

Looking out for the 'Aussie Bloke': Gender, Class and Contextualizing a Hegemony of Working-Class Masculinities in Australia.

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Thesis Abstract

This thesis explores working-class masculinities in Australia, looking at such masculinities in relation to areas such as media representations, education, work, intimacy, and leisure and risk. In particular this thesis sets out to contextualize what is argued to be a hegemonic masculinity in a specific location, considering how the hegemony of certain representations of working-class masculinity is embedded in Australian culture in ways that legitimize certain gendered, classed, sexualized and ethnic positions while delegitimizing others. Working-class masculinity is considered as an inclusionary and exclusionary tool. This thesis uses masculinity theory, class theory, and some empirical research to look at working-class masculinity in Australia as *centralizing* and, consequently, hegemonic. In doing so this study explores this highly important and oft debated term in such a way as to suggest that the term hegemonic masculinity may in fact need to be contextualized in order to be clarified.

Declaration

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint-award of this degree.

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Signed

Date

Kirsty Whitman

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Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to my dad Geoff who instilled in me a love of learning and a burning curiosity about the world, and who believed in me even when I didn't; and for my precious girl Archer. May I instil the same love of learning and burning curiosity in you.