

**Tereskinas A. *About Men and Masculinities: Forms and Politics of Masculinity in Contemporary Lithuania.*** - Gender studies center Vilnius university.- V.- 2004.- 47 p.

This work provides a short introduction to men's and masculinity studies and analyzes available statistical data on men in Lithuania. Describing the main concepts and categories of men's studies it examines the prevailing forms and types of masculinity in contemporary Lithuania.

The opinion poll entitled "The Crises of Men's Roles in Lithuania" conducted in 2002 reveals that both Lithuanian men and women subscribe to the traditional norms of "hegemonic masculinity." This "hegemonic masculinity" is based on heterosexuality, economic autonomy, being able to provide for one's family, being rational and successful, keeping one's emotions in check" and above all not doing anything considered feminine. Hegemonic male norms stress values such as courage, aggression, autonomy, mastery, technological skill, adventure, and toughness in mind and body. This type of masculinity does not pay much attention to male appearance, his body and his emotional life.

The study also discusses the possibilities of the politics of masculinity in Lithuania in the face of the post-structuralist critiques of gender, sexuality and identity. It raises two questions central to masculinity politics and policies: How can we assess the meanings and significance of contemporary men's changes? And to what extent do men's changes support a feminist project of social transformation?

Emphasizing the value of promoting self-awareness and critical reflection about gender identities among men, the study argues that empowerment, social justice and progressive gender change can be best achieved through strategic partnerships and alliances between men and women. Initiatives promoting equitable gender relations might involve using established men's networks, influencing mass media images and employing the educational system to challenge cultural concepts of masculinity among boys and girls.

Even more importantly, there is the growing need for more research into men and masculinities in Lithuania; it is particularly necessary to reconsider game of the theories and concepts that underlie men's studies and gender policies and to deconstruct gender identities in Lithuania and in the region.