

ECPS6001: Psychology Empirical Project

Advanced proposal summary for own dissertation project

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Proposed Supervisor's name:	<i>Only complete this if you have already been in contact with a potential supervisor who has agreed to supervise you in principle.</i> Dr Charlotte Greenway

Psychology Research Area (tick all that apply)

Social Psychology X	Developmental Psychology	Biological Psychology	Forensic Psychology
Health Psychology	Individual Differences X	Educational Psychology	Political Psychology
Cognitive Psychology	Clinical Psychology	Counselling Psychology	Occupational Psychology
<i>Other: indicate briefly (not included in word count)</i>			

Please state the main research question(s) or hypotheses(s): (100 words max)

Exploring attitudes towards males. The aim of the study is to answer the following research questions:

How do females perceive males?

How do males perceive males?

How do these perceptions become altered when in mixed gender groups?

Due to the gender identity spectrum, participants will self-identify when selected. Participants identifying with a gender other than male or female will be included in the mixed genders group.

Background: 250 words

1. Why is your study important?
2. What theory and empirical research evidence supports your research question?
3. What methodological approach do you wish to take and why?

Currently there is academic and social discourse surrounding expectations of masculinity. The modern era and geo-political climate has triggered a significant shift in the social interpretation of “male” in western societies. Academically, two predominant groups have been observed (Courtenay, 2000; Genç, 2018; Krivoshchekov et al., 2023). Group one affirms a traditionally “masculine” view of males; a man is defined by his strength, wealth, and work ethic.. Group two ascertains that male behaviour in current society should bear a more “feminist” alignment; a man’s recognition of male and female equality has become more desirable than “typically masculine” traits.

Courtenay (2000) used a social constructivist lens to suggest both males and females play an active role in rebuilding the normative gender roles associated with masculinity. Krivoshchekov et al. (2023) report a positive correlation between “Traditional Masculinity” and a conservative/Christian belief structure. The literature highlights the need to understand males’ interpersonal relationships in developing “masculinity” (Courtenay, 2000; Krivoshchekov et al., 2023). This study will explore beliefs held by different groups, and their views surrounding masculinity. This study aims to identify any commonality in current attitudes towards males between genders.

The methodological approach is thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2006, Clarke, Braun and Hayfield, 2015) , as few studies of this type exist (Krivoshchekov et al., 2023). Krivoshchekov et al. performed a meta-analysis, with only 2 articles selected based in the UK. Both articles were quantitative, meaning a qualitative study of this topic will help aid further study. This topic should add data that may influence inclusive policy, which is one aim of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The study will use three groups of six participants, over eighteen years of age. Each group will be populated using a convenience sample using the EMS.

Participants will complete demographic and consent forms, ensuring the study conforms to BPS standards, including participant anonymity and informed consent (British Psychological Society, 2014, 2018).

During the research, participants will be given a neutral image of a male to comment upon, and then asked questions such as “What do you think the role of males should be?”. The expectation is that in the all-male group, attitudes towards masculinity will be more “traditional”, whereas the all-female group’s attitudes will be more “feminist”, and in the mixed genders group attitudes will be compromised to reflect the interests of the other groups present.

Responses will be recorded with an audio device.

References

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- Courtenay, W. H. (2000). Engendering Health: A Social Constructionist Examination of Men's Health Beliefs and Behaviors. *Psychology of Men and Masculinity*, 1(1), 4–15.
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- Krivoshchekov, V., Gulevich, O., & Blagov, I. (2023). Traditional masculinity and male violence against women: A meta-analytic examination. *Psychology of Men & Masculinities*.
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