# Constructing the Black Masculine identity

*Created by:*
*Thomas Weissinger*
*Professor Emeritus, University Library*
*Professor Emeritus, African American Studies*

*Last updated: 2013*

ILLINOIS
University Library

Abdel-Shehid, Gamal. *Who Da Man? Black Masculinities and Sporting Cultures.* Toronto; Canadian Scholars' Press, 2005.

Adu-Poku, Samuel. *Envisioning (Black) Male Feminism: a Cross-Cultural Perspective.* In Murphy, Peter F., ed. Feminism and Masculinities. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Alexander, Bryant Keith. "Passing, Cultural Performance, and Individual Agency: Performative Reflections on Black Masculine Identity." *Cultural Studies/Critical Methodologies* 3 (August 2004): 377-404.

Baker-Kimmons, Leslie and Pancho McFarland. "The Rap on Chicano and Black Masculinity: A Content Analysis of Gender Images in Rap Lyrics." *Race, Gender and Class* 2011 18(1/2): 331-344.

Beavers, Herman. "'The Cool Pose': Intersectionality, Masculinity, and Quiescence in the Comedy and Films of Richard Pryor and Eddie Murphy." In Stecopoulos, Harry and Michael Uebel, eds. *Race and the Subject of Masculinities.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1997.

Belton, Don, ed. *Speak My Name: Black Men on Masculinity and the American Dream.* Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1995.

Berry, Venise T. and Harold Looney. "Rap Music, Black Men, and the Police." In Berry, Venise T. and Carmen L. Manning-Miller, eds. *Mediated Messages and African-American Culture: Contemporary Issues.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 1996.

Blount, Marcellus and George P. Cunningham. *Representing Black Men.* New York: Routledge, 1996.

Booker, Christopher B. *I Will Wear No Chain!: a Social History of African-American Males.* Westport, CT: Praeger, 2000.

Boyd, Todd. "The Day the Niggaz Took Over: Basketball, Commodity Culture, and Black Masculinity." In Baker, Aaron and Todd Boyd, eds. *Out of Bounds: Sports, Media, and the Politics of Identity.* Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1997.

_____. "A Small Introduction to the 'G' Funk Era: Gangsta Rap and Black Masculinity in Contemporary Los Angeles." In Dear, Michael J., H. Eric Schockman and Greg Hise, eds. *Rethinking Los Angeles.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 1996.

Brown, Jeffrey A. "Comic Book Masculinity and the New Black Superhero." *African American Review* 33 (Spring 1999): 25-42.

Butters, Gerald R., Jr. "Portrayals of Black Masculinity in Oscar Micheaux's The Homesteader." *Literature Film Quarterly* 28 (January 2000): 54-59.

Carrington, Ben. "Sport, Masculinity, and Black Cultural Resistance." *Journal of Sport & Social Issues* 22 (August 1998): 275-298.

Chan, Kenneth. "The Construction of Black Male Identity in Black Action Films of the Nineties." *Cinema Journal* 37 (Winter 1998): 35-48.

Clark, Keith Spencer. "Reforming the Black Male Self: a Study of Subject Formation in Selected Works by James Baldwin, Ernest Gaines, and August Wilson." Ph.D. Thesis, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1993.

Collins, Patricia Hill. "Booty call: Sex, Violence, and Images of Black Masculinity." In Collins, Patricia Hill. *Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender, and the New Racism.* New York: Routledge, 2004.

Connor, Marlene K. *What is Cool?: Understanding Black Manhood in America.* New York: Crown Publishers, 1995.

Cooper, Frank Rudy. "Against Bipolar Black Masculinity: Intersectionality, Assimilation, Identity Performance, and Hierarchy," *U.C. Davis Law Review* 39 (2006): 853-906.

Crosby, Nandi S. "Re/constructing Black Masculinity in Prison." *Journal of Men's Studies* 11 (Fall 2002): 91-107.

Dines, Gail. "King Kong and the White Woman: Hustler Magazine and the Demonization of Black Masculinity." *Violence Against Women* 4 (June 1998): 291-307.

Duneier, Mitchell. *Slim's Table: Race, Respectability, and Masculinity.* Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1992.

Dyson, Michael Eric. "The Politics of Black Masculinity and the Ghetto in Black Film." In Becker, Carol, ed. *The Subversive Imagination: Artists, Society, and Responsibility.* New York: Routledge, 1994.

Estes, Steve. "I am a Man!": Race, Masculinity, and the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Strike." *Labor History* 41 (May 2000): 153-170.

Ferguson, Ann Arnett. "Bad Boys: School and the Social Construction of Black Masculinity." Ph.D. Thesis, University of California at Berkeley, 1995.

Gabbard, Krin. "Borrowing Black Masculinity: Dirty Harry finds his Gentle Side." In Gabbard, Krin. *Black Magic: White Hollywood and African American Culture.* New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2004.

Gates, Philippa. "Always a Partner in Crime: Black Masculinity in the Hollywood Detective Film." *Journal of Popular Film and Television* 32 (Spring 2004): 20-29.

Gayles, Jonathan. *Stepping Off Stage: Towards a More Reflexive Blackness. Journal of African American Studies* 12 (June 2008): 180-192.

Gerstner, David A. *Manly Arts: Masculinity and Nation in Early American Cinema.* Durham: Duke University Press, 2006. Chapters include "African American Realism: Oscar Micheaux, Autobiography, and the Ambiguity of Black Male Desire" and "The Queer Frontier: Vincente Minnelli's Cabin in the Sky."

Gerstner, David A. "'Other and Different Scenes': Oscar Micheaux's Bodies and the Cinematic Cut." *Wide Angle* 21 (October 1999): 6-19.

Golden, Thelma. "Black Masculinity: a Long, Hard Look behind the Fierce Cool." *Essence* 26 (November 1995): 96-98+

_____, ed. *Black Male: Representations of Masculinity in Contemporary American Art.* New York: Whitney Museum of American Art, 1994.

Goodey, Jo. "Understanding Racism and Masculinity: Drawing on Research with Boys Aged Eight to Sixteen." *International Journal of the Sociology of Law* 26 (December 1998): 393-418.

Grant, Nathan. *Masculinist Impulses: Toomer, Hurston, Black writing, and modernity* Columbia : University of Missouri Press, 2004.

Green, Herb. "Turning the Myths of Black Masculinity Inside/out." In Thompson, Becky and Sangeeta Tyagi, eds. *Names We Call Home: Autobiography on Racial Identity.* New York: Routledge, 1996.

Halberstam, Judith. "Mackdaddy, Superfly, Rapper: Gender, Race, and Masculinity in the Drag Queen Scene." *Social Text* 52/53 (Fall 1997): 104-131.

Hall, Mary Allen. "Images of African-American Males in Realistic Fiction Picture Books, 1971-1990." Ph.D. Thesis, University of Florida, 1996.

Hall, Ronald E. "Clowns, Buffoons, and Gladiators: Media Portrayals of African-American Men." *Journal of Men's Studies* 1 (February 1993): 239-251.

_____. "Dark Skin and the Cultural Ideal of Masculinity." *Journal of African American Men* 1 (Winter 1995/96): 37-61.

Hall, Ronald E. and Jesenia M. Pizarro. "Cool Pose: Black Male Homicide and the Social Implications of Manhood." *Journal of Social Service Research* 37 (Jan/Feb 2011): 86-98.

Hampton, Gregory J. "Black Men Fenced in and a Plausible Black Masculinity." *CLA Journal* 46 (December 2002): 194-206.

Hare, Nathan. "The Frustrated Masculinity of the Negro Male." In Staples, Robert, ed. *The Black Family: Essays and Studies.* New York: Wadsworth, 1971.

Harper, Phillip Brian. *Are We Not Men? Masculine Anxiety and the Problem of African-American Identity.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Harris, Keith M. *Boys, Boyz, Bois: an Ethics of Black Masculinity in Film and Popular Media.* New York: Routledge, 2006.

Harris, Shanette M. "Psychosocial Development and Black Male Masculinity: Implications for Counseling Economically Disadvantaged African American Male Adolescents." *Journal of Counseling and Development* 73 (January-February 1995): 279-288.

Henry, Matthew. "He Is a 'Bad Mother *$%@!#': Shaft and Contemporary Black Masculinity." *African American Review* 38 (Spring 2004): 114-119.

Hernton, Calvin C. *Sex and Racism in America.* New York: Anchor, 1992.

Hine, Darlene Clark and Earnestine Jenkins, eds. *A Question of Manhood: a Reader in U.S. Black Men's History and Masculinity.* Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001.

Hoch, Paul. "White Hero Black Beast: Racism, Sexism and the Mask of Masculinity." In Murphy, Peter, ed. *Feminism and Masculinities.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

hooks, bell. "Reconstructing Black Masculinity." In Perchuk, Andrew and Helaine Posner, eds. *The Masculine Masquerade: Masculinity and Representation.* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1995.

_____. *We Real Cool: Black Men and Masculinity.* New York: Routledge, 2003.

Hopkinson, Natalie. *Deconstructing Tyrone: a New Look at Black Masculinity in the Hip-Hop Generation.* San Francisco: Cleis Press, 2006.

Hunter, A.G. and J.E. Davis. "Constructing Gender: an Exploration of Afro-American Men's Conceptualization of Manhood." *Gender and Society* 6 (September 1992): 464-479.

Hurt, Byron and Andrew Jones. *I am a man: Black masculinity in America.* 1 DVD (60 min.). Central Islip, NY: God Bless The Child Productions, 2006.

Hutchinson, Earl Ofari. *The Assassination of the Black Male Image.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996.

Icard, Larry D. "Black Gay Men and Conflicting Social Identities: Sexual Orientation versus Racial Identity." *Journal of Social Work and Human Sexuality* 4 (1986): 83-93.

Jackson, Edward M. "Images of Black Males in Terry McMillan's Waiting to Exhale." *MAWA Review* 8 (June 1993): 20-26.

Jackson II, Ronald L. "Black 'Manhood' as Xenophobe: an Ontological Exploration of the Hegelian Dialectic." *Journal of Black Studies* 27 (July 1997): 731-750.

_____. *Scripting the Black Masculine Body: Identity, Discourse, and Racial Politics in Popular Media.* Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2006.

Johnson, E. Patrick. "The Specter of the Black Fag: Parody, Blackness, and Hetero/homosexual." *Journal of Homosexuality* 45 (April-June 2003): 217-234.

Johnson, Michael K. *Black Masculinity and the Frontier Myth in American Literature.* Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2002.

Jones, S. "Reconstructing Manhood: Race, Masculinity, and Narrative Closure in Ernest Gaines's 'A Gathering of Old Men' and 'A Lesson before Dying'." *Masculinities* 3 (Summer 1995): 43-66.

Kang, Nancy. "To Love and be Loved: Considering Black Masculinity and the Misandric Impulse in Toni Morrison's Beloved." *Callaloo* 26 (Summer 2003): 836-854.

Kelley, Robin D.G. "The Riddle of the Zoot: Malcolm Little and Black Cultural Politics during World War II." In Stecopoulos, Harry and Michael Uebel, eds. *Race and the Subject of Masculinities.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1997.

Leak, Jeffrey Bernard. "The Quality of Man: Twentieth-Century Literary Constructions of Black Masculinity." Ph.D. Thesis, Emory University, 1997.

Lemelle, Jr., Anthony J. "Africana Studies and the Crisis of Black Masculinity." In Conyers, James L., Jr., ed. *Afrocentric Traditions.* New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2005.

_____. "Killing the Author of Life, or Decimating 'Bad Niggers'." *Journal of Black Studies* 19 (December 1988): 216-231.

Lemelle, Jr., Anthony J. and Juan Battle. "Black Masculinity Matters in Attitudes toward Gay Males." *Journal of Homosexuality* 47 (March 2004): 39-52.

Madhubuti, Haki R. *Black Men: Obsolete, Single, Dangerous? The Afrikan American Family in Transition: Essay in Discovery, Solution and Hope.* Chicago, IL: Third World Press, 1990.

Majors, Richard and Janet Mancini Billson. *Cool Pose: The Dilemmas of Black Manhood in America.* New York: Lexington Books, 1992.

McDonough, Carla J. "August Wilson: Performing Black Masculinity." In McDonough, Carla J. *Staging Masculinity: Male Identity in Contemporary American Drama.* Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 1997.

McBride, Dwight A. Constructing the Black Masculine: Identity and Ideality in African American Men's Literature and Culture, 1775-1995. *American Literature* 4 (December 2005): 861-862

Melnick, Mimi Clar. "'I Can Peep through Muddy Water and Spy Dry Land': Boasts in the Blues." In Dundes, Alan, ed. *Mother Wit from the Laughing Barrel*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 1990.

Mercer, Kobena and Isaac Julien. "Race, Sexual Politics and Black Masculinity: a Dossier." In Chapman, Rowena and Jonathan Rutherford, eds. *Male Order: Unwrapping Masculinity.* London: Lawrence & Wishart, 1988.

Murtadha-Watts, Khaula. "Theorizing Urban Black Masculinity Construction in an African-centered School." In Lesko, Nancy, ed. *Masculinities at School.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2000.

Mutua, Athena D., ed. *Progressive Black masculinities.* Published: New York: Routledge, 2006.

Neal, Mark Anthony. "NIGGA: The 21st-Century Theoretical Superhero." *Cultural Anthropology* 28, no. 3 (August 2013): 556-563.

Nowatzki, Robert. "Sublime Patriots: Black Masculinity in Three African-American Novels." *Journal of Men's Studies* 8 (Fall 1999): 59-72.

Oliver, William. "Black Males and Social Problems: Prevention through Afrocentric Socialization." *Journal of Black Studies* 20 (September 1989): 15-39.

Ongir, Amy Abugo. "We are Family: Black Nationalism, Black Masculinity, and the Black Gay Cultural Imagination." *College Literature* 24 (February 1997): 280-294.

Orbe, Mark P. "Constructions of Reality on MTV's 'The Real World': an Analysis of the Restrictive Coding of Black Masculinity." *Southern Communication Journal* 64 (Fall 1998): 32-47.

Pierre, Martin R., James R. Mahalik, and Malcolm H. Woodland. "The Effects of Racism, African Self-consciousness and Psychological Functioning on Black Masculinity: a Historical and Social Adaptation Framework." *Journal of African American Men* 6 (Fall 2001): 19-39.

Pinar, William F. "Black Men: You Don't Even Know Who I Am." In Pinar, William F. *The Gender of Racial Politics and Violence in America : Lynching, Prison Rape, & the Crisis of Masculinity.* New York: Peter Lang, 2001.

Powell, Kevin. "Rage and Revolution: a Nation of Hip-Hop Brothers." *Essence* 30 (November 1999): 127+

Pressley, Arthur. "Rap Music by Black Male Artists: A Psychological Interpretation." *Western Journal of Black Studies* 16 (Summer 1992): 92-97.

Price, Jeremy N. "Schooling and Racialized Masculinities: the Diploma, Teachers, and Peers in the Lives of Young, African American Men." *Youth & Society* 31 (December 1999): 224-263.

Read, Andrew. "'As if Word Magic Had Anything to do with the Courage it Took to be a Man': Black Masculinity in Toni Morrison's Paradise." *African American Review* 39 (Winter 2005): 527-540.

Rebhorn, Matthew. "Flaying Dutchman." *Callaloo* 26 (Summer 2003): p. 796-812.

Reddock, Rhoda E. *Interrogating Caribbean Masculinities: Theoretical and Empirical Analyses.* Kingston, Jamaica : University of the West Indies Press, 2004.

Reid-Pharr, Robert F. "Tearing the Goat's Flesh: Crisis, Homosexuality, Abjection, and the Production of a Late-twentieth-century Black Masculinity." In Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky, ed. *Novel Gazing: Queer Readings in Fiction.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1997.

Richardson, Riche. "Charles Fuller's Southern Specter and the Geography of Black Masculinity." *American Literature* 77 (March 2005): 7-32.

_____*Black masculinity and the U.S. South: from Uncle Tom to Gangsta.* Athens : University of Georgia Press, 2007.

Riggs, Marlon T. "Black Macho Revisited: Reflections of a Snap! Queen." *Black American Literature Forum* 25 (Summer 1991): 389-394.

Roberts, G.W. "Brother to Brother: African-American Modes of Relating among Men." *Journal of Black Studies* 24 (June 1994): 379-390.

Ross, Marlon B. "In Search of Black Men's Masculinities." *Feminist Studies* 24 (Fall 1998): 599-626.

_____. "Some Glances at the Black Fag: Race, Same-Sex Desire, and Cultural Belonging." In Napier, Winston, ed. *African American Literary Theory: A Reader.* New York: New York University Press, 2000.

Saint-Aubin, Arthur F. "A Grammar of Black Masculinity: a Body of Science." *Journal of Men's Studies* 10 (Spring 2002): 247-270.

_____. "Testeria: the Dis-ease of Black Men in White Supremacist, Patriarchal Culture." *Callaloo* 17 (Fall 1994): 1054-1073.

Segal, Lynne. "Black Masculinity and the White Man's Black Man." In Segal, Lynne. *Slow Motion: Changing Masculinities, Changing Men.* New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1990.

Shin, Andrew and Barbara Judson. "Beneath the Black Aesthetic: James Baldwin's Primer of Black American Masculinity." *African American Review* 32 (Summer 1998): 247-261.

Smith, Earl. African American Men and Intimate Partner Violence *Journal of African American Studies* 12 (June 2008): 156-179

Stade, George. "Womanist Fiction and Male Characters." *Partisan Review* 52 (1985): 264-270.

Staples, Robert. *Black Masculinity: the Black Male's Role in American Society.* San Francisco, CA: Black Scholar Press, 1982.

_____. "Masculinity and Race: the Dual Dilemma of Black Men." *Journal of Social Issues* 34 (Winter 1978): 169-183.

Summers, Martin Anthony. *Manliness and its Discontents: the Black Middle Class and the Transformation of Masculinity, 1900-1930.* Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2004.

Thomas, Charles. "On Being a Black Man." In Szwed, John F., ed. *Black America.* New York: Basic Books, 1970.

Wade, J.C. "African American Men's Gender Role Conflict: the Significance of Racial Identity." *Sex Roles* 34 (January 1996): 17-33.

Wallace, Maurice O. *Constructing the Black Masculine: Identity and Ideality in African American Men's Literature and Culture, 1775-1995.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2002.

Wallace, Michele. *Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman.* New York: Dial Press, 1990.

Westwood, Sallie. "Racism, Black Masculinity and the Politics of Space." In Hearn, Jeff and David Morgan, eds. *Men, Masculinities & Social Theory.* London: Unwin Hyman, 1990.

Wiegman, Robyn. "Feminism, 'The Boyz,' and Other Matters Regarding the Male." In Cohan, Steven and Rae Ina Hark, eds. *Screening the Male: Exploring Masculinities in Hollywood Cinema.* London: Routledge, 1993.

Wilcox, Paula. "Beauty and the Beast: Gendered and Raced Discourse in the News." *Social & Legal Studies* 14 (December 2005): 515-532.

Wise, Sheila J. "Redefining Black Masculinity and Manhood: Successful Black Gay Men Speak Out." *Journal of African American Men* 5 (Spring 2001): 3-22.

_____. *A Different Kind of Black Man: On Being Gay.* 1 DVD (19 min.). San Francisco, CA: Frameline, 2001.