



First conference by the work group **TransformMen**

Contemporary analysis of masculinities in Switzerland

15 - 16 March 2018, FHS St. Gallen

Call for Abstracts (Deadline 20th of August 2017)

Recent social developments make a contemporary analysis of «masculinities» in Switzerland necessary. Changes within work places, families or politics are accompanied by transformations of masculinities. They become apparent in new forms of labour and family work, love relationships, parenthood, friendship or sexuality as well as in the wishes and needs of men. These changes go hand in hand with conflicts, dynamics of crisis and intensified social struggles. In Europe and North America we can see how the rise of the New Right is connected to the persistence of traditional masculinity norms. Moreover, a current analysis becomes necessary, because it is not always clear, what exactly is changing in the present developments and in what way. How can we understand the paradoxical concurrence of change and persistence and evaluate their social implications appropriately? The aims of this conference are to further the discussion on a contemporary analysis of masculinity, to specify it for the Swiss context and to establish a focussed perspective for these transformations of masculinities.

Such an analysis requires a productive exchange and the collaboration between different researchers on the topic of masculinity in Switzerland. Despite its immediate relevance, research on men and (transformations of) masculinities in Switzerland does not (yet) have an extensive scientific foundation. Since the 1990s, the research field of critical studies on men has been established in the international context. In the different Swiss institutions however, research on men and masculinities has only been done implicitly or scattered. The research is only conducted selectively and without a common larger network.

Against this background the conference has different aims:

- *First*, it wants to **gather findings on the topic of masculinities in Switzerland** in the context of recent social changes. This is an important first step for a systematic current analysis of masculinities in Switzerland.
- *Second*, we want to **further the exchange** among researchers (including applied sciences) and political actors and facilitate their networking.

- *Third*, the conference aims at stimulating **new thematic collaborations** on research ideas in the field of men and masculinities in Switzerland.

Our goal is to find out, what research results on men, masculinities and transformations of (male) modes of living exist for the Swiss context and what questions and problems are being investigated. Therefore it is necessary to exchange findings openly, to discuss them in a constructive and critical way and to systematize them. A further goal is to make out current academic voids. Moreover, the organisers plan to publish conference proceedings.

We warmly invite you to hand in an **abstract until the 20st of August 2017** (max one A4 page) for presentations of 30 minutes to tobias.studer@fhnw.ch. The papers should focus on current conceptual, empirical and/or methodological findings on masculinities in Switzerland. The contributions can come from different disciplines as well as praxis fields and they can be held in German or in English. We will respond to the abstracts by the end of September. We cannot pay for the presentation or travel expenses, as the work group does not have any funds.

The conference will be held at the FHS St. Gallen and will last one and a half days. The first half day begins in the afternoon and focusses on current analyses, thematic approaches and plenary sessions as well as networking. On the second day we will have discussions and presentations in thematic panels.

TransforMen (transformations of masculinities) is an interdisciplinary work group that is not bound to a specific location and brings together different kinds of institutions. It was initiated in 2015 within the Network Gender Studies Switzerland and the Swiss Association of Gender Studies. The collaboration between researchers of different levels (PhD, PostDoc, lecturer, FH professor, NGO) promotes exchange and furthering critical studies on men and masculinities in Switzerland.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact Dr. Diana Baumgarten (diana.baumgarten@tu-dortmund.de) and Prof. Dr. Steve Stiehler (steve.stiehler@fhsg.ch).

The conference is supported by:

