dominant culture (or those who identify with it) "borrowing" from the cultures of minority groups.

Diaspora scattered populations whose origins lie within a smaller geographic locale. Diaspora can also refer to the movement of the population from its original homeland.

Black A member of a dark-skinned people, especially one of African, Australian and Caribbean Aboriginal ancestry. A term used in certain countries, often in socially based systems of racial classification or of ethnicity.

Black Masculinity	“Black masculinity is defined in three overarching categories: perception, expectation, and representation. It is impossible to define Black masculinity without addressing the stereotypes that are attributed to the portrayals of Black men in our society”. - Audre Lorde.
Black Feminism	The belief that sexism, class oppression, gender identity and racism are impossible to separate. These concepts relate to each other through intersectionality
Brown	Brown or brown people is a racial and ethnic classification. Like black people and white people, it is a metaphor for race based on human skin color. ... In Brazil, brown people is a cognate term for pardo
Desi	A term referring to something or someone who is from the Indian subcontinent. The Indian subcontinent is comprised of the following major countries: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives.
LGBTQIA	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and Asexual
Equality	A state in which all individuals or social groups are treated fairly, equally and no less favourably; be it by virtue of their race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation or age. Equality stands for inclusion and is against discrimination.
Fascism	A form of radical authoritarian nationalism that came to prominence in early 20th-century Europe, influenced by national syndicalism. Fascism originated in Italy during World War I and spread to other European countries.
Female	The biological term for the sex of an organism, referring to animals and humans or plants. The sex of most mammals, including humans, is genetically determined by XX for females.
Female Masculinity	A new understanding of masculine behaviors and identities which go against the societal norm of embodying masculinity.
Feminism	Fight for equality of all genders.

Femininity	A set of behaviours, presentations and roles which are culturally associated with being a woman and/or possessing female sex characteristics. People of any gender identity or sexual orientation can be feminine, but those who are assigned female at birth often experience societal pressure to be so.
Gender	Gender refers to a person's experience of their identity relative to the categories of masculinity and femininity and any other genders recognised by their society. Every person's gender is a complex and unique experience, and it can be difficult to express this gender to others.
Gender Fluid	A gender identity which refers to a gender which varies over time. A gender fluid person may at any time identify as male, female, neutrois, or any other non-binary identity, or some combination of identities.
Gender Queer	Gender queer is an umbrella term with a similar meaning to non-binary. It can be used to describe any gender identities other than man and woman, thus outside of the gender binary.
Hypermasculinity	Term for the exaggeration of male stereotypical behavior, such as an emphasis on physical strength, aggression, and sexuality.
Heteronormative	The belief that people can only fall into distinct and complementary genders (man and woman) with fixed traditional gender roles. It assumes that heterosexuality is the only sexual orientation or the only norm.
Hegemonic masculinity	Is defined as the current configuration of practice that legitimizes men's dominant position in society and which justifies the subordination of women, and other marginalized ways of being a man. AKA Toxic Masculinity
Homophobia	is the fear of being thought queer because of behavior that is typically considered gender atypical.

Intersectional	Is a concept often used in critical theories to describe the ways in which oppressive institutions (racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, xenophobia, classism, etc.) are interconnected and cannot be examined separately from one another. The concept first came from legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989 and is largely used in critical theories, especially Feminist theory, when discussing systematic oppression. When possible, credit Kimberlé Crenshaw for coining the term "intersectionality" and bringing the concept to wider attention
Intersectional Feminism	A perspective within feminism that doesn't exclude people from the movement based on their Gender, Race and Class.
Intersex	An intersex person has sex characteristics e.g.sexual anatomy, reproductive organs, and/or chromosome patterns that do not fit the typical definition of male or female. This may be apparent at birth or become so later in life.
Inclusive Masculinity	Men becoming more inclusive within their gender.
Islamophobia	The prejudice, hatred, or bigotry directed towards Islam or Muslims.
Racism	The belief that all members of each race possess characteristics, abilities, or qualities specific to that race, especially so as to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race/s.
Male	The biological term for a sex of an organism, referring to animals and humans or plants. The sex of most mammals, including humans, is genetically determined by XY for males.
Man	is a gender identity which is part of the gender binary. Man is a term used for adults, and corresponds to the terms boy (for children), male (adjective) and masculinity.
Masculinity	is a set of behaviours, presentations and roles which are culturally associated with being a man and/or possessing male sex characteristics. People of any gender identity or sexual orientation can be masculine, but those who are assigned male at birth often experience societal pressure to be so. Transgender people who are masculine may be described as transmasculine.

Manhood	The notion of manhood is exclusively concerned with the concept of being the 'breadwinner', which agitates hierarchical structures, provoking one to be 'tough' and stimulates phrases such as "act like a man", which is, by far, more complex than just an 'act'.
Marginalise	To relegate to the fringes, out of the mainstream; make seem unimportant. to place in a position of marginal importance, influence, or power.
Masculinity	A set of behaviours, presentations, and roles which are culturally associated with being a man and/or possessing male sex characteristics. People of any gender identity or sexual orientation can be masculine, but those who are assigned male at birth often experience societal pressure to be so.
Masculinity Bias	Bias toward the observation of/interviews with males in a culture.
Matriarchy	A form of social organization in which the mother or oldest female is the head of the family, and descent and relationship are reckoned through the female line; government or rule by a woman or women
Misogyny	Hatred of, contempt for, or prejudice against women or girls. Misogyny can be manifested in numerous ways, including social exclusion, sex discrimination, hostility, androcentrism, patriarchy, male privilege, belittling of women, violence against women, and sexual objectification.
Misogynoir	A term referring to misogyny directed towards Black women, where race and gender both play roles in bias.
Mixedraceness	A person that descends of two or more different races; also known as mixed, biracial or multiracial.
Muslim	A follower of the religion of Islam.
Non -Binary	A form of gender identity which reject the gender binary.
Oppression	When a person or a group of people are subjected to unfair treatment by those in positions of power.
Patriarchy	A social system in which Males hold primary power, predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property at the specific exclusion of men, at least to a large degree.

Pedagogies Of Social Justice	the art of teaching through the lenses of Social Justice. This includes utilising an intersectional approach to race, gender, faith, disability, class...
POC	People of Colour
Political Blackness	Political blackness is the idea that all non-white people can define themselves under one term: black.
Privilege	A special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group.
Prejudice	Hatred towards someone based on their identity. Example: An oppressed person of colour can be prejudice against privileged races but cannot be racist.
Pro Black	Definition of PRO: For; in respect of; on account of; in behalf of. Thus, to be pro-Black doesn't mean to be anti-white.
QTIPOC	Queer Trans and Intersex People of Colour
Queer	An umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities that are not heterosexual and/or cisgender.
Resistant femininity	Women embodying resistant femininity reject the conventional norms of femininity in society and adopt liberated lifestyles and identities.
Representation	Refers to equality in opportunity and visibility. For example, representative media is media that is reflective of the variety of races, cultures, genders or religions that its entire readership belongs to.
Roadman	A colloquial term or slang used homogeneously, to describe a character who literally spends a lot of his time on the streets without "real purpose". He knows the ins and outs of his area and may stereotypically be involved or associated with gangs and/ or the selling of drugs. Stereotypically dressed in a full tracksuit and characterised as being aggressive. The term is also often used humorously, as a result, the roadman is less likely to be feared by his peers, in comparison to how he is feared by those outside of the culture/inner city.

Roadman Culture	Pertaining to the character of the roadman; it is a culture of hypermasculinity with many similarities to gang culture. There is a strong brotherhood, but also a very rigid and inflexible idea of what it means to be a man. The roadman culture often fosters a lot of aggression and triggers unhealthy emotional complexes in its members and towards women.
Social Justice	Social justice is the fair and just relation between the individual and society.
Stereotyping	When you judge a group of people who are different from you based on your own and/or others opinions and/or encounters.
Trans-Man	Someone who is both a man and transgender/transsexual. Trans men were assigned female at birth but their gender identity is male.
Trans-Masculine	A term used to describe transgender people who were assigned female at birth, but identify with masculinity to a greater extent than with femininity.
White supremacy	An ideology centered upon the belief, and promotion of the belief, that white people are superior. It is argued by critical race theorist that all white people have a level of white supremacy values because of the media, education and politics have embedded whiteness as superior in society.
White Washing	A term used to describe white actors or actress playing non-fictional and historical non-white character roles. Therefore writing and disconnecting historical events and achievements to the non-white community
Xenophobia	Fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign.

Learn more gender related keywords here:
gender.wikia.com

FURTHER READING.

Books:

Alexander, B.K., 2006. *Performing Black masculinity: Race, culture, and queer identity*. Rowman Altamira.

Berger, J. (1973) *The ways of seeing* Penguin

Butler, J. (1998) *The visual culture reader* second edition New York Routledge

Calhoun, C. (1994a) *Social Theory and the Politics of Identity* in Calhoun, C. (ed.) *Social Theory and the Politics of Identity*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 9-36

Calhoun, C. (1994b) *Preface* in Calhoun, C. (ed.) *Social Theory and the Politics of Identity*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 1-8

Collins, P.H., 2004. *Black sexual politics: African Americans, gender, and the new racism*. Routledge.

D'Emilio, J. (1983) *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Makings of a Sexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970*. 2 edn. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

D'Emilio, J. (1993) 'Capitalism and Gay Identity' in Abelow, H., Barale, M.A., Halperin, D.M. (ed.) *The Lesbian And Gay Studies Reader*. London: Routledge, pp. 467-476.

Foucault, M (1982) 'Sex, Power, and the Politics of Identity' Interview with Foucault. Interviewed by B. Gallagher and A. Wilson for *The Advocate*, 7 August. in Rabinow, P. *Ethics: Subjectivity and Truth, Volume 1*. 2000. London: The Penguin Press, pp. 163-173

hooks, b. (2004) *We Real Cool, black men and masculinity* Routledge

Lemert, C. (1994) *Dark Thoughts About the Self* in Calhoun, C. (ed.) *Social Theory and the Politics of Identity*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 100-130

Lorde, A. (1983, c1982) *Zami, a new spelling of my name* /Trumansburg, N.Y.: Crossing Press

Mapplethorpe, R. (1986) *The black book*, edition 3 Berlin, Schirmer/Mosel

Rutherford, J. (1998) *Male Order, unwrapping Masculinity*, London, Lawrence and Wishart London

Schippers, M., 2007. Recovering the feminine other: Masculinity, femininity, and gender hegemony. *Theory and society*, 36(1), pp.85-102.

Tirosh, Y. (2007) 'Protecting Transgressive Identities: A Contemporary Challenge for Antidiscrimination Law' New York University School of Law. Available at: http://www.law.nyu.edu/sites/default/files/upload_documents/grftiroshpaper.pdf (Accessed 21/11/2015)

Valentova, J.V., Kleisner, K., Havlíček, J., Neustupa, J., (2014) 'Shape Differences Between the Faces of Homosexual and Heterosexual Men'. *Archives of Sexual Behaviour*, 43 (2), pp. 353-361

Yancy, George. *Black Bodies, White Gazes: The Continuing Significance of Race*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Pub. 2008.

Essays & Journals:

Freeman, C., 2001. Is local: global as feminine: masculine? Rethinking the gender of globalization. *Signs*, 26(4), pp.1007-1037.

De'Souza-Hartley, O. What are the dominant forces on the construction of masculinity for men, and particularly black men, within contemporary society. MA Fine Art Research Paper. (Available on Request)

Ferber, A.L., 2007. The construction of black masculinity white supremacy now and then. *Journal of Sport & Social Issues*, 31(1), pp.11-24. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Abby_Ferber/publication/249676040_The_Construction_of_Black_Masculinity_White_Supremacy_Now_and_Then/links/564e162f08aeafc2aab18faf.pdf

Gray, H., 1995. Black masculinity and visual culture. *Callaloo*, 18(2), pp.401-405. <http://sites.middlebury.edu/soan191/files/2013/08/hermangray.pdf>

Identity: An International Journal of Theory and Research <http://www.identitysrif.org/ijtrHome/>

NORMA: International Journal of Masculinity Studies <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rnor20>

Sodipo A. E, 2016. Transgressive Identities: Becoming Unfixed <https://ebunasodipo.wordpress.com/2016/06/06/transgressive-identities-becoming-unfixed/>

The Men's Studies Press <http://www.mensstudies.info/?p=1452>

Online Articles:

ArteFact Magazine - Who is the Black Man? - Cheyanne Ntangu
www.artefactmagazine.com/2016/10/26/who-is-the-black-man/

USA's Mr. Robot actually does everything True Detective pretends to do
www.vox.com/2015/7/29/9068135/mr-robot-usa-true-detective

A surprising number of Americans don't see themselves as hyper-masculine or hyper-feminine - www.vox.com/2015/4/9/8376971/americans-gender-vox-poll

The Guardian - A celebration of Black Fathers.
www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/jul/02/a-celebration-of-black-fathers

The Root - The Impact Of Absent Fathers On Mental Health Of Black Boys
www.theroot.com/articles/culture/2016/01/the_impact_of_absent_fathers_on_the_mental_health_of_black_boys/

Gal - Dem: 'Being Black: Going Crazy? Shows We Need More Conversations About Mental Health'. - Taheira Overmeyer
www.gal-dem.com/new-documentary-black-going-crazy-shows-cant-always-pray/

AfroPunk: UK Black Boys Don't Cry Project Re-imagines Black Masculinity - Eye Candy
www.afropunk.com/profiles/blogs/uk-black-boys-don-t-cry-project-reimagines-black-masculinity

Masculinity In The Digital Age
[www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/ana-mcdonagh/masculinity-in-the-digital_age_b_12616868.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/ana-mcdonagh/masculinity-in-the-digital-age_b_12616868.html)

The Invisible Masculinities of Indian Men
www.voicemalemagazine.org/the-invisible-masculinities-of-indian-men

In Defence of Traditional Indian Masculinity
www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2014/03/23/commentary/world-commentary/in-defense-of-traditional-indian-masculinity/#:WCRiBaOcYdU

"Soushoku:" Men and the Changing Definition of Masculinity in Japan
www.sugataresearch.com/news/blog/2015/02/16/soushoku-men-and-the-changing-definition-of-masculinity-in-japan/

Donald Trump's Toxic Masculinity- Jared Yates Sexton -Oct 16
www.nytimes.com/2016/10/13/opinion/donald-trumps-toxic-masculinity.html

HELPFUL ORGANISATIONS.

AAPF

The African American Policy Forum (AAPF) is an innovative think tank that connects academics, activists and policy-makers to promote efforts to dismantle structural inequality. We utilize new ideas and innovative perspectives to transform public discourse and policy. We promote frameworks and strategies that address a vision of racial justice that embraces the intersections of race, gender, class, and the array of barriers that disempower those who are marginalized in society. AAPF is dedicated to advancing and expanding racial justice, gender equality, and the indivisibility of all human rights, both in the U.S. and internationally.

www.aapf.org

Black British Academics

We are an independent organisation working proactively to enhance race equality across the higher education sector.

OUR MISSION

- To enhance the voice and visibility of staff and students of colour within higher education.
- To highlight the value of the intellectual, social and cultural capital of staff and students of colour and their contribution to the knowledge economy.
- To promote collaboration among academics in the areas of teaching, research and professional practice through networks, events and other relevant activities.
- To encourage academics to contribute to social change through teaching, research, professional practice and academic citizenship.
- To shape policy and practice around race equality within HEIs and HE sector organisations.

[@BLACKBAcademics](https://twitter.com/BLACKBAcademics) // blackbritishacademics.co.uk

Black Fathers Support Group

The Black Fathers support group is an organization whose mission is to reach men and boys where they live, work, play, and pray with sickness prevention messages and tools, screening programs, educational material, advocacy opportunities, and patient referrals.

[@bfsgUK](https://twitter.com/bfsgUK)

Consented

Consented is a multi-media platform for those who aren't accurately represented by the mainstream. Consented was founded in 2015 as an independent project looking to add more diversity to the status quo through our website and our Youtube channel. Based in London with contributors from around the world, Consented welcomes the ideas of any who want to break the mantra of the norm. If you have any questions, requests, media inquiries, contributions, comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us here. Consented accept comments, criticisms and contribution. Keep up to date with all our work here by signing up to our newsletter.

consented.co.uk

Consented Upcoming Event: 'Dissecting Masculinity III'

Following on from Dissecting Masculinity 2.0 in September, consented.co.uk brings you Dissecting Masculinity III to continue the exploration and dissection of masculinity and gendered social norms. Our workshops will explore why men are more likely to suffer from addiction, open a dialogue to deconstruct sex in a patriarchal world, explore the themes of black masculinity and dissect "road man culture" and its relationship with masculinity.

JawaabUK

Building a grassroots youth movement against hate, racism, and Islamophobia.jawaab.org.uk

@JawaabUK

Media Diversified

Is a young and growing non-profit organisation which seeks to cultivate and promote skilled writers of colour by providing advice and contacts and by promoting content online through its own platform. Live since July 2013, the initiative is already diversifying the UK's media landscape, providing important, challenging and original content which contributes to ongoing global discussions on issues of social justice, equality, gender, politics, economics and pop culture.

@WritersofColour

The Black Man Can

TheBlackManCan created in April of 2010 is on a mission to actively promote a positive black male image. TheBlackManCan seeks to become the #1 Source for Positive Images and Narratives of Boys and Men of Color.

[@theblackmancan // theblackmancan.org](http://theblackmancan.org)

SOCIAL JUSTICE WARRIORS/EDUCATORS.

Kat Blaque- Youtuber

Kat Blaque is a transgender African American feminist vlogger, YouTube personality, activist and illustrator. In 2010, she began to vlog more publicly about her life and made an concerted effort to produce a channel with educational content about feminism, gender identity, race, and other social justice issues.

www.youtube.com/channel/UCxFWzKZa74SyAqpJyVIG5Ew

Franchesca Ramsey- Youtuber

Ramsey's YouTube channel contains topical and socially conscious comedy sketches and song parodies among other videos. Her chescaleighs channel is about natural hair. In 2015, Ramsey became the host of the MTV web series Decoded where she takes on racism and culture.

www.youtube.com/user/chescaleigh/featured

Son of Baldwin

Winner of the 2014 Black Weblog Award for Best LGBT Blog

Inspired by the incomparable work of authors James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Marlon Riggs, Audre Lorde, Joseph Beam and other progressive thinkers and literary figures, Son of Baldwin is the literary, sociopolitical, psychosexual, popcultural blog exploring, critically, issues that matter to queer people of color and their allies. We discuss matters of race, sexuality, gender, gender-identity, disability, class, and the intersections thereof.

FB & Tw: [sonofbaldwinfb](https://www.facebook.com/sonofbaldwinfb)

Keith Dube

Writer and Radar Radio Host, creator of the documentary 'Being Black, Going Crazy?' for BBC

[@MrExposed](https://www.instagram.com/MrExposed/) // keithdube.co

J. I. Darsini

I'm primarily concerned with the question of what healing, transformation, and revolution mean not just in a systemic/structural context, or merely in the context of particular identities and kinds of social membership, but in the context of people and humanness.

sftn.tumblr.com

Dr Gabriel

Dr Gabriel is a full-time academic at Bournemouth University in the faculty of Media and Communication and during her academic career has lectured in journalism, media, politics and corporate marketing communications. She is concerned with contributing to social change through the innovation of pedagogies of social justice and cultural democracy and prides herself on creative thinking and embedding her philosophy of social justice and equality across teaching, research and professional practice.

Jacob Joyce

Jacob V Joyce is a non binary interdisciplinary artist that disrupts commercial and community spaces with queer and decolonial, creative interventions. Currently working as an illustrator for Global Justice Now, Jacob creates the artwork for international human rights campaigns as well as comic books and zines addressing personal and global instances of systemic oppression. As a member of the sorryoufeeluncomfortable collective and the front person for the band Screaming Toenail, Jacob's work brings satirical and theatrical critiques to institutional and every day instances of marginalisation. As well as self-publishing a number of illustrated books addressing a variety of political issues, Jacob performs spoken word and solo electronic music which combines ritualistic voice looping with poetic strategies of resistance. In the past, Jacob has curated a number of exhibitions including the two week Brixton based festival Survival Guides which featured art works, performances, and workshops by over 50 artists. Jacob was one of many activists involved in organising the five London Queer Social Centres and more recently the QTIPOC (queer trans intersex people of colour) lead/centred Queer Picnic. Studying a Masters in Art and Politics at Goldsmiths until 2018 Jacob intends to continue using art to support and encourage working class, Poc, LGBTQIA and other groups who are perpetually disenfranchised by UK governments to communally and autonomously take direct action and force structural changes in our political
@jacobvjoyce // Jacobvjoyce.com

Travis Alabanza

Travis Alabanza is a Black, transfemme performance artist and writer that works and survives in London. Their work uses live performance, with a combination of poetry, soundscape, projection and theatrics, to create confrontational art surrounding their experience of being Black and Trans and survival.
travisalabanza.co.uk // @travisalabanza

Wasif sayyed

Wasif.Scion. [exit elai immortal] Heavy Light Illum. Shadowless. A Hip-Hop artist, writer, music engineer & child educator.
@WasifScion

HASHTAGS TO FOLLOW.

#BlackLivesMatter

An activist movement in the United States that began in the wake of the July 2013 acquittal of George Zimmerman in the Florida shooting death of African-American teen Trayvon Martin. The Black Lives Matter movement campaigns against police brutality in the United States against African-Americans.

#blackboysdontcry

BBDC (Black Boys Don't Cry) created by IGGYLDN is a project designed to deconstruct the ideals of black masculinity and manhood in the 21st century. BBDC is led by three creative mediums (spoken word, videography and photography) in order to bring to light the challenges that young black men face in today's society.

#BLACKTRANSEVERYTHING

@BlackTransMedia reframes the value and worth of black trans people by building community/media/education for racial and gender justice.

TWITTER USERS TO FOLLOW.

@GNBlackPride
@centerblacklgbt
@MarvinsCorridor
@wasifscion
@bellhooks
@ForHarriet