



Austrian Conference on Men 2011

Diversity of Masculinities October 20th – 21st 2011 Graz, Austria

Press information

Austrian Conference on Men 2011 Diversity of Masculinities

Getting to grips with male orientation patterns as a contribution to gender democracy

WHEN: October 20th – 21st 2011

WHERE: FH Joanneum, Eggenberger Allee 11, 8020 Graz

For detailed information, program and registration please see

<http://maennertagung2011.mur.at>

Due to the limited number of participants, interested persons are encouraged to register early!

WHAT: Which images of masculinity influence men (and women) in their social interactions? The conference deals with the diversity of male self-perception and male role-models which influence our social relations mostly without reflection.

Complex and conflicting relations that exist between men and women as well as among groups of men who differ in terms of power (managers, homo/bisexuals, immigrants,...) are discussed in the light of current Gender Mainstreaming.

Starting point for the discussion is the concept of “**Hegemonic Masculinity**” introduced by the Australian sociologist **Raewyn Connell**: The white, heterosexual, well-toned and successful manager acts as role-model for a (globalized) culture, including some men, subordinating many and even expelling others. And all men share in subordinating women....

WHO: MAIN SPEAKERS

Raewyn CONNELL: sociologist (Australia). Connell presents current topics in men's studies and the global range of these findings.

Thomas GESTERKAMP: journalist, author (Germany). He asks whether the highly cited 'crisis of the tough guys' added to the differentiation of masculinities.

Erich LEHNER: psychoanalyst, gender research, research on men. What characterises critical work on men regarding the diversity of male orientation patterns?

Rudolf HUNDSTORFER: Federal Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (Austria). Minister Hundstorfer gives a keynote address followed by discussion.

WHY:

Women are far more engaged in the gender mainstreaming process than men. But how can men be brought on board? A lack of knowledge of the construction of masculinities and the necessity to win boys and men over to actively promote equality result in a large demand for the topic of the conference.

Women experts articulate the need for additional qualification in the work with boys/men apart from their own – biased - work on girls/women.

Male experts in social work are challenged by overcoming their own and external masculinity concepts within their 'feminized' profession.

FOR WHOM: The conference aims at men and women as multipliers for gender mainstreaming, scientists, counsellors, pedagogues, human resource managers, experts in the fields of work on boys/girls/men/women, and the interested public.

HOW:

In her opening speech, Raewyn Connell presents the concept of hegemonic masculinity and current topics of her transnational studies. Hegemony, subordination, complicity and marginalization mark Connell's "internal relations within gender roles".

The following workshops pick up these assumptions and discuss the following topics, e.g.:

WS2 '*Men in gender equality processes*' (**Complicity** of men or: Why do men get stuck while trying to actively promote equality?)

WS3 '*queer & multicultural*' - Sexual orientation patterns of homosexual and bisexual men in a multicultural society. (The predominance of heterosexual men and the **subordination** of homosexual men. Homosexuality is considered as femininity.)

WS4 **Marginalisation/Migration** (transcultural aspects in the work on men: gender socialisation and the changeability of masculinity)

The second day of the conference will focus on internal relations within gender roles, dynamics, conflicting fields and potentials: Round Tables on "Current issues in critical men's studies", "Does boy's work need girl's work?", "Diversity as a factor during studies", "Divorced fathers", "Clash of masculinities", "Gender democracy – policy on men?", "Men as victims of abuse and sexual violence", "aQUEERium - same water, different fish", "Dealing with role models in intercultural youth work".

“The conference wants to foster gender democracy and add to the dialogue of the sexes”, states Mag.^a Elli Scambor, sociologist and member of the organizational team.

“We want to promote questioning one’s own theories-in-use of masculinity (and femininity)”, adds Roland Elmer, psychotherapist and director of Men's Counseling Center Graz.

“Bridging theory and practice provides tools for working on boys and men in a professional and gender-equal way”, states Mag.(FH) Michael Kurzmann, member of Men's Counseling Center Graz.

The Austrian Conference on Men 2011 is organised by the Men's Counseling Center Graz in cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences, FH Joanneum Graz/ Social Work degree programme.

Co-operative Partners: AMÖ (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Männerberatungsstellen und Männerbüros Ö), Genderwerkstätte Graz, Grazer Frauenrat, Koordinationsstelle für Geschlechterstudien, Frauenforschung und Frauenförderung, Katholische Männerbewegung, mur.at, Grüne Akademie und MigrantInnenbeirat.

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Bürgermeisteramt, Stadt Graz Soziales.

Organizational team: Roland Elmer, Elli Scambor, Michael M. Kurzmann (all: Men's Counseling Center Graz).

Moderation: Renata Schmidtkunz (journalist ORF/Ö1), Thomas Gesterkamp.

Dear Editor,

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