

Sofia Aboim (ICS-ULisboa), Pedro Vasconcelos (CIES-IUL), Sara Merlini (ICS-ULisboa) | *Trans Masculinities: embodiments, performances and the materiality of gender in times of change*

In recent years, the rapid expansion of plural gender identities beyond the normative definitions of hegemonic masculinity and femininity can be seen as one of the most challenging forms of resistance to the limits imposed by binary systems of gender that oppose, still, men and women. While women and femininity remain subaltern in contemporary societies, the affirmation of the rights of gender minorities has challenged the lexicon of gender equality politics in a gender order organized upon the inequality between the feminine and the masculine. The visibility of the category transgender has brought new challenges to light and, most importantly, has led to the formation of a new lexicon for the naming of privilege and oppression. However, in this context, transsexual and transgender men have had less visibility than other forms of gender variance. Drawing on fieldwork with trans-men in Portugal and the United Kingdom, two lines of argument will be developed. Firstly, from a theoretical standpoint, the importance of building bridges between different areas of critical gender studies, namely Critical Studies on Men and Masculinities and Trans Studies is advocated. With the aim of contributing to a fruitful dialogue between two key areas of critical gender studies, trans masculinities are discussed as practice, place and effect. Following Connell's proposal, it is suggested that redressing the conceptual premises of masculinity is a fundamental step so as to understand the plurality of trans embodiments, bodily materiality and even the possibilities of doing masculinity without men. Secondly, from an empirical angle, such a perspective will enable us to tackle masculinities by exploring trans-men's subjectivities and the doings of gender when not naturalized as emanating from the (pre-existing) body. Finally, we will argue that under the name Trans, processes of inclusion and exclusion are taking place while offering us a privileged lens to – from margins to centre – understand the workings of gender and power.