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How Alternative Masculinity Types Fit Inside the Strict World of Hegemonic Masculinity

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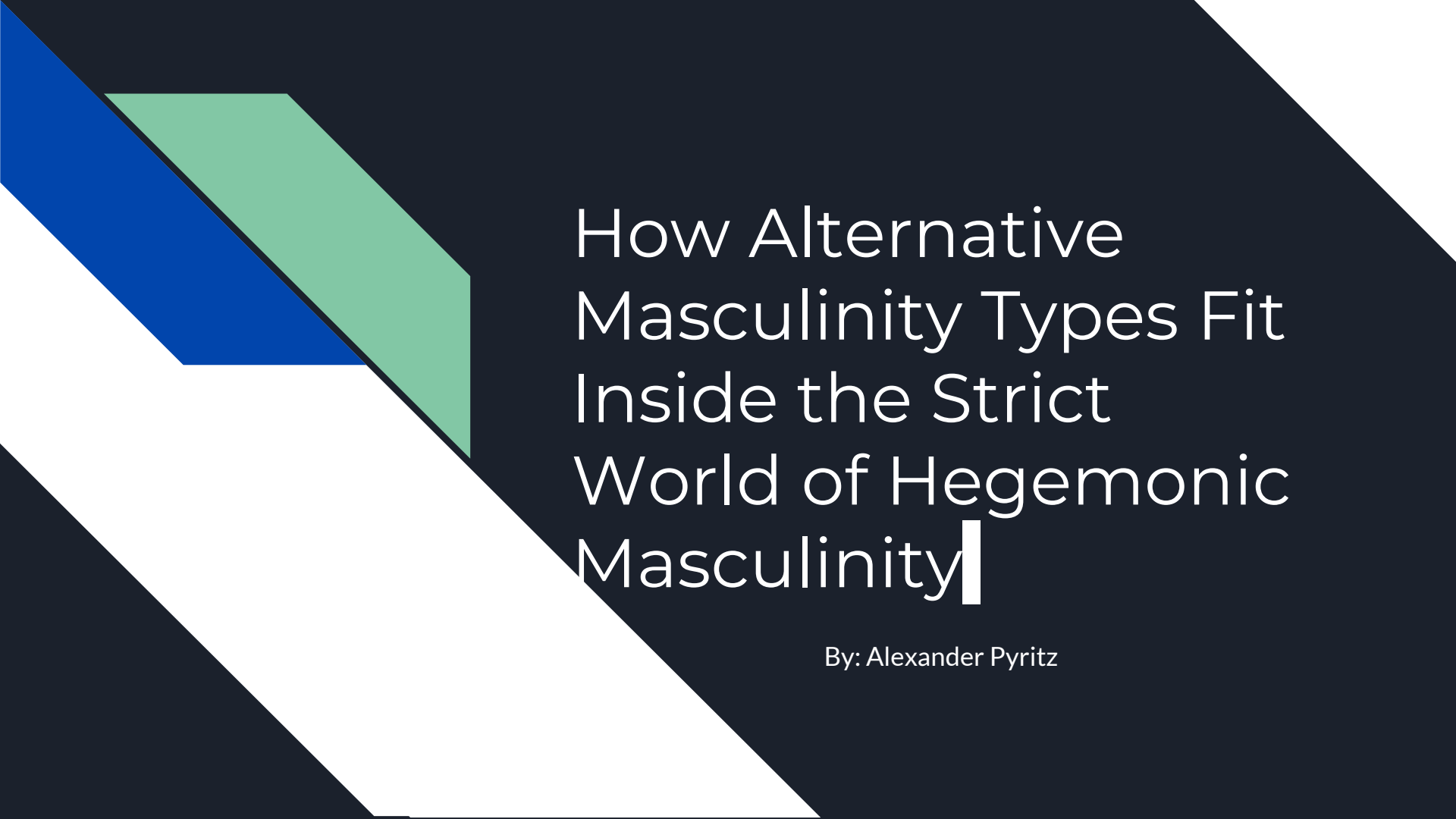
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By: Alexander Pyritz



Gender Construction

Traditional Gender Model (Normative)

Sex:	Male	Female
Gender Role or Expression:	Masculine	Feminine
Gender Identity:	Man	Woman
Sexual Orientation:	Attracted to women	Attracted to men

Authentic Gender Model

Sex:	Male.....Intersex.....Female
Gender Role or Expression:	Masculine...Androgynous...Feminine
Gender Identity:	Man.....Both.....Neither.....Woman
Sexual Orientation Attracted to:	Women.....Both.....Neither.....Men



Traditional* Masculinity

- Hegemonic Masculinity:
 - a practice that legitimizes men's dominant position in society and justifies the subordination of the general male-identifying population and female-identifying population, and other marginalized gender identities
 - Always adapting to current society's expectations and status quo
 - Impossible to attain



Alternative Masculinities

1. Changing Military Masculinities
2. Transgender Masculinity
3. Female Masculinity
4. Fluid Masculinity



Changing Military Masculinities

- Military setting has traditionally been a setting that favors hegemonic masculinity, but changes in military masculinities brings a shift to this
- Hybrid Masculinity
 - Combining aggression and sensitivity
- Peacekeeper Masculinity
 - Focus on peacekeeping, peacebuilding and humanitarian operations
- Soldier-Scholar Masculinity
 - “the ultimate in civic virtues, he is also the embodiment of international wisdom, war-fighting prowess, and a kind of knowingness about the world” (Duncanson, 238)
- Broadening what is acceptable as “masculinity”



Transgender Masculinity

- Study that aimed to understand workplace inequalities through an in-depth study of FTM (Female-to-Male) transgender persons
- Participants in the study were able to experience female subordination in the workplace prior to transition, and then experienced patriarchal advantage after transitioning
 - “In undergoing a physical transition, transmen move from being socially gendered as women to being socially gendered as men (Dozier 2005). This shift in gender attribution gives them the potential to develop an “outsider-within” perspective” (Collin 1986) on the sources of men’s advantages in the workplace” (Schlit 473)
- “This perspective can be limited by the age of transition, appearance, and type of occupation” (474)



Transgender Masculinity

- Barriers
 - Treatment in the workplace before and after transitioning
 - “Thomas, an attorney, relates an episode in which an attorney who worked for an associated law firm commended his boss for firing Susan, here a pseudonym for his female name, because she was incompetent? adding that the "new guy" [i.e., Thomas] was "just delightful." The attorney did not realize that Susan and "the new guy" were the same person with the same abilities, education, and experience.” (Schilt, 476)
 - Body Structure
 - Taller men more valued than shorter men
 - Race
 - Treatment of a trans man of color vs. white trans man
 - Transition Strategy
 - Transitioning while working the same job or switching jobs
 - Age
 - Transitioning at younger age vs. older age



Female Masculinity

- Transgender Butch vs. Female Masculinity
 - Transgender Butch being a person who identifies as transgender and presents themselves in a masculine way
 - Female Masculinity being a person who identifies as female and presents themselves in a masculine way
- Seeing this presentation style as home
- Idea of moving from one home to another (homes being bodies) and Idea of fluidity
 - Arguing that neither idea captures the idea of female masculinity
 - Destination as home
 - Moving away from transsexuality



Fluid Masculinity

- Study focusing on the BDSM community in which certain people embody power and masculinity for sexual pleasure to be “dominant” or “submissive” for sexual pleasure
- BDSM
 - Is about communication and safety
 - Most imagine the BDSM community as a dangerous and deviant practice, but is actually far from this
 - BDSM is used often as a place for people to get over sexual assault or trauma because of how empowering and safe it is.
- “In this article, I have argued in favor of employing a broad definition of trans masculinities that includes temporary, playful and erotic appropriations of masculinity” (Bauer, 249)



Fluid Masculinity

- Fluid masculinity in this context discusses the ability to embody a certain gender for a certain amount of time or in certain situations
 - Trying things on for size and pleasure
- “Trans masculinities emerging in les-bi-trans-queer BDSM practices could be a temporary sexual adventure, when crossing gender lines or intentionally making use of gender stereotypes could provide a kick. At other times or for other individuals, gender-based play in BDSM resulted in more permanent attachment to masculinities,” (241)
- “Through assuming a different gender, age and class position, the player is trying to experience difference through an embodied performance.” (Bauer 241)



Conclusion

- Most male-identifying people have times in their lives in which they struggle trying to meet the standards of hegemonic masculinity
 - Everyone struggles to try and attain the standards
 - This causes harm to men and boys
- There is a range of masculinities being practiced that helps to highlight the potential for pain



Works Cited

- “Hegemonic Masculinity and the Possibility of Change in Gender Relations” by Claire Duncanson
- “Transgender Butch: Butch/FTM Border Wars and the Masculine Continuum from Female Masculinity” by Judith Halberstam
- “Just One of the Guys? How Transmen Make Gender Visible at Work” by Kristen Schilt
- “Desiring masculinities while desiring to question masculinity? How embodied masculinities are renegotiated in les-bi-trans-queer BDSM practices” by Robin Bauer