

Call for Papers, July 2024

JEP – Austrian Journal of Development Studies / Journal für Entwicklungspolitik

Title: **Entangled Masculinities – Masculinities in the Context of Global Crises**

Global political, social, and economic crises affect unequal gender relations and masculinities in various ways. Whereas in the aftermath of the financial crisis of 2008 more care work was already being offloaded onto the ostensibly private space of the household (cf. Dowling 2021), the reproduction of unequal gender relations became even more apparent during the COVID-19-pandemic. Despite spending more time at home – due to various measures in response to the pandemic – men in Europe and North America largely refrained from participating more in caring activities (cf. Wojnicka 2022). In the context of a more recent political crisis, namely the intensification of the Russian war against Ukraine, Ukrainian men are called upon to take up arms, are prohibited from leaving the country, and are confronted with legal pressure to return to Ukraine. This (re-)emerging “protective masculinity” (Wojnicka 2023), characterised by an inclination towards violence and the military, mainly affects Ukrainian men, but – through transnational media channels – (re-)affirms national and regional ideas that ‘real men’ are the ones willing to fight, protect and die.

Furthermore, masculine practices also contribute to the global ecological crisis. While driving large SUVs and emitting proportionally high amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere is often mentioned in this context, which the concept of “petro-masculinity” (Daggett 2018) tries to address, the ecological consequences of practices aligned with “ecomodern masculinities” (Pulé et al 2021) are largely ignored. Moreover, given the society-wide acknowledgment of the climate crisis and the promotion of technological fixes as part of a green capitalism, “ecomodern masculinities” (ibid.) can be considered as hegemonic in social fields directly related to the ecological crisis (e.g. mobility, energy transition, etc.). Meanwhile, national crises of democratic representation in liberal democracies have contributed to the (re-)emergence of far-right, populist right and conservative forces, whether in Argentina, India, Italy or the US (to name just a few), which are transnationally united in their aim to re-masculinise politics by promoting patriarchal values, denouncing queer theory and implementing anti-feminist policies, as well as by overturning the feminist achievements of the last decades (cf. Mellström 2023; Sauer/Penz 2023).

These few examples (not to mention the crisis of the migratory and border regimes of the EU and the US) illustrate how men and masculinities are entangled within various global

crises, shaping them as well as being shaped by them. Despite the various analyses of masculinities in relation to social phenomena with global implications, this aspect is rarely scrutinised in its entirety, with global crises “often remaining implicit as a loose unnamed background” (Hearn 2022).

This appraisal can also be extended to pre-figurative conceptions of masculinities. Scholars and activists working within the paradigm of the Critical Study on Men and Masculinities (CSMM) have made ample use of the conceptual and contentious ambiguity of the research field’s central term, ‘masculinity’ (cf. Howson/Hearn 2019), being understood (often simultaneously) as identity, as a project, or as a “configuration of praxis” (Connell 2012), to construct alternatives to the various hegemonic masculinities in different social and political fields. Caring (Scholz/Heilmann 2019) and ecological (Hultman/Pulé 2018) masculinities, and a pro-feminist environmentalism (Pease 2019) are examples of such pre-figurative conceptions. Whereas the two former ones emphasise how individual cis-men could engage in transformative practices, either by centring their lives around caring tasks (cf. Scholz/Heilmann 2019) or by becoming more aware of the ecological crisis (cf. Hultman 2021), a pro-feminist environmentalism calls for a stronger political engagement against gender inequalities and environmental destruction (cf. Pease 2019). Still, these concepts also remain focused on regional and national levels and do not discuss whether and how the global and global crises in particular, could be addressed.

In general, the conceptual ambiguity of the term ‘masculinity’ has contributed to an expansion of the research field of CSMM, adding to the existing issues (e.g. fatherhood, sexuality, and sports) a plethora of research areas in which masculine practices and values are normative (e.g. mobility, transportation, party politics). As part of the ethnographic turn (cf. Hearn 2015), the theoretical tools and research paradigms of CSMM have been further nuanced and have accounted for the transnational dimension, e.g. pointing to the relation of various hegemonic masculinities at different geopolitical scales (cf. Connell, Messerschmidt 2005). However, as global crises affect masculinities on and across different scales and contribute in their own way to the reproduction or transformation of unequal gender relations, these crises also open the question of whether the theoretical tools of CSMM are sufficient to account for the impact of such global phenomena on masculinities and gender relations. For example, empirical research on masculinities which contribute to the ecological crisis face the difficult (theoretical) task of contextualising their findings with respect to unequal gender relations: how are ecologically destructive practices not only gendered but also contributing to the

reproduction of unequal gender relations and the hegemonic position of masculinities? How can pre-figurative, alternative conceptions of masculinities account for global crises in general?

Overall, global crises open various empirical and theoretical challenges for CSMM. This special issue of the Austrian Journal of Development Studies (JEP) aims to shed light on such questions, trying to take account of how masculinities are contributing to, and being shaped by, global crises in various social and political contexts. Therefore, this special issue invites empirical and theoretical contributions on – but not limited to – the following topics:

- Men and masculinities contributing to and being affected by global crises – such as the ecological or the care crisis – in different social and political fields, especially in the Global South.
- The impact of global crises on men and masculinities at different scales, as well as the various responses to such crises at the transnational, regional or local level.
- Conflicts and tensions between masculinities arising from adaptations to global crises and their effects on unequal gender relations.
- Masculinities of the (Far-)Right in relation to various global crises.
- Global crises as opportunities for pre-figurative, counter-hegemonic masculine practices and conceptions of masculinities.
- Impacts of global crises on hegemonic masculinities and the global “patriarchal dividend” (Connell 2012), especially in the Global South.
- The relation of global crises to (discourses on) the so-called ‘crisis of masculinity’.
- Global crises as impetus to reflect the potential of scientific theories (poststructuralism, postmodernism, realism) that are used within CSMM.
- Intersectional approaches to the role of masculinities in the context of global crises.

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#### Schedule:

We invite authors from any discipline to send an abstract (maximum 300 words) including title, author(s) and institutional affiliation to [johannes.korak@uni-jena.de](mailto:johannes.korak@uni-jena.de) and [cfp@mattersburgerkreis.at](mailto:cfp@mattersburgerkreis.at) by **September 16, 2024**. By **mid of October, 2024** we will invite authors to write their texts, and will inform all others about our decision. The deadline for the submission of full articles (40,000 characters, including spaces) is **January 31, 2025**. After editorial assessment and double-blind review, corrections and proof-reading, the special issue will be published in print and online in autumn 2025.

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The **Austrian Journal of Development Studies** is one of the leading journals in its field in the German speaking area. The journal provides a forum for a broad critical debate and reflection on the various dimensions of societal transformation on a global scale with a specific focus on North-South relations. Specifically, the relationship between cutting edge theoretical advances in the field of development studies and contemporary development policies is addressed. Politically relevant knowledge about issues of development is provided in an accessible, interdisciplinary way. All articles are reviewed anonymously (double-blind, peer-reviewed), and published in German or English.

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