

The Transition of Masculinity in Post – Recession Irish Society

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Abstract

The aim of this research project was to investigate and identify how men have changed in contemporary Ireland. There are now 3 types of men known in society, the research carried out aimed to seek information on the 3 types of masculinity in relation to prominent themes that occur in society such as; general society, the workplace and family life.



Introduction

As the redefinition of females has hugely progressed in society over years, for males it is only beginning. Today men are more playful with masculinity; various models have been introduced to society, changing the name to masculinities. The research being carried out aimed to seek information on these types of masculinity in relation to three prominent themes in society; general, work and family. Research on the topic of masculinities has failed to provide information since the hit of the economic crisis. The research had a target of finding out what it is like to be a man in Ireland today, and has the recession had any impact.



Method

A qualitative approach was used along with a criterion sampling method to collect the data. Thematic analysis was used to highlight the similarities and differences among the participants also allowing for unanticipated insights. The participants were all born and living in Ireland, their ages ranged from 22 – 48.



Results

The results identified 4 themes; social embeddedness and transition, gender and inequalities, men as “egotistic” individuals and power. The 4 themes found the surge of women now entering the workplace has also changed the meaning of masculinity, in turn emasculating men as the provider, which is embedded in traditional masculinity.

Discussion

The term provider is linked to the masculinity role. The surge of women in the workplace has changed the meaning of the masculinity role, in turn emasculating men as the provider, which is embedded in traditional masculinity.

The themes that have emerged from the data suggest that traditional male norms and values exist in Irish society even though social change is visible. This indicates that society is in transition producing many new equalities and new gender roles that were not present pre-recession. There was no evidence prior the research suggesting that the change in men's appearance is related to women's newfound power in society. However, it can still be argued to at what context, whether it is extensive male grooming, diversity in family patterns, a statement of social change or equality of expression for both genders?

References

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