

“Power, Sport and Masculinities”

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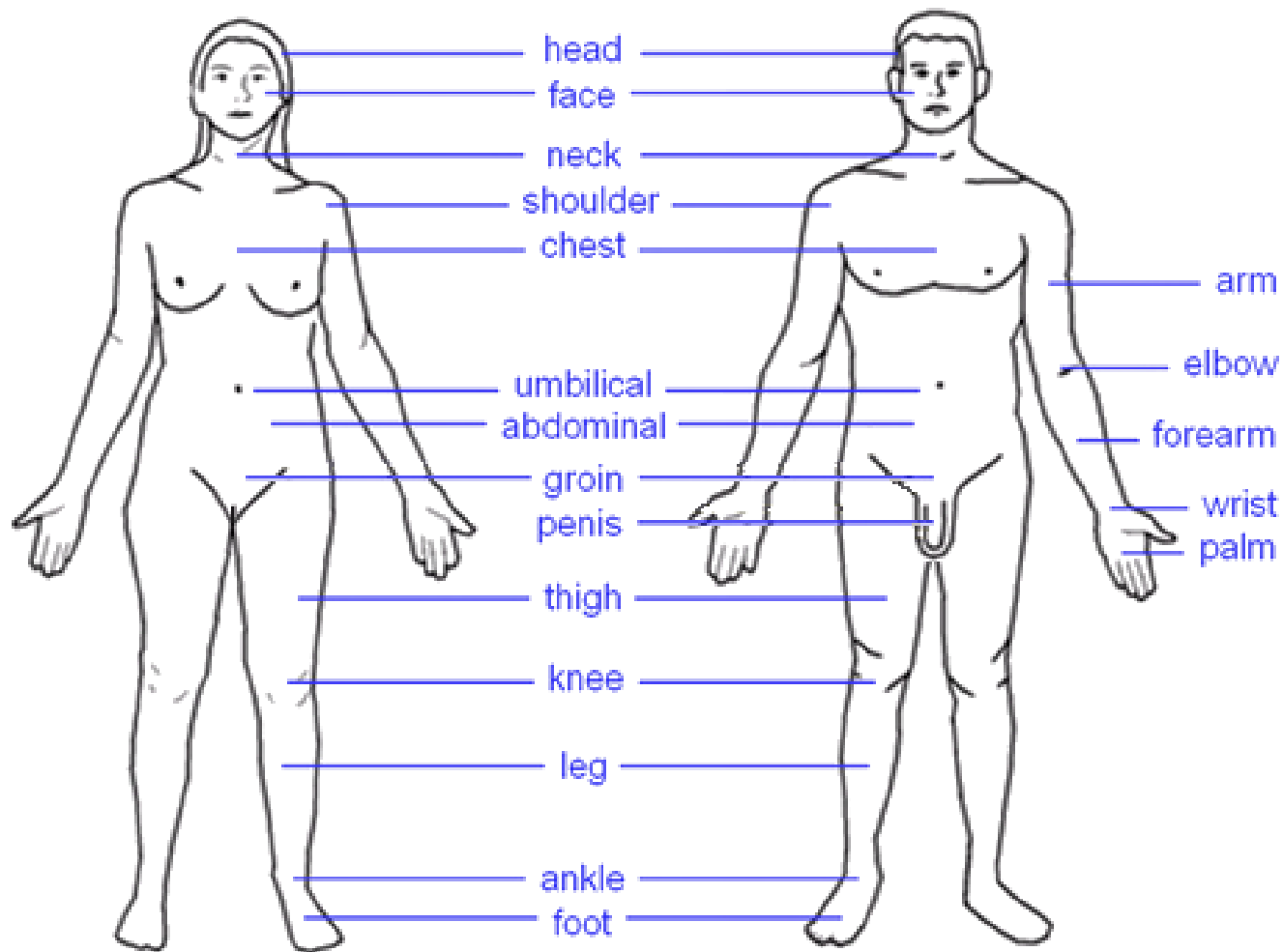
Module 1: Structures and Processes
focused on a macro/societal level of
analysis.

In Module 2: Bodies and Identities,
we are going to focus on a
micro/individual level of analysis,
and focus on the various ways that
contemporary physical culture is
lived and experienced.

Theme 1:

De-Naturalizing the Body and Sex/Gender Differences

The Body: A “*Natural*” Biological Entity?



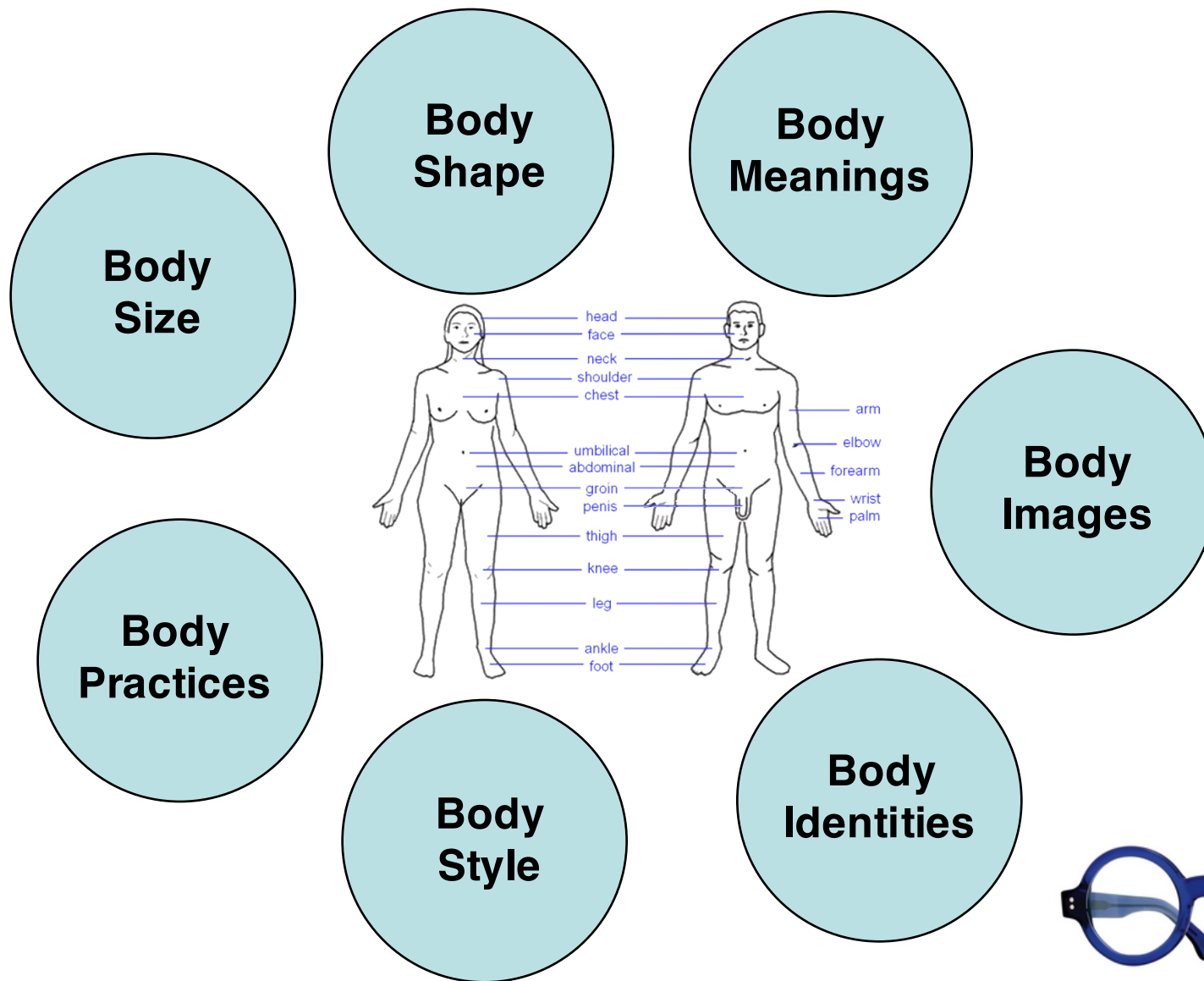
The **ACTIVE BODY** is **not** a **WHOLLY NATURAL** entity.

It is a also **PHYSICAL** and **SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION**:

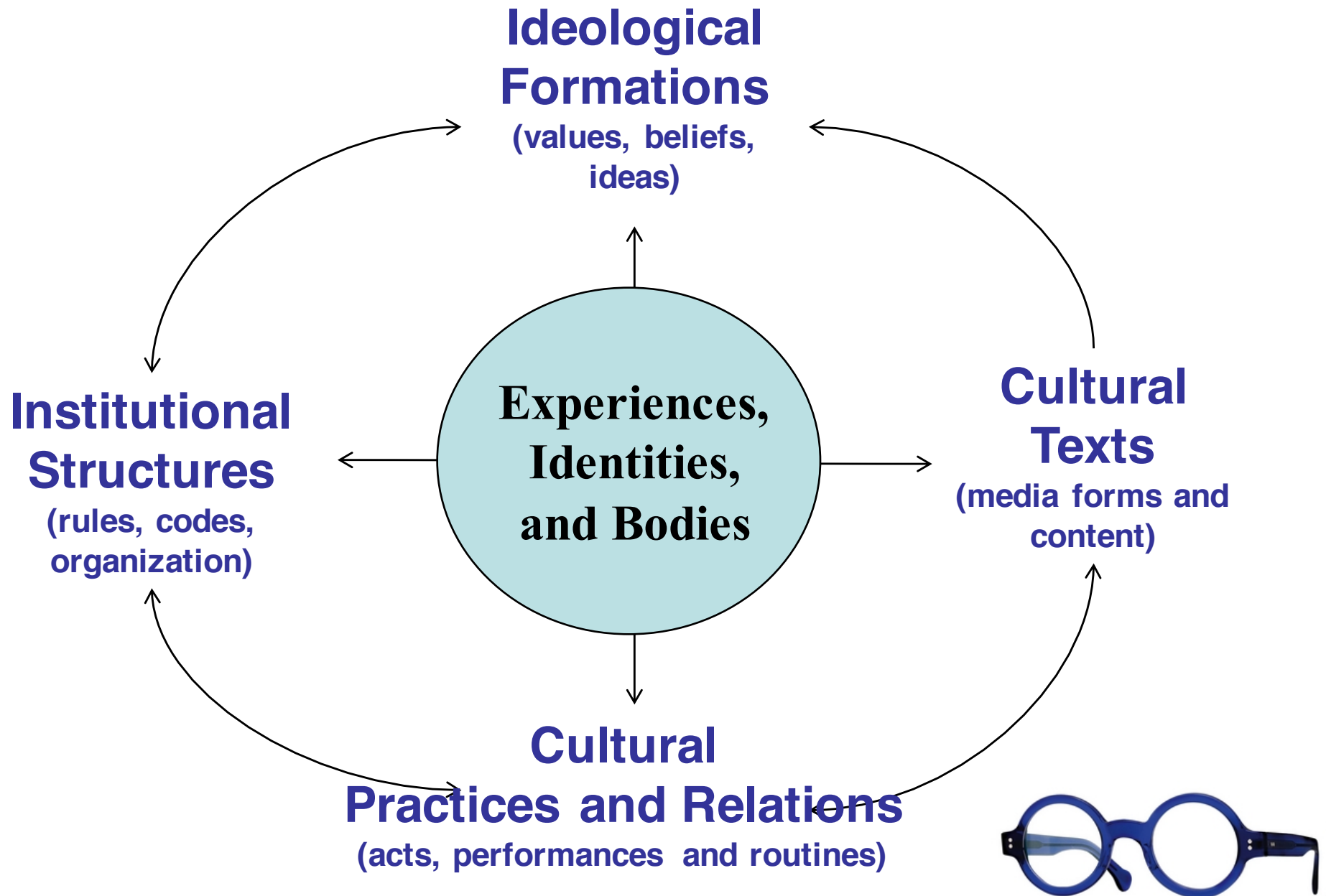
The **ACTIVE BODY** is shaped by, as it helps to shape, the **SOCIAL CONTEXT/ENVIRONMENT** in which it is located.

How do we begin to understand the **socially constructed active body**?

A **NATURAL**, but **ALSO** a **SOCIAL** (CULTURAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, and TECHNOLOGICAL) entity.

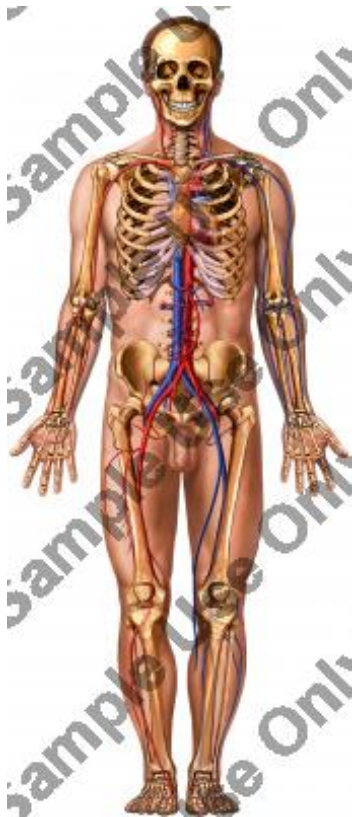


The Social Construction of the Individual



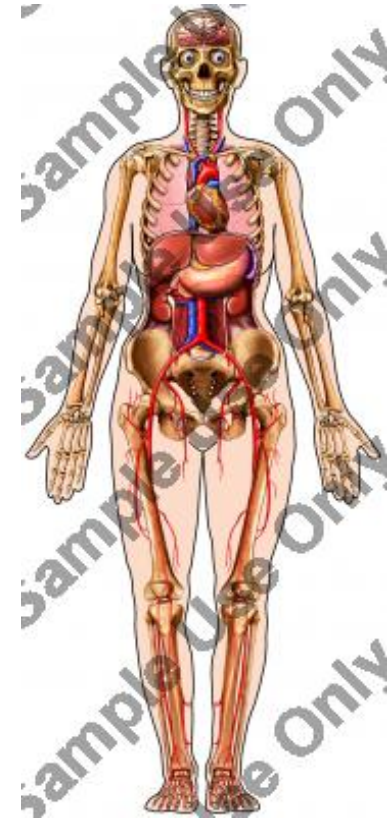
SEX?

A system of classifications determined by biological structure and function.



Male
[Body]

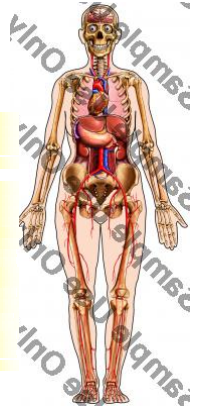
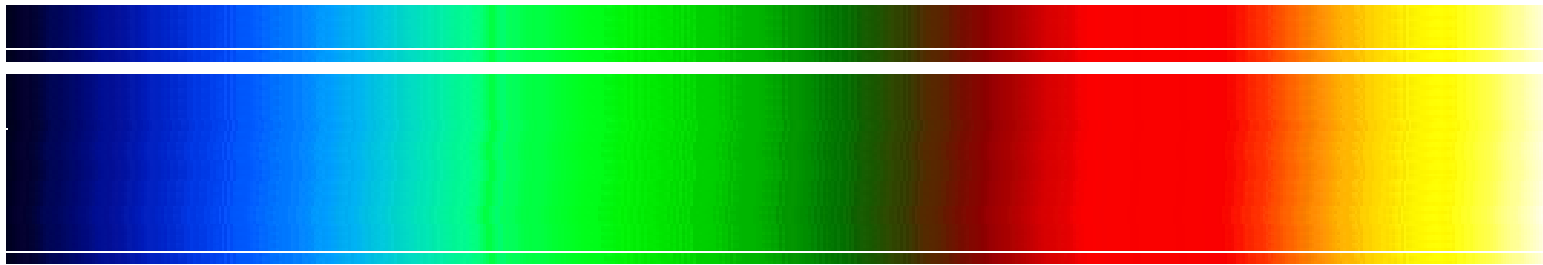
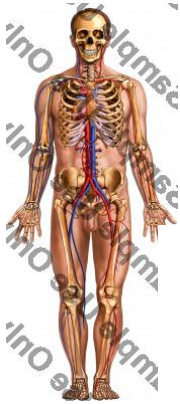
Sex:
A Biological Binary



Female
[Body]

Sex: A Biological Continuum?

- Physiological variation
- Chromosome variation



Most of us are somewhere in the middle...

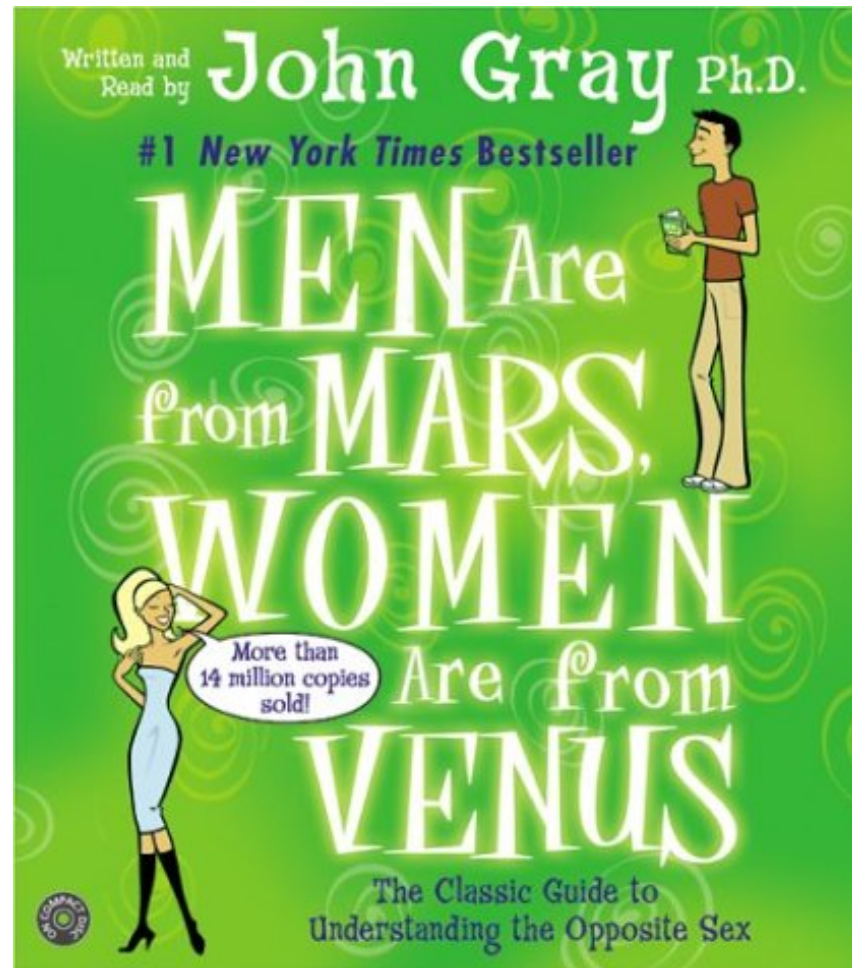
**“Absolute”
Maleness**

**“Absolute”
Femaleness**

In terms of culture/language, we only have **two categories** with which to understand sex differences (male/female) hence we live our lives by falling into these **loose approximations**.

GENDER?

A system of culturally determined roles, expectations, and identities associated with the two sex types.



The Naturalization of Gender Difference/Essentializing Gender

There is nothing **NATURAL** or essential about gender differences, rather, they are:

LEARNED CULTURAL NORMS and **CONVENTIONS**, through which our **GENDERED SELVES** (experiences, identities, and bodies) are **CREATED...**



gender is a
performance



“There is no gender identity behind the expressions of gender; ... identity is performatively constituted by the very ‘expressions’ that are said to be its results.”

Source: Butler, J. (1990). *Gender trouble: Feminism and the subversion of identity* (p. 25). New York: Routledge.

See Video Clip 1



**Judith Butler (2011) On Gender Performance
and Performativity: **POLICING GENDER****

Gender Performance

Gender Performance: The acting/role playing of our gendered selves through the performing of established gendered practices (we are often unknowingly partaking of these roles through our actions).

The performance of gender is thus the faithful reproduction of traditional gender roles and identities.

Gender Performativity

Gender Performativity: The more **conscious** acting/production/re-production of gender roles with the intent of producing certain effects. This could be either the conscious decision to constitute/perform our gendered identities in traditional ways, or the conscious decision to constitute/perform our gender in non-traditional or progressive ways.

Gender performativity is more political, since it involves conscious decision making (to either **conform to or oppose** traditional gender identities) rather than the faithful mirroring of gender performance.

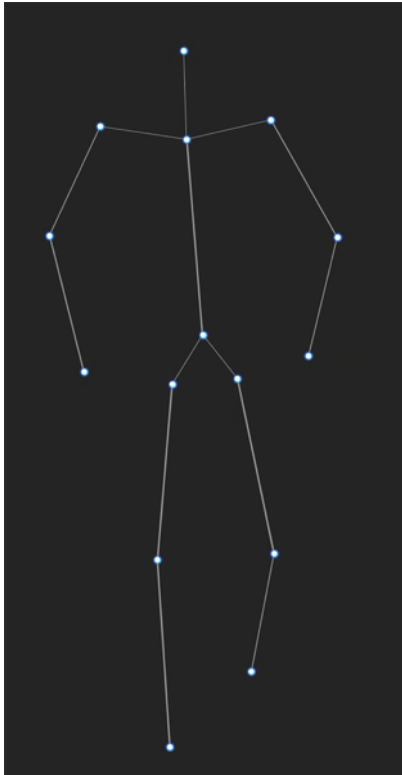
Which is more common?

GENDER PERFORMANCE

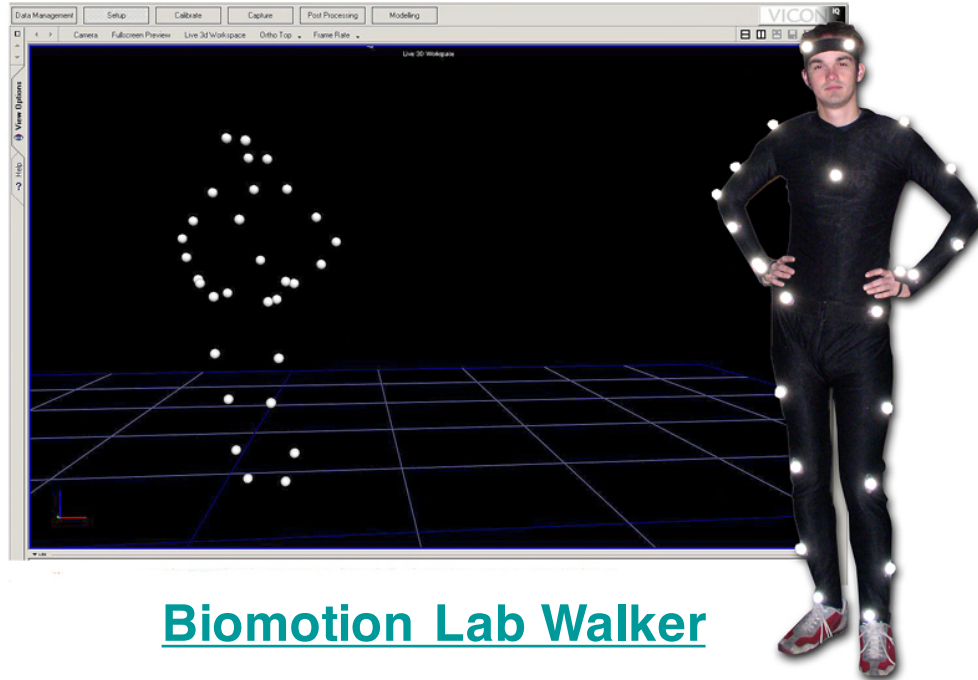
Or

GENDER PERFORMATIVITY

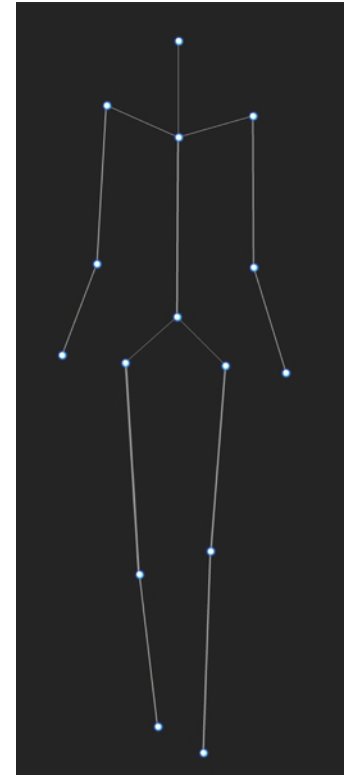
Gender as Corporeal Performance



Masculine Performance



Biomotion Lab Walker



Feminine Performance

We learn, experience, and communicate our GENDERED SELVES, through the often unconscious structuring, adornment, and actions (PERFORMANCE) of our GENDERED BODIES.

POLICING GENDER

Formal POLICING

**Laws, rules,
and regulations
prohibiting
individuals
from activities based
on their sex/gender
identity.**

Informal POLICING

**Social
relationships and
interactions
through which
dominant gender
norms are
communicated.**

**Policing: Enforcing commonly agreed assumptions
to maintain social order.**

POLICING GENDER

Formal POLICING



Informal POLICING



Policing: Enforcing commonly agreed assumptions to maintain social order.

Gendered Identity/Performance/Body and **SELF-POLICING?**

To what extent, and in what ways, do we as individuals **REPRODUCE/REINFORCE**, or perhaps **RESIST** dominant gender norms through the performance of our **GENDER IDENTITIES/SELVES?**

Theme 2:

The Gender Binary and Patriarchy

Gender: A Cultural Binary



**Masculine
Traits**



**Feminine
Traits**

The roles, expectations, and identities of males and females have--through historical and social forces--come to be understood as the **gender opposites** of masculinity and femininity.

The *Traditional* Gender Binary



MASCULINE

FEMININE

(Male)

(Female)

Leader

Follower

Aggressive

Passive

Powerful

Powerless

Strong

Weak

Calm

Emotional

Pragmatic

Romantic

Subject

Object

SUPERIOR

INFERIOR

Traditionally Male/Masculine Bodies and Identities

Leader

Actor

Aggressive

Powerful

Strong

Calm

Pragmatic

Subject

DOMINANT



Traditionally Female/Feminine Bodies and Identities



Follower
Nurturer
Passive
Powerless
Weak
Emotional
Romantic
Object

SUBORDINATE

The Hierarchical Inequality of the Gender Binary

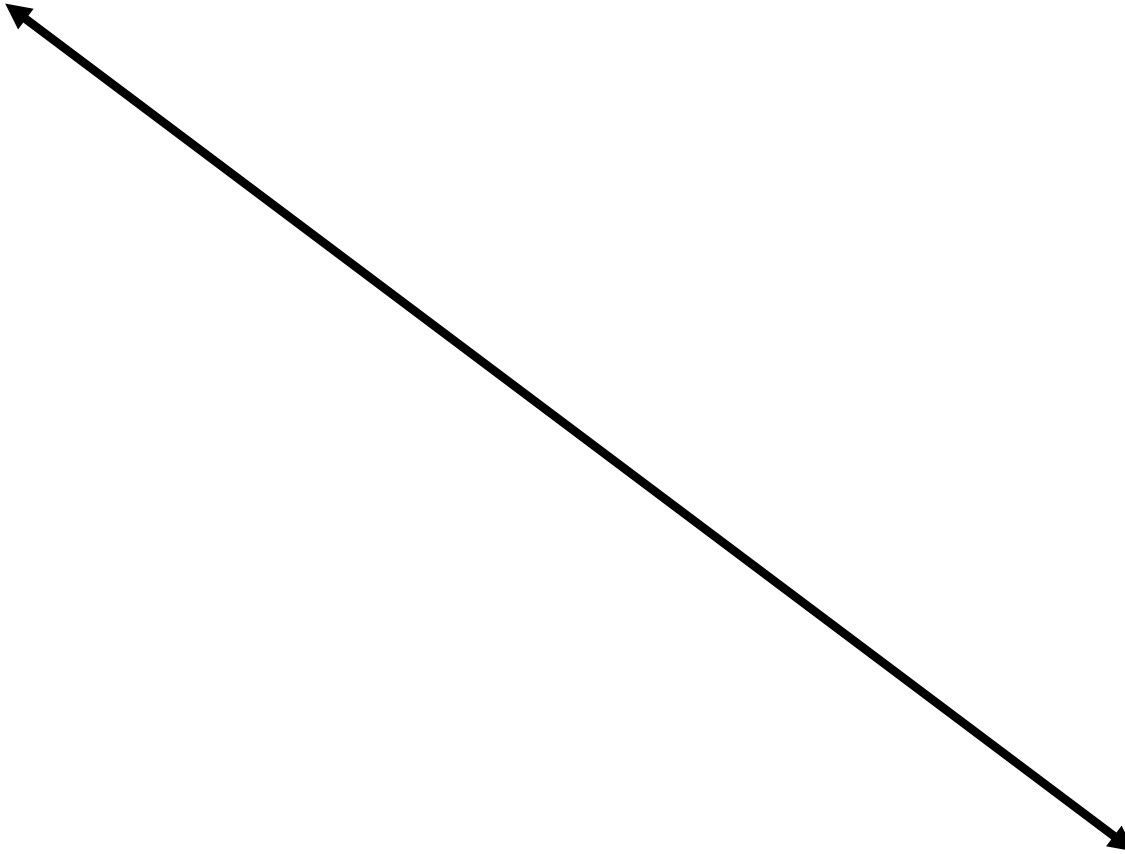
**Masculinity
(males)**



Inferior
social value,
influence
and power:
SUBORDINATE

Superior
social value,
influence
and power:
DOMINANT

**Femininity
(females)**



PATRIARCHY

A system of UNEQUAL gender roles, identities, and experiences, which privilege the position of men.

“a set of personal, social, and economic relationships that enable men to have power over women and the services they provide”

Source: Strober, Myra. "Toward a General Theory of Occupational Sex Segregation: The Case of Public School Teaching." *Sex Segregation in the Workplace: Trends, Explanations, Remedies* . Ed. Barbara F. Reskin. Washington: National Academy Press. 1984. 1447

Patriarchal Institutions



Patriarchal institutions work in such a way as to assert:

MEN and MASCULINITY as being associated with social leadership, power, and authority.

WOMEN and FEMININITY as being associated with social support, care, and nurturing.

Patriarchal Commercial Relations and Values

2000 census:

Male median income:	\$35,303	56.67%
Female median income:	\$20,007	

2010 census:

Male median income:	\$47,715	77.40%
Female median income:	\$36,931	

But where do patriarchal relations come from?

Why is it that, in most societies, men are viewed as occupying a position of **power, authority, and superiority?**

In earlier stages of societal evolution, males gained their **SOCIAL POWER** and **DOMINANCE** through their relative physical:

- STRENGTH**
- AGGRESSION**
- VIOLENCE**

Which granted men positions of **LEADERSHIP** and **AUTHORITY** over others.

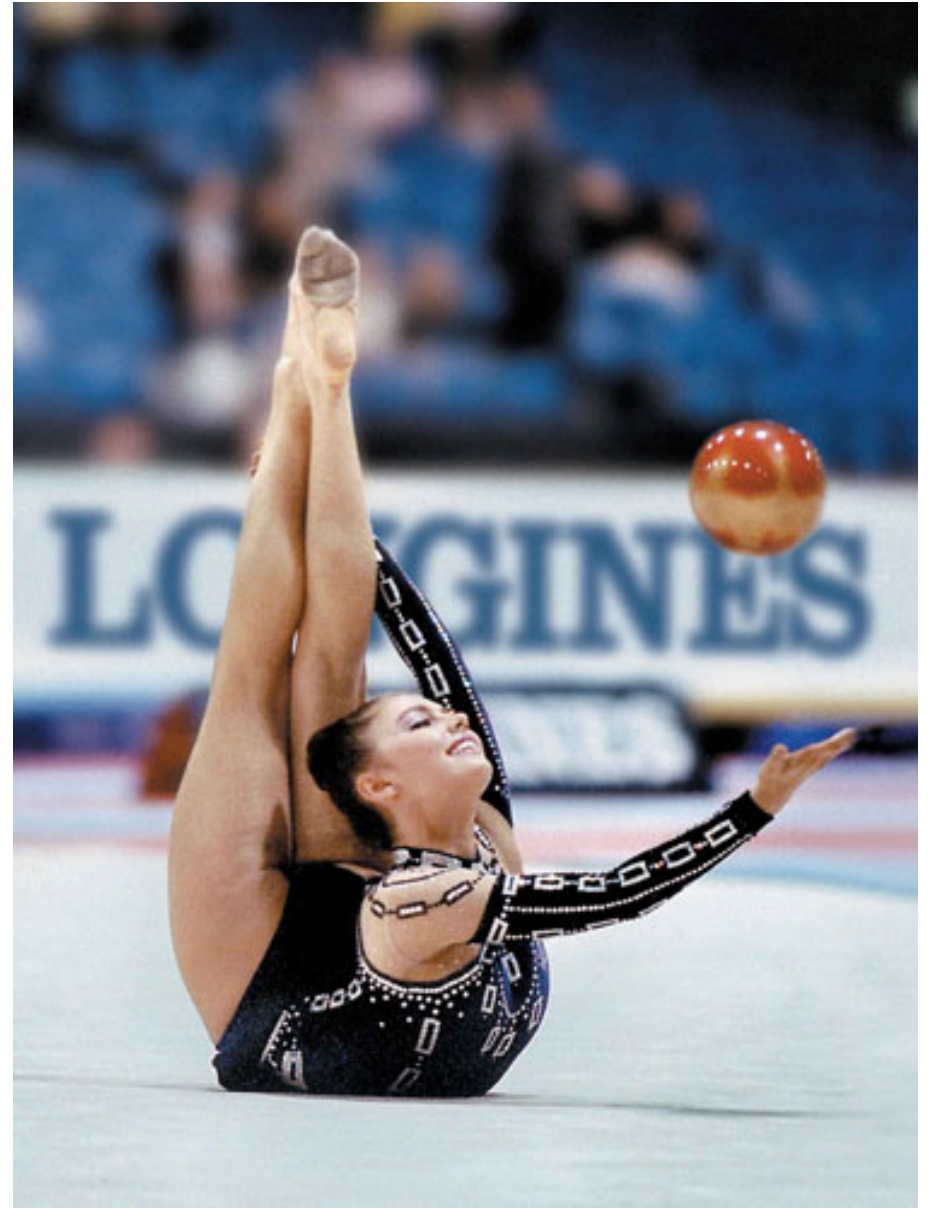
Theme 3:

Sport and Performative Gender Difference

**Perhaps more than any
other social institution, sport
/physical culture plays a
central role in the constitution
and advancement of our
gendered beings.**

SPORT:

A **gendered** (and **gender differentiating**) culture of learnt **PHYSICAL** practices, bodies, and identities



**Sport, as a social institution, is both
GENDERED and GENDERING.**

**It is structured in dialectic relation to the
DOMINANT GENDER ORDER and GENDER
PRACTICES and GENDER IDENTITIES
within society.**

**Hence, individuals become SOCIALIZED
into the GENDERED SELVES (experiences,
identities, and bodies) through their
particular involvement (or lack of
involvement) in sport).**

ORGANIZED SPORT is considered to be a **MALE ORIENTED** social institution, because at its core, are **SPORTING PRACTICES** which are based upon, and thereby both **NORMALIZE** and **ADVANCE** personal attributes traditionally associated with **MALES** and **MASCULINITY**:

- **STRENGTH**
- **TOUGHNESS**
- **AGGRESSION**
- **VIOLENCE**

Many organized sports are structured around particular attributes which are **SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS/NORMAL** for **MALES** and **SOCIAL EXCEPTIONS/ABNORMAL** for **FEMALES**.

So, males tend to be at a **SPORTING ADVANTAGE** because within organized sport they are **PERFORMING/EMBODYING** the **MASCULINE NORMS** they have already been exposed to/learnt through their experience in wider society.

Of course, any observer of youth sport at the lower age levels (under 11 especially), is likely to observe similar expressions of **strength, toughness, aggression, and violence** (or lack thereof) **among girls as well as boys.**

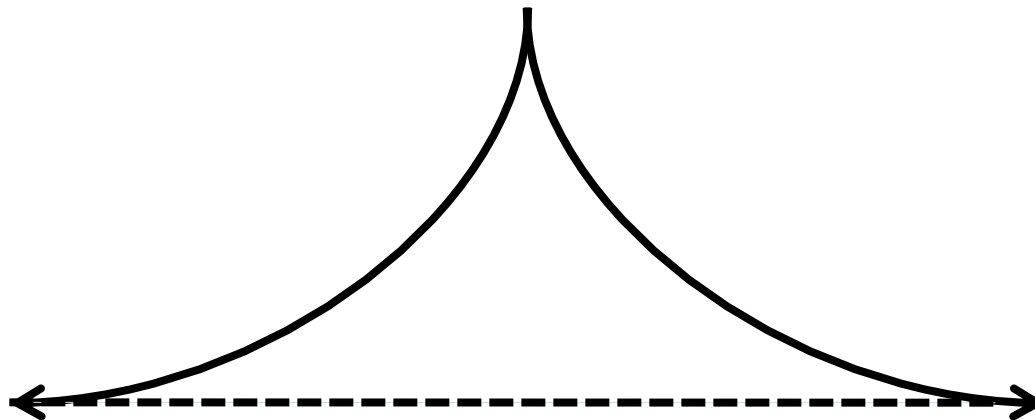


As children mature **socially and culturally as much as physically** (particularly 11 plus), they learn and are channeled into gender specific physical cultures, bodies, and identities:



**IDEOLOGIES
INSTITUTIONS
PRACTICES
TEXTS**

MASCULINE
EXPERIENCES,
IDENTITIES, AND
BODIES



FEMININE
EXPERIENCES,
IDENTITIES, AND
BODIES

Social Context

**MASCULINE
EXPERIENCES,
IDENTITIES, AND
BODIES**



**FEMININE
EXPERIENCES,
IDENTITIES, AND
BODIES**



Adolescence: The Sporting Parting of the Ways?

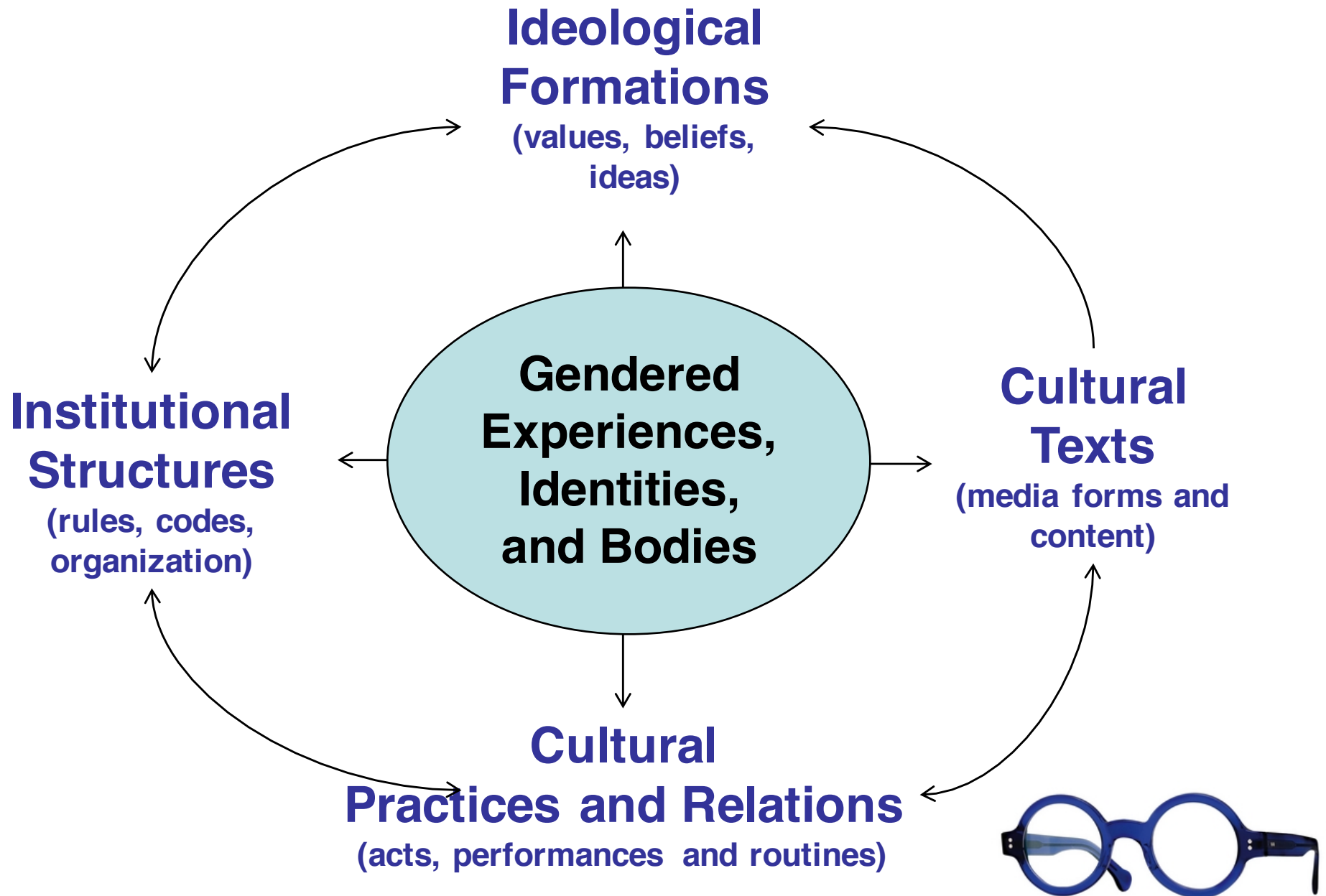
More From *Friday Night Tykes*

See Video Clip 2



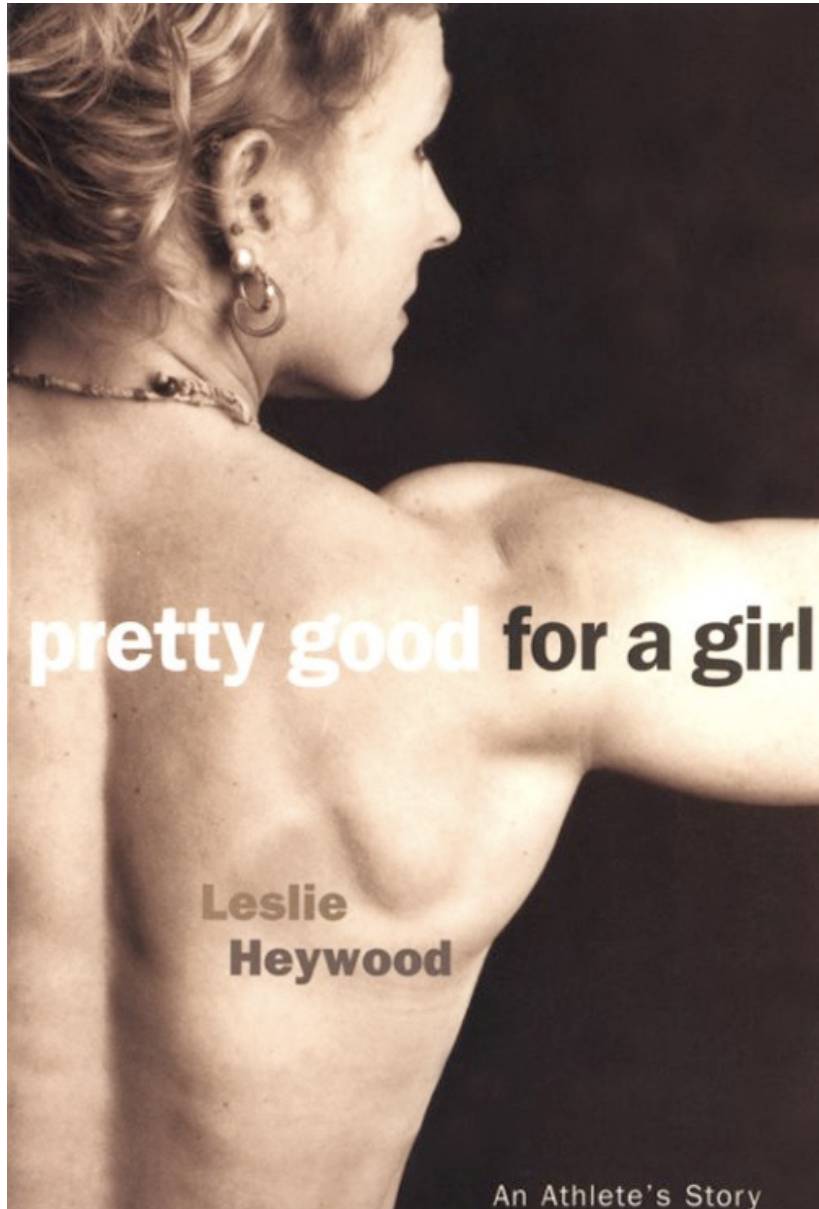
Perhaps **GENDERING** through sport occurs considerably earlier than adolescence? Policing pre-adolescent bodies:
Strength = **MASCULINITY** Weakness = **FEMININITY**

The Social Construction/**POLICING** of Sporting Gender



Gendered and **Sporting** Gendering Ideological Formations

(values, beliefs, ideas)



Ideological Assumptions:

Women, by the very fact of them being women, are **physically inferior** to men.

Being more physically able and adept, men are better suited to excelling in **sporting practices**.

Sport is a predominantly **male preserve**, infiltrated by physically inferior women to its detriment

Gendered and Gendering **Sporting** Institutional Structures

(rules, codes, hierarchies, organization)

Lacrosse and Sex/Gender Differentiation



- Equipment
- Field dimensions
- Number of players
- Penalties for fouls
- Checking rules
- Ways of defending



The game is structured in order to encourage **men** to play more **aggressively**, and **women** to play more “**gracefully**”.

Gendered and Gendering Sporting Cultural Texts

(media forms and content)



Gendered and Gendering **Sporting** Cultural Relations and Practices

(acts, performances and routines)



Contemporary Sport's Gender Binary

Leader
Actor
Aggressive
Powerful
Strong
Calm
Pragmatic
Subject
DOMINANT



Follower
Nurturer
Passive
Powerless
Weak
Emotional
Romantic
Object
SUBORDINATE

Hyper-Masculine
Experiences, Identities,
and Bodies



Hyper-Feminine
Experiences, Identities,
and Bodies

This binary may be based on extremes, however, elements of it continue to pervade most elements of contemporary sport culture.

Thus, through sport, the **active and aggressive body** became synonymous with the **male body and masculinity**.

Whilst, through sport, the **female body and femininity** is further tied to expressions of **creativity and passivity**.

Traditionally Male Sports

FOOTBALL

HOCKEY

BASKETBALL

BOXING

BASEBALL

Traditionally Female Sports

VOLLEYBALL

TENNIS

GYMNASTICS

S. SWIMMING

SOFTBALL

(Yes, this is changing, and we will discuss that in Topic B)

Theme 4:

The Hyper-Masculine Centre and Performances of American Sport Culture

Understandings of masculinity continue to be largely shaped by expressions of **PHYSICALITY** (strength, power, aggression).

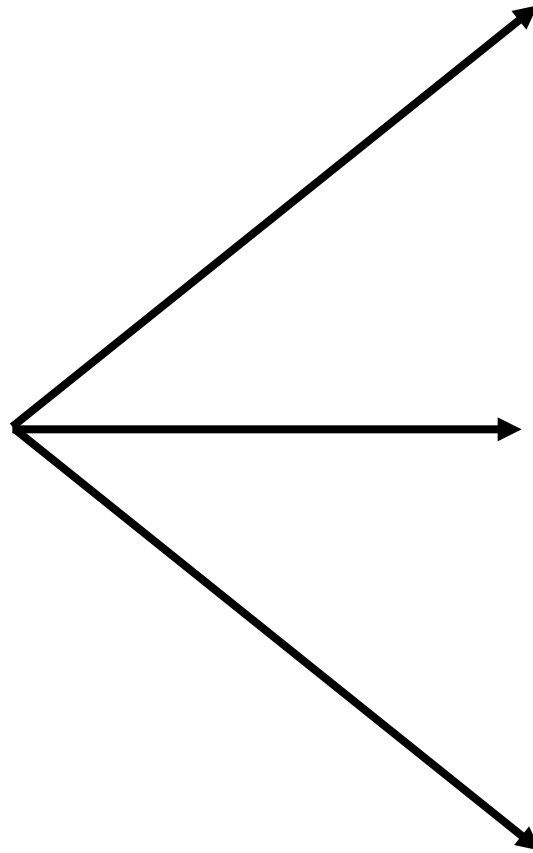


**Sources of
Masculinity**
(Adolescent Boys)

Sporting Prowess

Physical Aggression

Sexual Conquest



**“sport has come to be the leading
definer of masculinity”**

Connell, RW. (1995) p. 54.

**“sport is important because it allows
males to prove their masculinity”**

West, P. (n.d.). Why men play sport. Manzine.

<http://203.49.108.41/manhood.nsf/0/53ac35230f8bf0f64a256a7b0034d7af?OpenDocument>

Sport could be said to be a **PATRIARCHAL** institution, because it **PRIVILEGES MALES**, and both the **ATTRIBUTES** and **PRACTICES** traditionally associated with **MASCULINITY**.

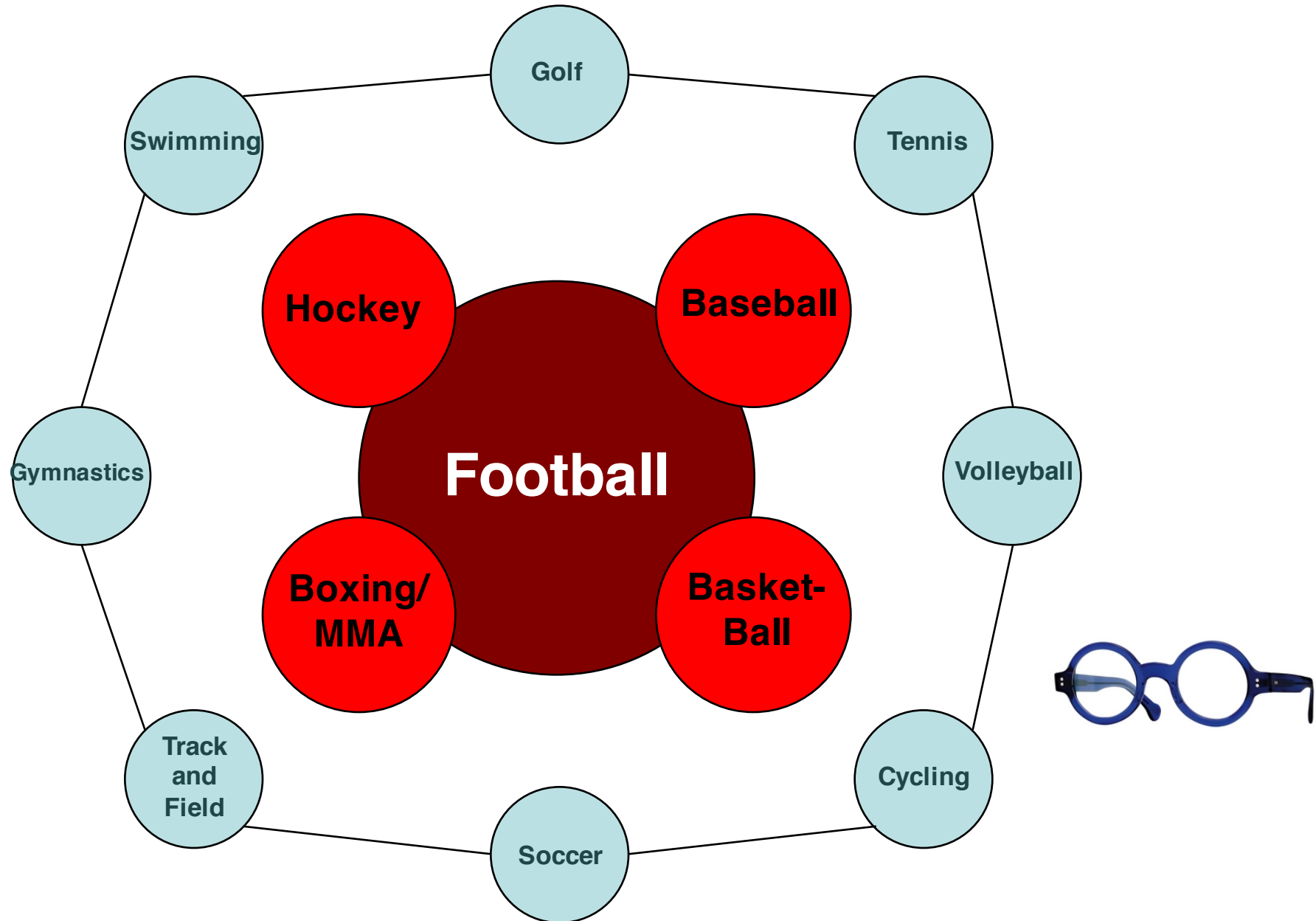
“we tend to culturally elevate sports that entail explosive physical power and domination expressed through aggressive bodily contact and collision. In other words, we most highly value and reward those sports that express the most extreme possibilities of male bodies.”

(Messner, 2002, pp. 145-146)

Source: Messner, M.A. (2002). Taking the field: Men and women in sports. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.

The Gendered Institutional Centre of American Sport

(the hyper-masculine epicentre and gender ambiguous periphery)



The nearer to the “football” centre, the more overtly masculine the sport practice is perceived, and vice versa.

Hyper-Masculine Sport **Performances**

- Physical strength and stamina
- Physical toughness and bravery
- Capacity for physical violence
- Unemotional pragmatism
- Assumed/Compulsory Heterosexuality



Mainstream sport is a **HETERONORMATIVE** space, in that it advances an **ASSUMED HETEROSEXUALITY** as being linked with certain **SPORTING PRACTICES** and **BODIES**.

Tired of Being Ashamed of Your Build?

LET ME GIVE YOU A NEW HE-MAN BODY!

Charles Atlas
Awarded the title of "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man" in an International contest.

My Secret Method Has Worked for Thousands No Matter How Skinny or Flabby They Were—Now, Why Not Let It Work For You?

HERE'S WHAT I'LL PROVE
15 MINUTES A DAY CAN DO FOR YOU

I don't care how old or young you are, or how ashamed of your present physical condition you may be. If you can simply relax your arms and flex in 15 min add **SOLID MUSCLE** to your biceps—yes, on each arm—in double-quick time! Only 15 minutes a day—right in your own home is all the time I ask of you! And there's no cost if I fail.

I can broaden your shoulders, strengthen your back, develop your whole muscular system **INSIDE** and **OUTSIDE**! I can add inches to your chest, give you a vascular grip, make those legs of yours firm and powerful. I can shoot new strength into your old backbone, exercise those liver organs, help you erase your body of all fat of pop, vigor and red-blooded vitality that you want! Feel there's even "standing room" left for weakness and that lary feel ing? Before I get through with you, I'll have your whole frame "measured" to a new, new standard not to be equalled!

WHAT'S MY SECRET?
"DYNAMIC TENSION!" That's the ticket! The **Most** natural method that I myself developed to change my body from the scrawny skinny cherted weakling I was at 17 to my present superman physique! Thousands of other failures are becoming marvelous physical specimens—my way. I give you no gadgets or contraptions to deal with.

When you have learned to develop your strength through **Dynamic Tension**, you can laugh at athletic competitions. You simply utilize the **DOR-BAYT** method in your own God-given body—watch it increase and multiply into real **LIVE MUSCLE**!

FREE Illustrated 32-page Book. Just Mail the Coupon.

SEND NOW for my famous **Strength**. Packed with actual photographs. Free by post. 50 days' trial. "Dynamic Tension" can do for YOU!

You had it a long time for my father who was a boxer. I told you I would make you a new man. **CHARLES ATLAS**, Dept. 412P, 115 East 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y.

SILVER CUP GIVEN AWAY. This handsome cup will be given to the man who writes the most convincing letter to me in 15 days.

Name _____ Age _____
(Please print or write plainly)
Address _____
City _____ State _____



Clearly, violence is a core and anticipated element of the hyper-masculine sport performance.

Messner (2002) characterises this as the “triad of violence” men’s sport, the dimensions of which could be viewed as follows:

1. Violence Against Other Athletes

“When I first started playing, if I would hit a guy hard and he wouldn’t get up, it would bother me. [But] when I was a sophomore in high school, first game, I knocked out two quarterbacks, and people loved it. The coach loved it. Everybody loved it. You never stop feeling sorry for [your injured opponent]. If somebody doesn’t get up, you want him to get up. You hope the wind’s just knocked out of him or something. The more you play, though, the more you realize that it is just part of the game—somebody’s gonna get hurt. It could be you, it could be him—most of the time it’s better if it’s him. So you know, you just go out and play your game.”

A former NFL defensive back known for his ferocious and violent hits.

Source: Messner, M.A. (2002). Taking the field: Men and women in sports (pp. 49-51). Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.

Hyper-Masculine Sport Performances demand:

**A body which is large,
muscular, strong, quick, and
capable of effective physical
violence.**

The Sporting Body as WEAPON



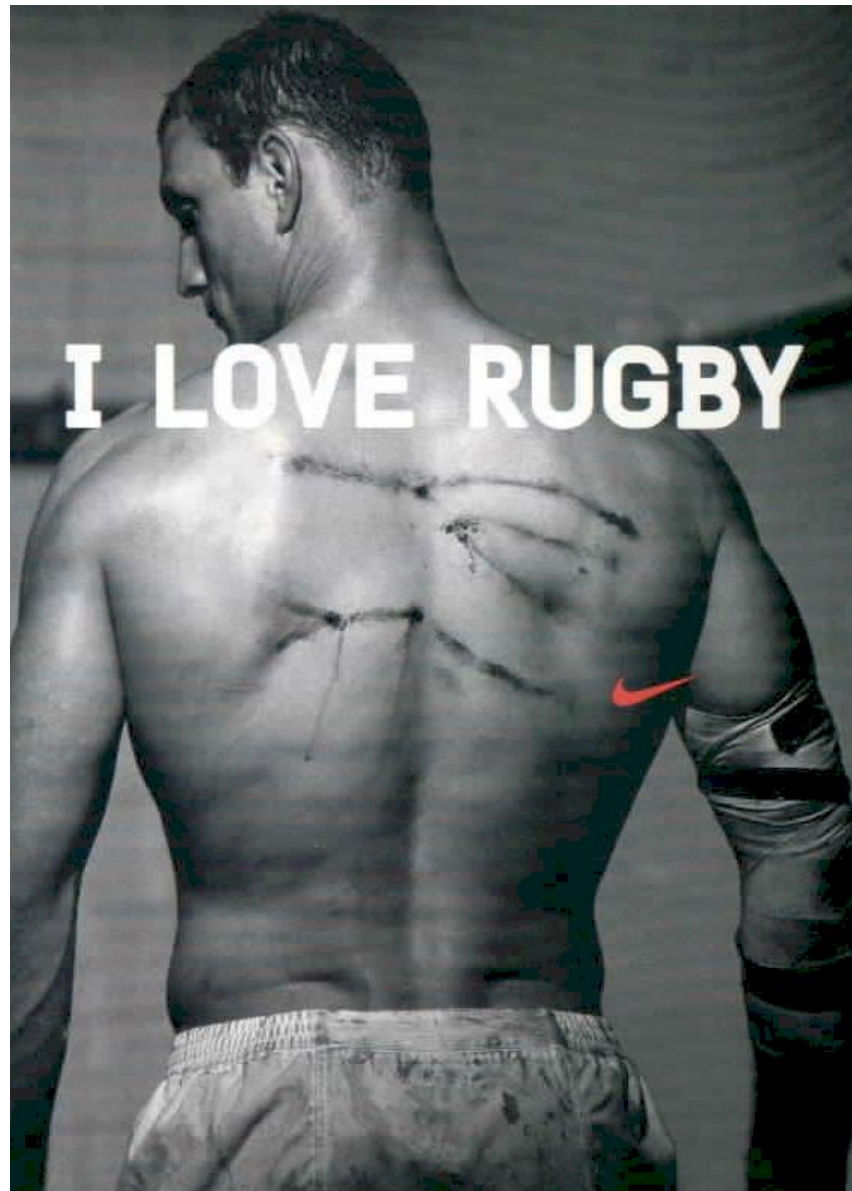
Violence against others a normalized aspect of sport performance.

2. Violence Against Themselves

“Doctors don’t coerce players into going out on the field. They don’t have to. Players have been conveniently conditioned their entire lives to **take the pain and put bodies at risk**. Players beg doctors for needles that numb and drugs that reduce swelling and pain..Taking the needle is something NFL players are proud to have done. **It is a badge of honor, not unlike the military’s Purple Heart**. It means you were in the middle of the action and you took a hit. Taking the needle in the NFL also lets everyone know that you’d do anything to play the game. **It demonstrates a complete disregard for one’s well-being that is admired in the NFL between players.**”

Former NFL player Tim Green.

Source: Green, T. (1997) The dark side of the game: My life in the NFL. Grand Central Publishing.



At 43, he still looks like he could play 80 minutes against any team in the world.

Testament to a work ethic and an uncompromising attitude that, in a career spanning 15 years, saw him take a backward step to no-one.

His body may have taken some

knocks over those years but his will to win remains undented.

Before they take the field, each and every one of the Vodafone Warriors will have to convince him that he shares that self belief. Because without it, they'll discover what league hard men

from Manly to Manchester already know. That you won't get past Mark Graham.

Call 0800 839 839 today to reserve your season tickets or to request an application form.

 **vodafone**

ONE THING

THEY NEVER BROKE WAS



HIS WILL TO WIN.

Snapped ligaments in his right ankle and broke his cheekbone in the same game. And played on.

Lost 6 teeth in one tackle. Couldn't fit them back in his mouthguard. Spat them out and played on.

Broke his nose 6 times.

Had over 100 stitches in his face before he even played First Grade football.

Burst an eardrum. Played on.

Dislocated both shoulders. Played with dislocated shoulder for 3 weeks.

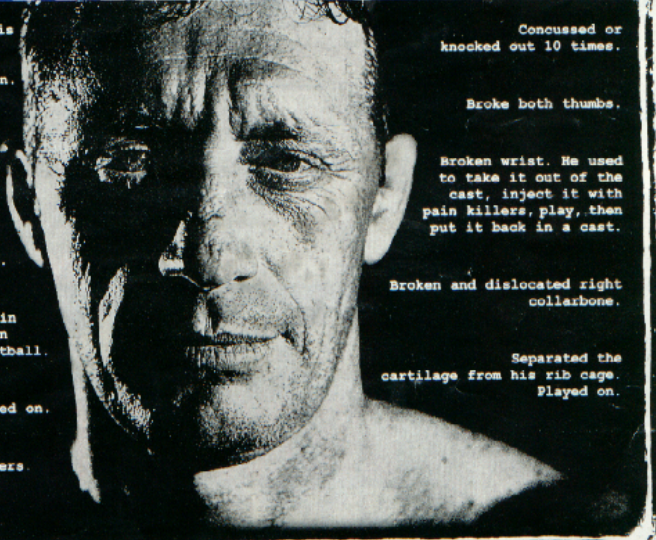
Concussed or knocked out 10 times.

Broke both thumbs.

Broken wrist. He used to take it out of the cast, inject it with pain killers, play, then put it back in a cast.

Broken and dislocated right collarbone.

Separated the cartilage from his rib cage. Played on.



The normalization of pain and injury, and substance abuse as an aspect of masculine sport performance.



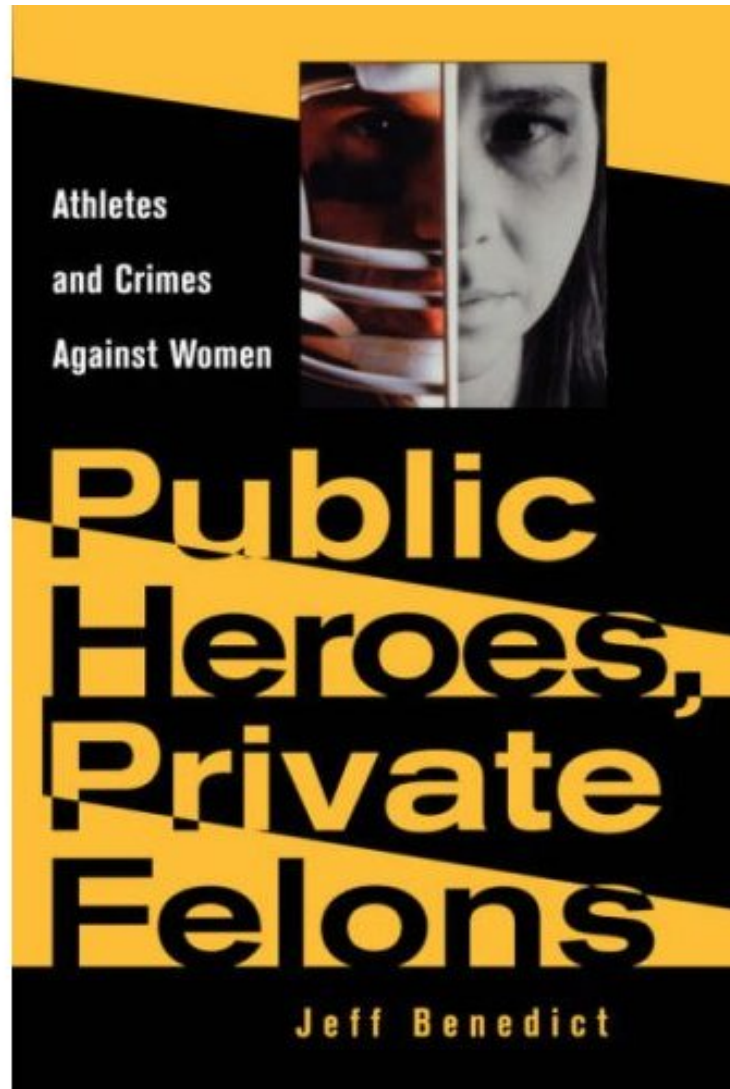
A Culture of Violence Against Selves and Others?

3. Violence Against Outsiders

“In the context of sport careers, you do not experience your body as a means of connecting intimately with others; rather, your body becomes a weapon, which you train to defeat an objectified, dehumanized opponent. It’s a dog-eat-dog world out there; you gotta have that killer instinct.”

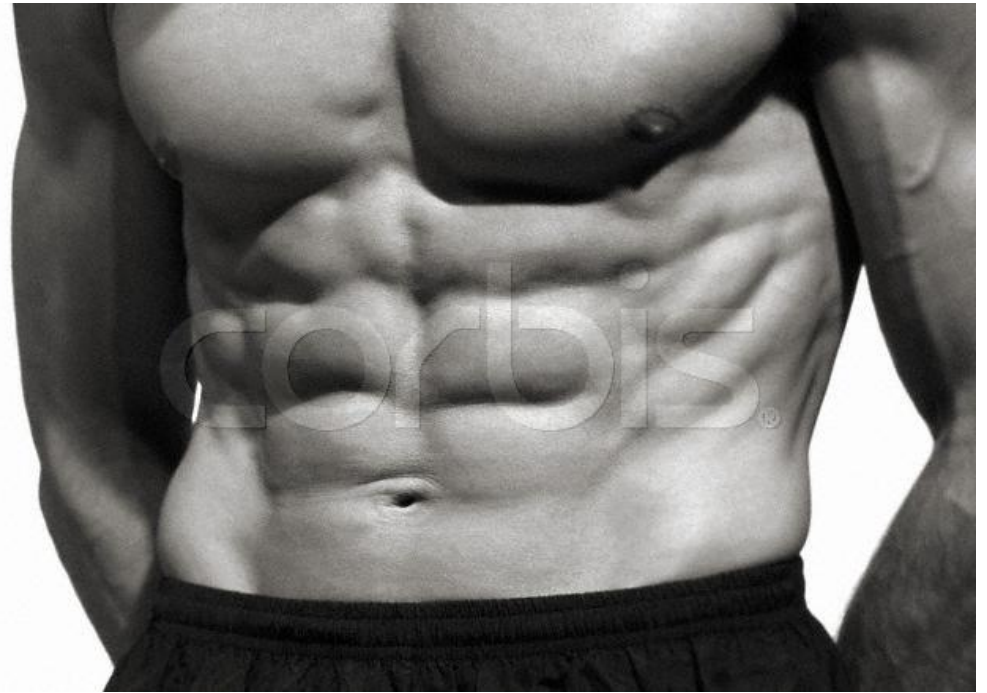
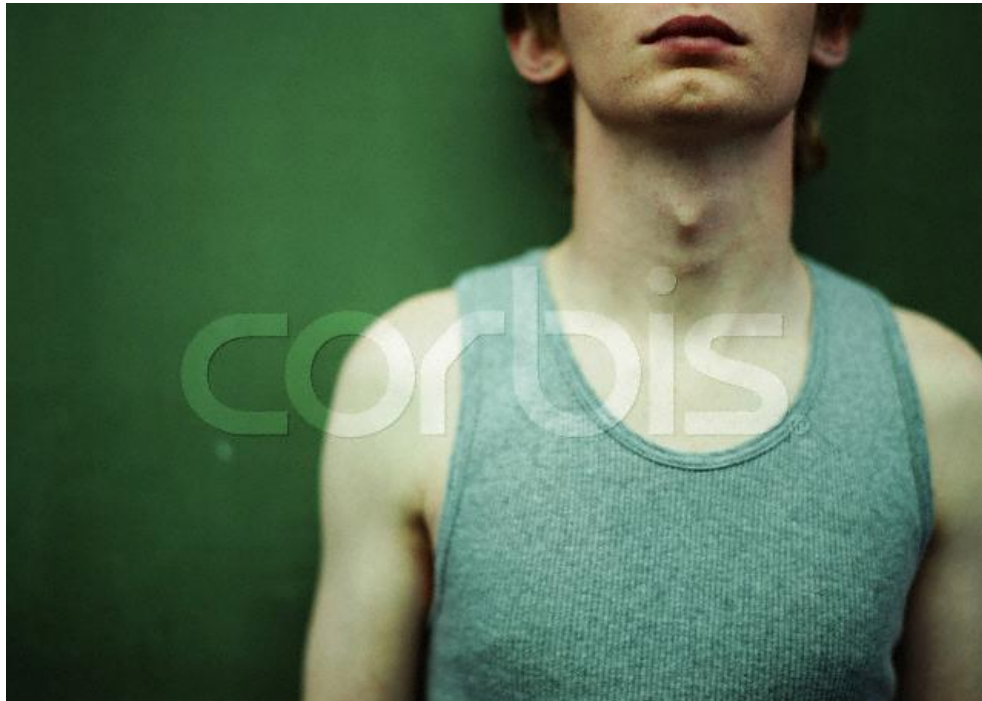
Hence, many male athletes suffer from an inability to relate and empathise with others; they have difficulty expressing themselves and connecting with others; they are often involved in relationships based on symbolic and physical violence toward others.

Source: Messner, M.A. (2002). Taking the field: Men and women in sports (pp. 52). Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.



Normalized bullying, misogyny, and homophobia as an aspect of masculine sport performance.

Which is the more traditionally masculine male body?



The Possibility for Social Rejection

“Those boys who do not measure up, the effeminate, the overweight and the underweight and who do not compensate for this by engaging in other masculine activities, often related to alcohol, motorbikes or cars, are **usually made to suffer the consequences** of their lack of 'masculinity'.”

Source: Walker , J. 1988 'Louts and legends: male youth culture in an inner city school', Allen and Unwin, Sydney as cited in Mills, Martin 2001c, *Challenging Violence in Schools: An issue of masculinities* , Open University Press, Buckingham UK.

See Video Clip 4



Sport Spectating and the **Learned Performance** of Masculinity

So, while hyper-masculine organized sport culture may provide some benefits to participants, there is little doubting that it also can lead to some very real physical, psychological, and social problems.

Theme 5:

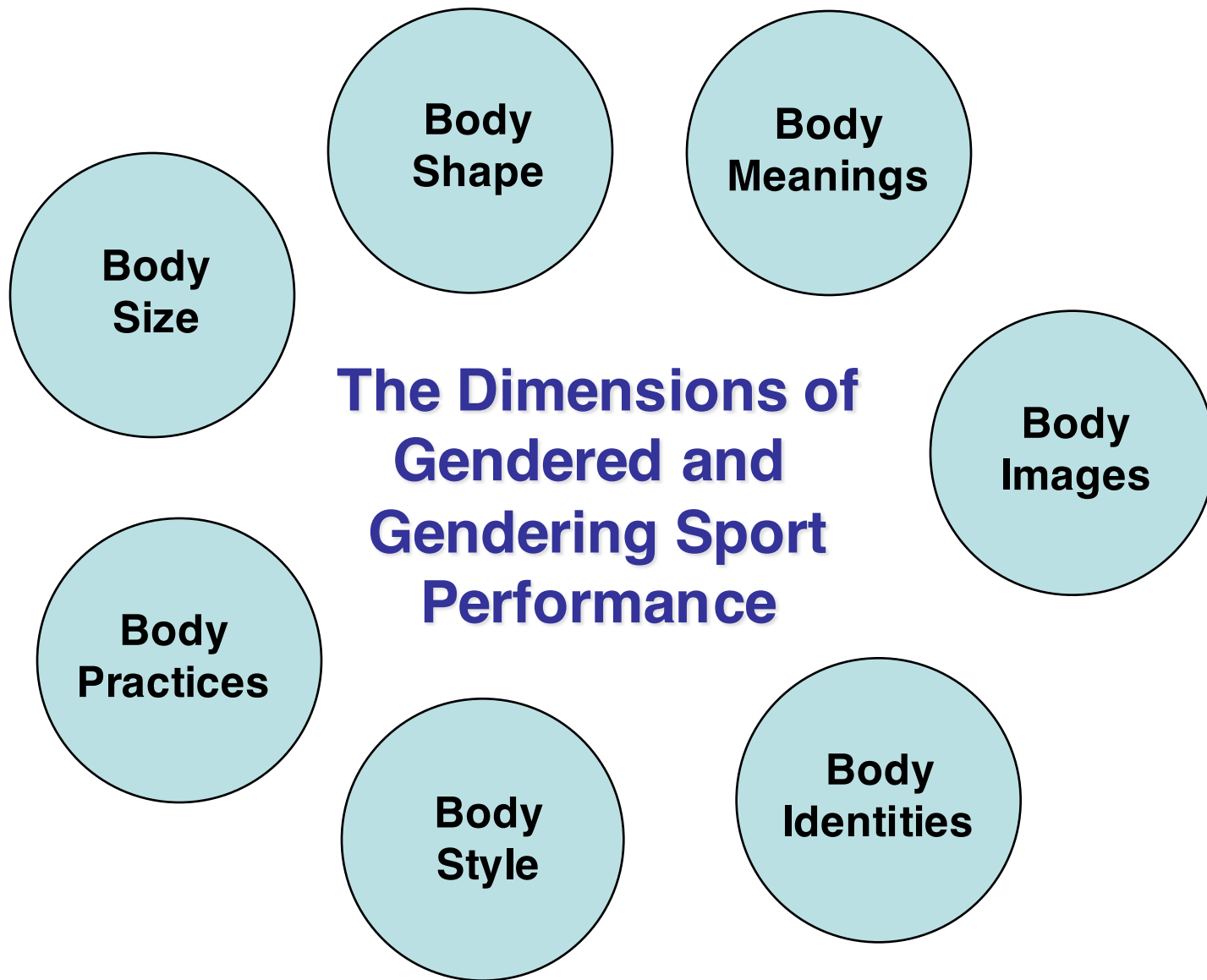
Hegemonic and Mosaic Masculinities

To reiterate, as Judith Butler (1990) famously noted, gender is a performance on and through the body.

We construct and display our gendered selves through our bodily dress, posture, and structure.



Source: Butler, J. (1990). *Gender trouble: Feminism and the subversion of identity*. New York: Routledge.

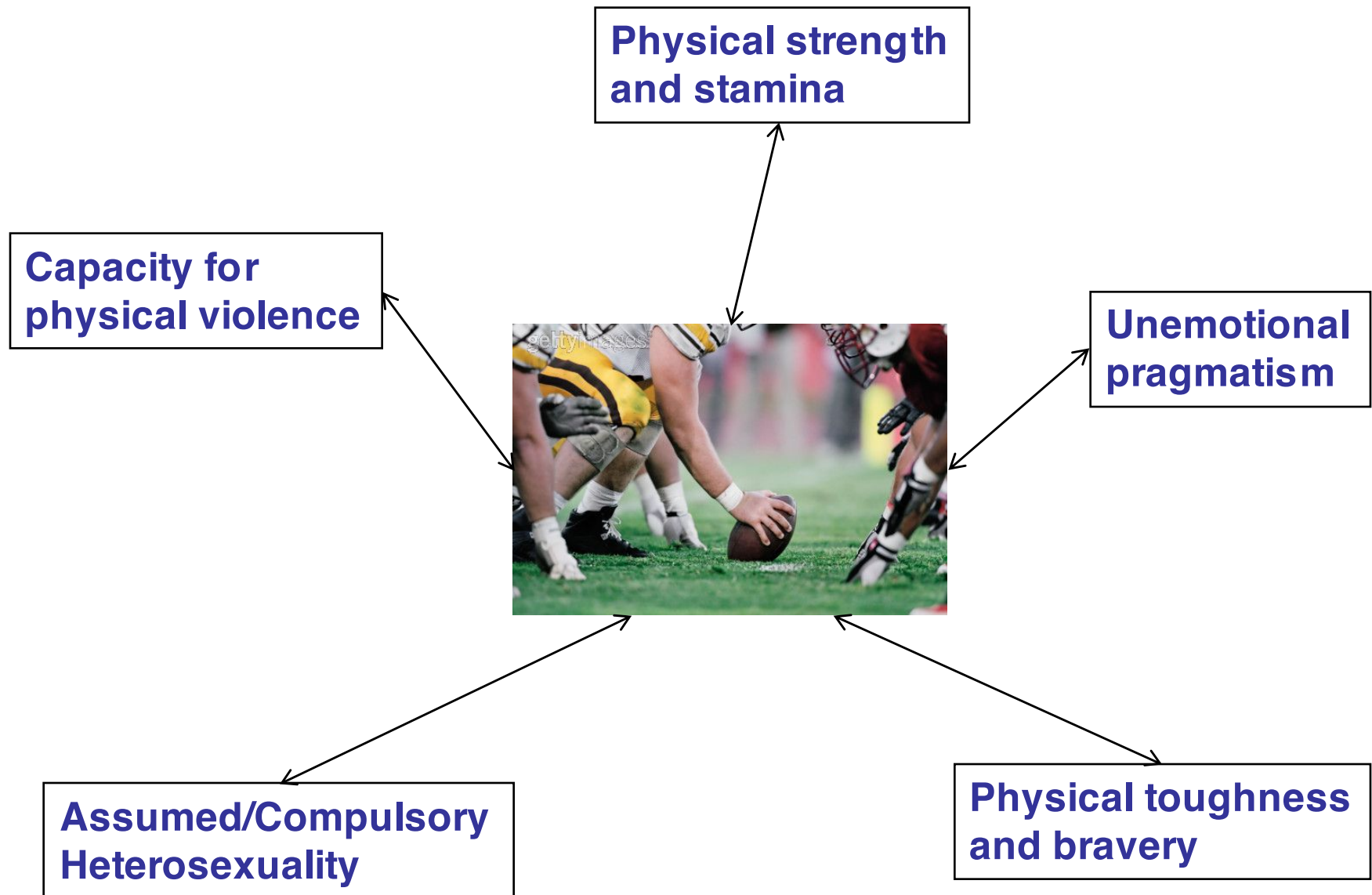


The Performance of Masculinity

"Masculinity is usually characterized by **dominance and aggression**. . . . Typical masculine body postures tend to be **expansive and aggressive**. People who hold their arms and hands in positions away from their bodies, and who stand, sit, or lie with their legs apart--thus **maximizing the amount of space that they physically occupy**--appear most physically masculine. . . . Masculinity can also be conveyed by **stern or serious facial expressions** that suggest minimal receptivity to the influence of others . . ."

Devors, H. (1989). "Gender Roles and Attitudes Signs of Life: We've Come Along Way." 415-420.

Elements of Sport's Dominant **Hyper**-Masculinity



Crucially, there is no single masculinity.

Rather there are culturally and historically specific, and oftentimes competing, **MASCULINITIES.**

What is learned and expressed through mainstream sport culture tends to be the **dominant understanding of MASCULINITY within contemporary society...**



HEGEMONIC MASCULINITY:

The commonly accepted, and seemingly natural, ideals of **male form** (what the male body looks like) and **male function** (what the male body does).

“What it means to be a man”

“I’m Good...”



[See Video Clip 5](#)



The embodiments of hegemonic masculinity are **the CULTURAL NORMS**, against which men are encouraged to define their own maleness/masculinity.

Few live up to the idealized masculine norm in all its myriad aspects, and so the majority of men choose a variety of different **SITES and PRACTICES** through which to express their **MASCULINITY**.

MOSAIC MASCULINITY

Mosaic Masculinities



“**Mosaic masculinities** refers to the process by which men **negotiate** masculinity, drawing upon **fragments or pieces** of hegemonic masculinity which they have the capacity to perform and piecing them together to **reformulate** what masculinity means to them in order to come up with their own dominant standard of masculinity. This form of masculinity is like a mosaic in that incompatible pieces or fragments that do not easily fit together are placed to form a **coherent pattern**.”

Source: Coles, T. (2008). Finding space in the field of masculinity: Lived experiences of men's masculinities. *Journal of Sociology*, 44 (3), 233-248.

The INCONSISTENCIES and CONTRADICTORY NATURE of contemporary MASCULINITIES



Theme 6:

Expressions of Sporting Hegemonic Masculinities



1. Instrumental Masculinities



Disciplining and modification of the male body for masculine sport performance.

[See Video Clip 7](#)



2. Professional Masculinities



Disciplining and modification of the male body for according to hypermasculine structural norms.

Socio-Psycho-Physiological Problems

An overwhelming drive for lean muscle mass has been termed:

"reverse anorexia"

“bigorexia”

“muscle dysmorphia”

Brings with it some not inconsiderable problems and issues...

The drive for **muscular enormity** enormous counters the drive for **thinness** associated with ***anorexia nervosa***.

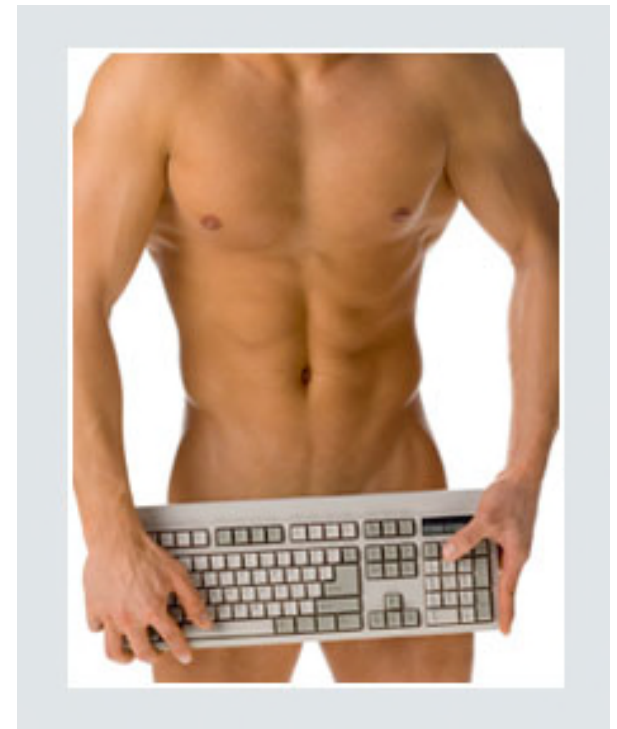
This alarming socio-psychological syndrome may motivate bodybuilders and weightlifters, and to a lesser extent some other athletes, to:

- relinquish friends
- give up responsibilities
- pursue unusual diets
- overtrain
- risk their health by abusing steroids and other artificial bodily enhancements



3. Exercising Masculinities

Because we live in a **relatively sedentary society**—and there are few other acceptable physical forums—**fit and healthy bodies** have come to play an **increasing role** in the **informal expression of masculinity** for the **professional male**.



The Corporate Body

Why Men Want Muscles?

They are, quite literally, the **EMBODIMENT** of **social power, authority, and control.**

In other words, they are the **EMBODIED** expression of **HEGEMONIC MASCULINITY.**

Whether knowingly, or otherwise, male muscles are an **expression/confirmation** of the **MASCULINE NORM.**





Exercise culture (body shaping practices, structures and meanings) is a means by which men **empower themselves in ways which reinforce **traditional gender** ideologies, hierarchies, and relations.**

Exercise culture is a site through which men's bodies are **controlled/shaped/experienced according norms of “hegemonic masculinity”.**

Mosaic Masculinities Alert

See Video Clip 8



The Tough Guy/Mudder Phenomenon

Deriving sense of maleness through consumption of spectacles of hegemonic masculinity.



4. Representative Masculinities

See Video Clip 9



Compensatory Consumption of the Hypermasculine Body?

Interestingly, while the majority of males fail to live up to the **HEGEMONIC MASCULINE IDEAL**, the mere fact that they accept it as a cultural ideal, and consume it in various forms, effectively reinforces male **AUTHORITY, POWER, AND PRIVILEGE OVER WOMEN** more generally.

Mosaic Masculinities Alert



Theme 7:

Emergent Sporting Masculinities

5. Cosmetic Masculinities



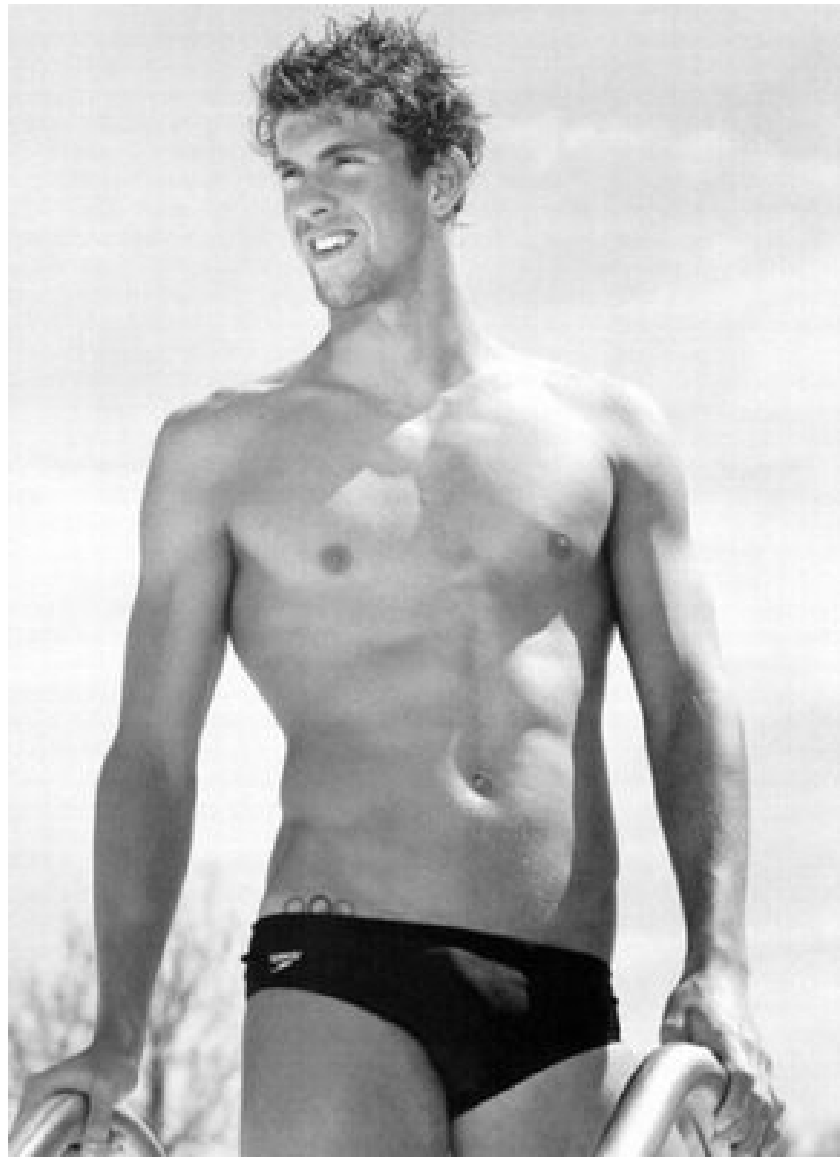
Disciplining and modification of the male body according to dominant aesthetic norms of masculinity.

For some men, muscles are not:

Utilitarian/Instrumental Forms

They are:

Aesthetic/Expressive Forms



Michael Phelps and “Abercrombie and Fitch” Masculinity





April 29, 2007



April 21, 2007



March 13, 2007



Nov. 28, 2005



June 21, 2005



June 2, 2005



Nov. 15, 2004



Nov. 17, 2003



July 1, 2003



June 21, 2002



July 1, 1998



David Beckham and Metrosexual Masculinity



See Video Clip 10



Luke: Cosmetically Masculine

6. [The Emergence of] Homosexual Masculinities



Countering the assumed heterosexuality of male musculature.

The normative centre of masculine sport culture is HETEROSEXUAL.

In recent times, this normative centre has been challenged by the emergence of alternative forms, CHALLENGING TRADITIONAL understandings of masculinity

The Heterosexual Matrix

(Judith Butler)



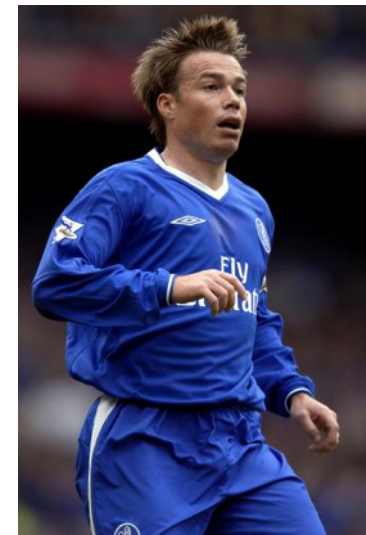
Gender → Sexuality ↘ Sex ↓	Masculine	Feminine
Male	Heterosexual	Homosexual
Female	Homosexual	Heterosexual

As a **HETERONORMATIVE SPACE**,
expressions of sporting masculinity are
closely tied to **HETEROSEXUALITY**,

However, **physical vulnerabilities or
sporting failings** were often understood as
markers of **HOMOSEXUALITY**.

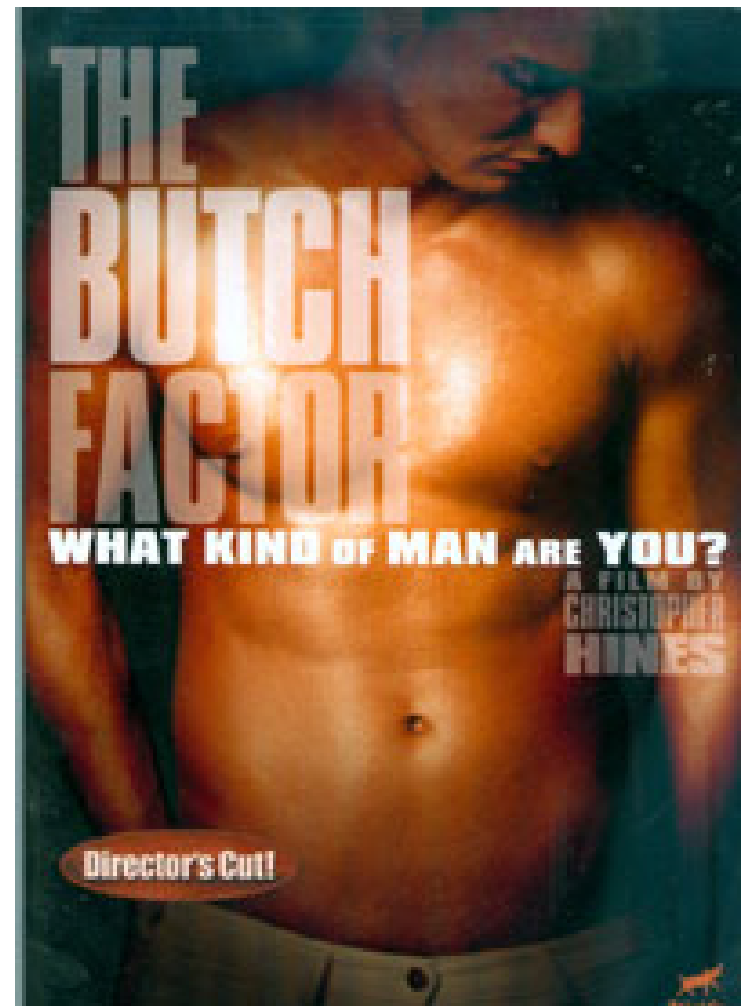
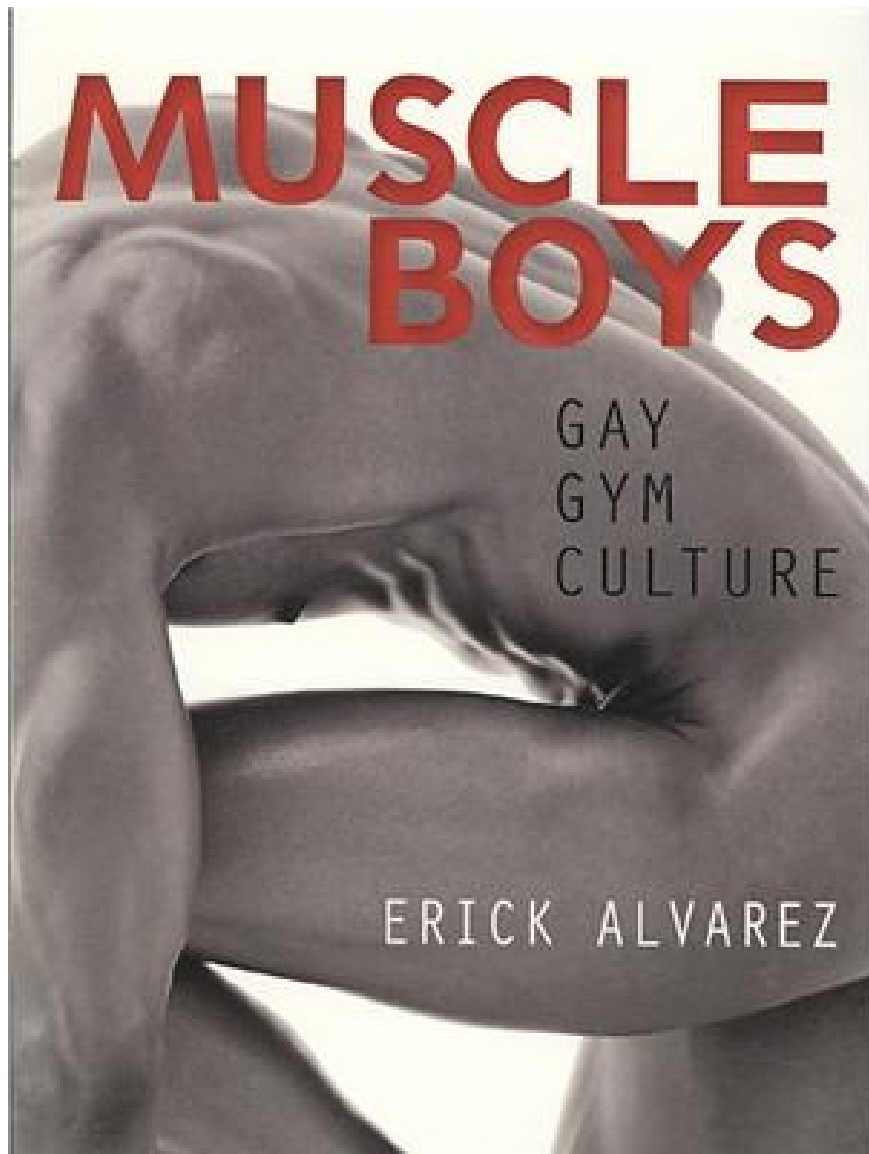
Sport thus becomes a context for advancing
HOMOPHOBIA (fear and hostility toward
homosexuals)





Transgressing the Hyper-Masculine (Form and Function) Heterosexual Norms

However, no longer is physicality uniquely associated with an exclusive heterosexuality...thus demonstrating new forms of homosexual masculinity?



Alvarez, E. (2008). Muscle boys: Gay gym culture. London: Routledge.

THE F WORD IS OFF LIMITS
HOW ISAIAH WASHINGTON FINALLY
MADE THE ANTIGAY SLUR UNSAYABLE

The Advocate

www.advocate.com
MARCH 12, 2007

40th
ANNIVERSARY

GAY IN THE NBA

EXCLUSIVE

John Amaechi
tells why it's unsafe for
gay athletes to come out

PLUS
GAY COUPLES
LIVING AND
WORKING
TOGETHER



The gay man who could bring down Martha Stewart

HOLIDAY
GIFT GUIDE

The Advocate

The nation's largest gay and lesbian newsmagazine

Gay in the NFL

A football star for nine years, former Vikings lineman
ESERA TUAOLO reveals the truth about homophobia in
the locker room and the dangers of the pro sports closet.
PLUS: His boyfriend tells his side of their romance



www.advocate.com
NOVEMBER 26, 2006

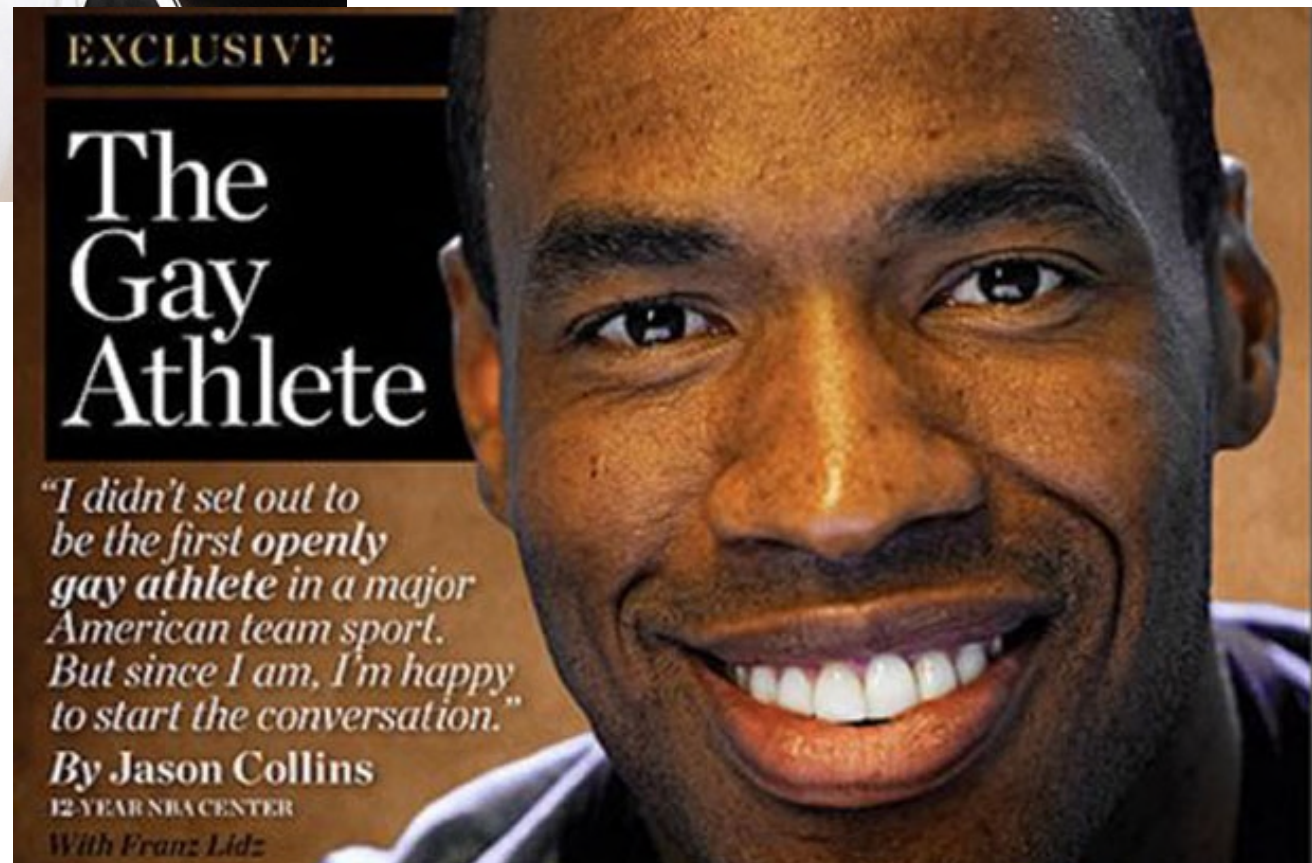
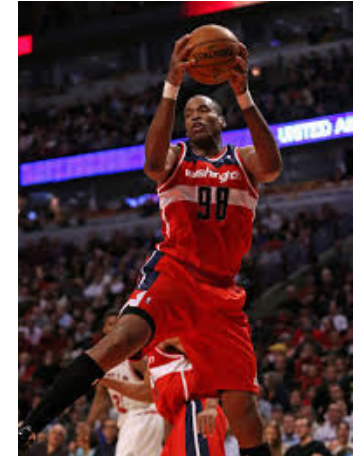
**Many gay men reject and challenge the
assumed heterosexuality associated with
mainstream sport/exercise culture, while
simultaneously advancing/performing other
elements of hegemonic masculinity.**

Mosaic Masculinities Alert

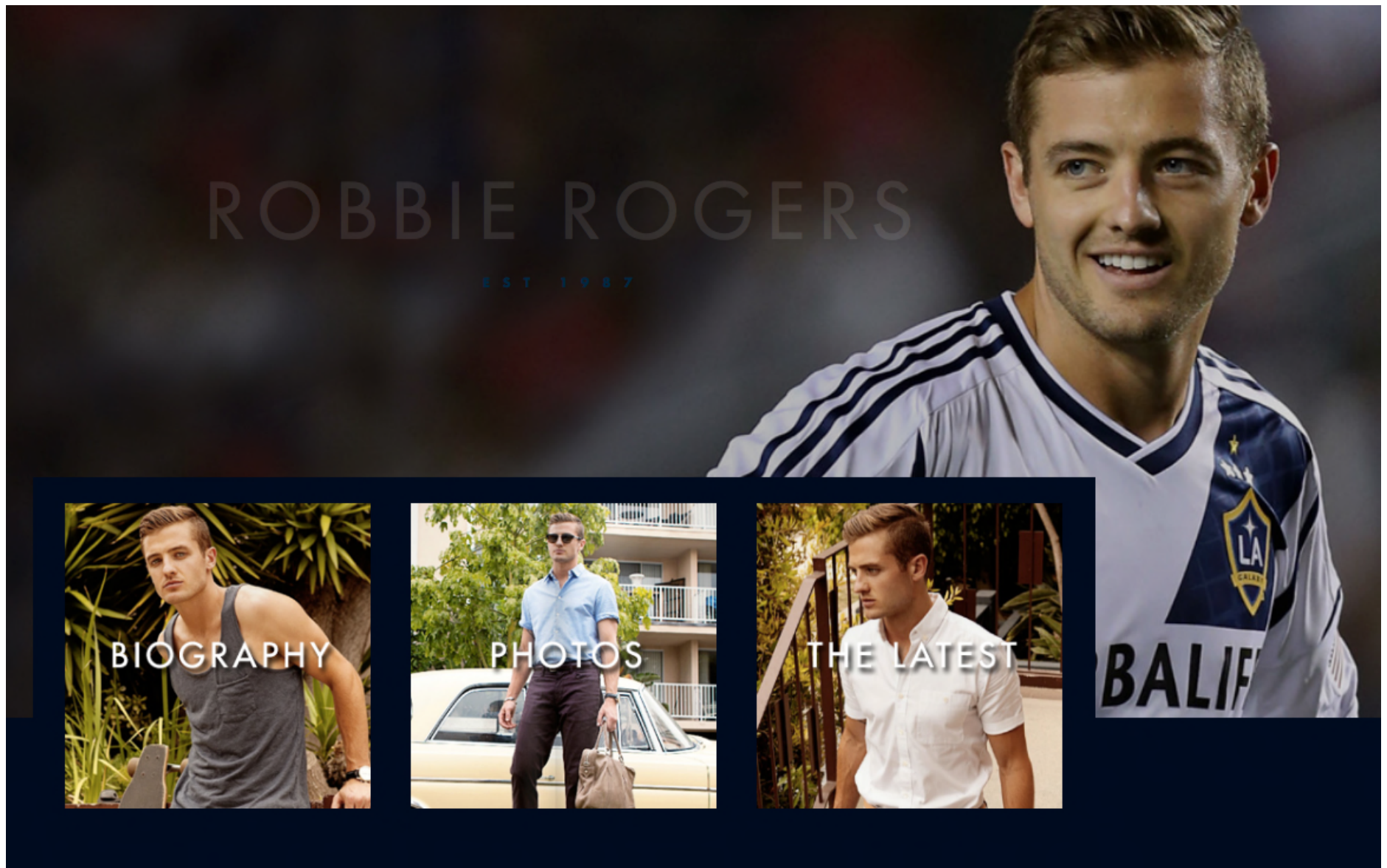


Muscles and No Poodle?

The Jason Collins Moment



Robbie Rogers



Source: <http://robbiehrogers.com>

Michael Sam and the [Future] Acceptance of Homosexual Masculinity?



**Confounding the
HETERONORMATIVITY of
mainstream sport culture.**

In recent times, the normative centre of masculine sport culture as being **PHYSICALLY ABLED has also been challenged.**

7. Adaptive Masculinities

Men with physical impairments have historically been **challenged to express and perform** their masculine identity.

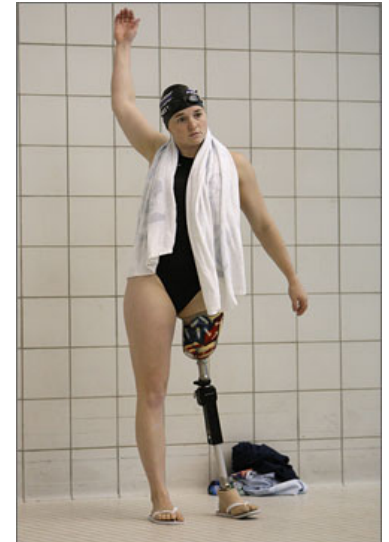
They are often compelled to involve themselves in **ADAPTIVE** physical activities (adapted to the limits of their compromised bodies), as a setting for masculine performativity.

Mosaic Masculinities Alert

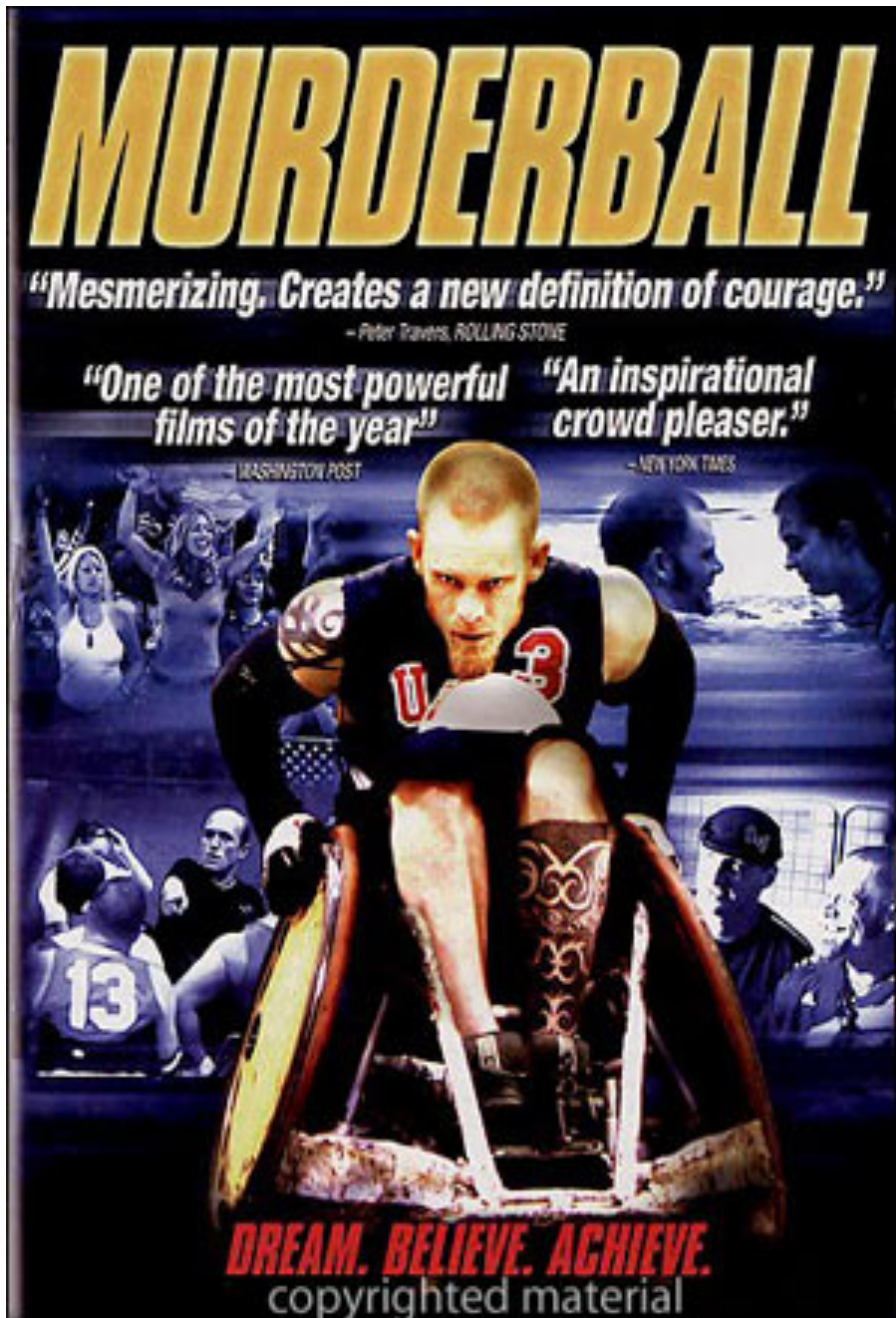
However, the emergence and popularity of paralympic sport has provided many with a context for the advancement of many **elements/expressions of the hyper-masculine ideal.**

Mosaic Masculinities Alert

The Veteran Soldier/Paralympic Athlete



Mosaic Masculinities Alert



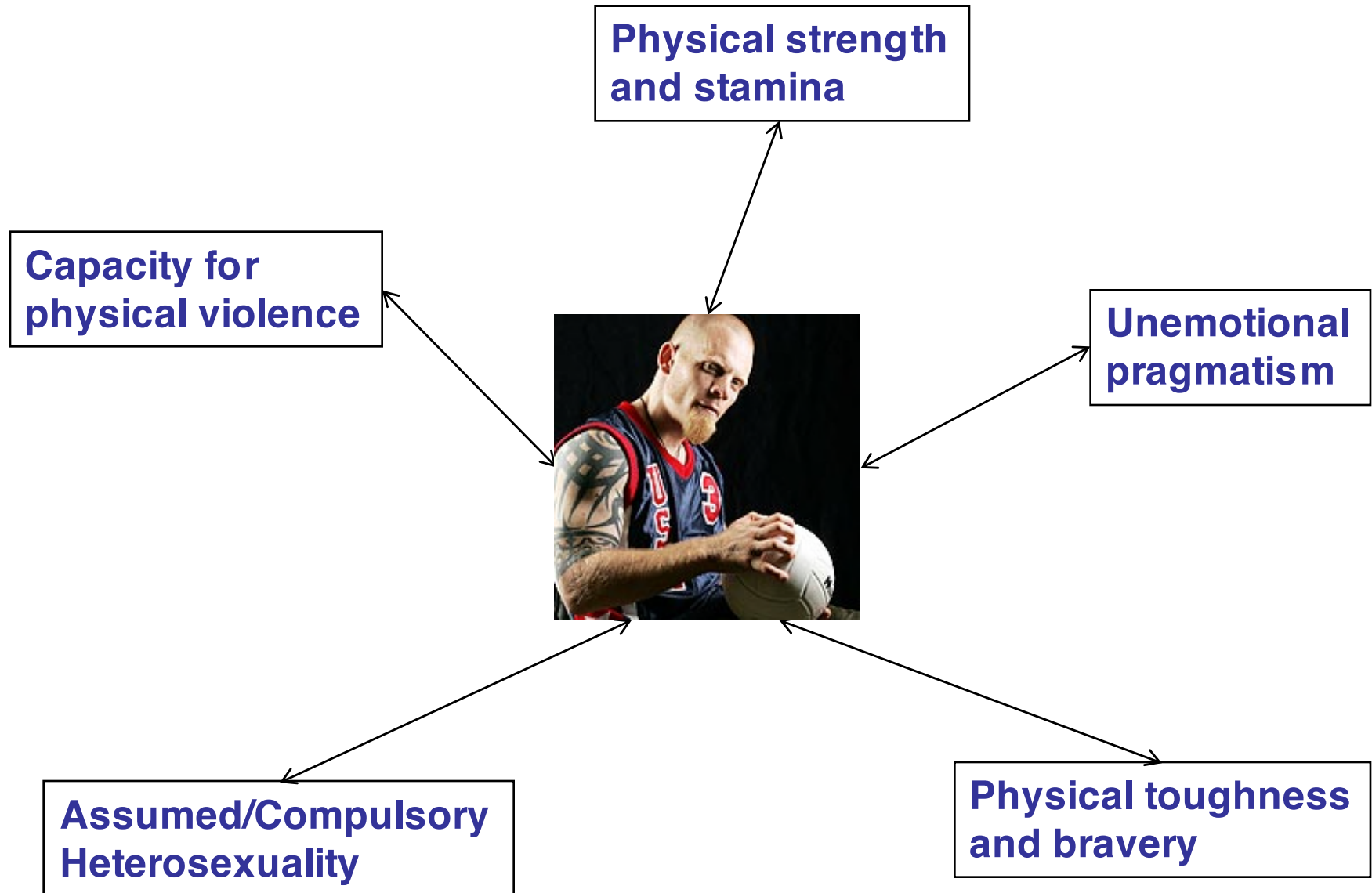
Murderball: The Performance of Masculinity

Murderball: The Performance of Adaptive Masculinity



See Video Clip 12

Murderball's Adaptive **Hyper**-Masculinity



In conclusion, masculinity is an **embodied performance**, of which sport/physical culture is an important part. It is also a **performative GENDERED AND GENDERING act**, at least partially **measured and defined against** the embodied sport/physical culture **femininities** to which we turn next.

**See course website for
related required readings,
video clips, key concepts,
thematic review
questions, and essay
question.**