

WHAT'S GOING ON

at the Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities?

March 2015

JOIN US AT OUR UPCOMING EVENT

.....
Thursday March 5 - Sunday March 8, 2015
The Roosevelt Hotel
45 E. 45th Street, New York City, NY



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MASCULINITIES

Engaging Men and Boys for Gender Equality

ACCOMODATIONS

Getting Here

The Roosevelt Hotel is a NYC landmark located at E. 45th Street between Madison Avenue and Vanderbilt Avenue in Midtown East, just steps away from Grand Central Station.

MTA Directions:

To get here via subway, you can take the 4,5,6, or 7 trains or the S Shuttle from 42 St - Times Square (A,C,E,N,Q,R,1,2,3) to 42 St - Grand Central Station.

Driving Directions

Take Midtown Tunnel straight onto 37th Street
Turn right onto 3rd Avenue
Turn left onto 45th Street
Drive past 3 traffic lights
Hotel is between Vanderbilt Avenue and Madison Avenue on the right.

Together with our partners we have organized four amazing days of workshops, presentations, panels, and entertainment. *But we could not have done this without your work.*

We look forward to an inspiring, challenging, and politically engaging and enriching few days together – to inspire all of us to continue to contribute to the struggle for gender equality around the world.

Michael Kimmel
Executive Director
Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities, Stony Brook University

Cliff Leek
Conference Chair

Cheryl Llewellyn
Conference Co-Chair

FROM OUR ORGANIZERS

“Without the involvement of men in the promotion of gender equity, any progress made will not be sustainable.”

- Jimmie Briggs, Man Up Campaign

FEATURED PLENARIES

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

Accountability in Activism and Research

- **Moderator:** Quentin Walcott, Connect
- Lori Adelman, Feministing
- Gary Barker, Promundo and co-chair MenEngage Alliance
- Bafana Khumalo, Sonke Gender Justice
- Layli Maparyan, Wellesley Centers for Women
- Elizabeth Nyamayaro, UN Women
- Pamela Shifman, Novo Foundation
- Mychal Denzel Smith, Nation Institute

Engaging Men as Fathers

- Moderator:** Andrew Levack, Promundo, USA
- Pancho Aguayo, Fundacion CulturaSalud, Chile
- Adrienne Burgess, Fatherhood Institute
- Michael Kaufman, White Ribbon Campaign
- Josh Levs, Author
- Marco Aurelio Martin, Promundo, Brazil
- Ronald Mincy, Columbia University

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Engaging Youth for Gender Equality

- **Moderator:** Niobe Way, NYU
- Vojislav Arsić (Serbia), Director, CENTAR E8
- Gerardo Backal, Youth Engagement, UN Women
- Jimmie Briggs, Man Up Campaign
- Dana Edell, SPARK
- Christopher Howard, Hampden -Sydney College
- Asif Khan, UN Foundation

Engaging Men and Boys Against Violence

- **Moderator:** Joe Ehrmann
- Ted Bunch, A Call to Men
- Don McPherson, Anti-Violence Activist
- Todd Minerson, White Ribbon Campaign
- Esta Soler, Futures Without Violence
- Lana Wells, University of Calgary

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Engaging Men and Boys for the Future: Where Do We Go From Here?

- **Moderator:** Naomi Wolf, author
- Abhijit Das, Centre for Health and Social Justice, India
- Michael Flood, University of Wollongong, Australia
- Jackson Katz, Mentors in Violence Prevention, US
- Dean Peacock, Sonke Gender Justice and co-chair MenEngage Alliance, South Africa
- Manu Sareen, Minister for Equality, Denmark
- Daphne Watkins, AMSA, US

SPOTLIGHT: A Conversation With Jane Fonda

Q: Why do you think that it's important to get men involved in gender equality? Can you tell me about the men and boys in your life?

A: As I look back over my husbands and kind of dig deep into why they were the way they were, which is what I did when preparing to write my memoir starting in 2000, I began to realize that they had been - the word "victim" comes to mind, and I guess it's appropriate that there were aspects of our culture that had caused them to not be what they had originally had intended to be. I kind of want to say by the Creator, but what I mean is that they had come into the world as whole human beings very much in touch with their emotional selves, but that all of them had split from that although remnants of those beautiful things came through enough to cause me to fall in love with them. And as I explored this sad fact and got to know, for example, Carol Gilligan and her husband James Gilligan and various other women and men were involved in the work of gender, I realized that it was the toxicity of patriarchy that had damaged them and shut them down. I learned from James Gilligan in particular that this happened to many, many boys at a very early age, like around 6 when they first being to receive messages, possibly from their coach, possibly from their fathers, maybe even from their mothers. Certainly from the larger culture, and these messages go like this: don't be a sissy, don't be weak, don't cry, you have to be a real man, real men don't cry, real men don't need help, real men don't ask for directions, real men aren't close to their mothers. And this pattern, that they leave their mothers and this ladder depends that they leave their mothers at a young age is particularly damaging because we know how psychologists who had deduced developmentally damaging for boys to be separated from mothers so early. The fact that this damage happens to early in a boy's life means that they are not able to see to the other way, the way things are. It's interesting to see that this is very different for girls. Except girls who have been sexually abused and violated, girls have a who decade of agency before they hit puberty, and for girls it's puberty when their voice goes underground and they lose agency. For boys, its the loss of heart; for girls its the loss of voice. They don't really lose their voice, but it goes underground. And once I began to understand this about boys and men, it allowed me to something very important - it allowed me to feel empathy towards men. We are not going to change our culture if we do not feel empathy for men and understand why it is so hard for grown men to feel emotional. You know, it's not just that they don't act on emotions - they very often, and this is true for boys - they can't even identify their emotions.

Q: I think it's interesting that while you're basing a lot of this on men and boys you have known, because I can still see these things today in boys and men with almost no change, even in my younger brother who is only in his early teens now. Is this something you still come across today?

SPOTLIGHT: A Conversation With Jane Fonda (Continued)

A: Yes, yes. I have a 15 year old grandson and i have seen this boy who was very emotional begin to not want to express his emotions. Although they are there, they need to be teased out. It's not easy.

Q: *Is that why you think it's important to study masculinity?*

A: Well, a great many of the many problems we're facing today: war, environmental destruction - these things grow, I feel, out of men bifurcating head from heart, being cut off from feelings and empathy - empathy for others, empathy for Earth. This is less true for women - we feel more connection to Earth. We have different kinds of relationships. I think it's one reason, also, why women live on average five years longer than men. Before questions of war and peace and environment and basic health, we have to try and find ways to create a new template for masculinity that is less toxic. There's a lot of things - survival of many things - rely upon that. And we can't do that unless men are invited into the process and into the quest. That's what Michael Kimmel and the Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities is trying to do.

Q: *So what do you think is one obstacle standing in the way of gender equality and how do you think talking about this on a larger scale - like we are at the conference - might help?*

A: Well you can't begin to solve a problem until you name the problem and name it accurately. You know, if you name it in a false way you'll never come up with a true cure. So, The Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities is trying to pose the problem and articulate the problem in a way that can be heard by a large number of people. Hopefully eventually a tipping point will be reached. Right now it's a relatively small number of people that are beginning to understand the kinds of things that need to be done and we all need to come together and talk about what it is we're doing and learn from each other - learn skills, new ways of talking, new ways of wording what we're doing. The way this issue is praised is very important. I want to go to the Conference because I want to hear what the experts are saying and how they're saying it - the words they're using and the programs they're using. You know, there's still too many people who still believe that boys will be boys and girls are just experiences hormonal surges - that this is all due to biological determinism. But if you paid attention, you would see that psychological and cultural factors also play a role. You can tell this because of the success of programs that encourage girls' interest in performance in math and science and sports and interventions which help young men get in touch with their emotional lives. The success of these programs argue against simple biological determinism. It's also important to notice when boys do remain warm and loving. That happens when there is a structured home and school environment that encourages that and acts as a vaccine to boys helping them stay home. So, for the health of our boys who become our men and end up running our corporations and our country, we need to define the positive qualities of being male so that they can come into an authentic relationship with their gender.

Q: *What about the conference are you most looking forward to?*

A: Learning what all the experts that are going to be there are doing. What's frustrating is that there's so many workshops and I want to attend all of them! It's hard to choose. But I feel like I will learn and I will be able to take what I learn into my own life. I do a great deal of public speaking and will be able to speak about them, and I'll be able to take them into the work of my various nonprofits that deal with adolescent boys and girls and also aim at stopping violence against women.

TO REGISTER, CLICK [HERE](#).

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE *March 5-8, 2015*

**Center for the Study of
Men and Masculinities**



AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY