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Integration of men in gender studies: Contributions from a historical subject

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Giffin K. A inserção dos homens nos estudos de gênero: contribuições de um sujeito histórico. [Integration of men in gender studies: Contributions from a historical subject]. Ciência & Saúde Coletiva (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) 2005 January–March; 10(1):47–7.

Objectives: This article examines men's writings about gender issues in the 1960s during the reappearance of feminism in first-world countries.

Methodology: Descriptive analytical.

Results: The author of the present article examines several authors whose theoretical perspectives contribute to an actual and historical understanding of the construction and reconstruction of gender relations. Their views range from those who state that men as well as women are victims of a classist, hierarchical, authoritarian, sexist, and racist society to those who maintain that the root of the problem is a patriarchal, money-seeking, merchandise-producing culture that represses polysexuality and reduces masculinity and femininity to an active/passive dualism; or those who believe that gender relations can not be viewed apart from a dichotomized society in which human relations are subordinate, and systemic power relations and structures are legitimized by science.

Conclusions: The male authors cited in this article adopted a dialectic, historic view of the social reality, and their contributions helped deconstruct the prevailing dichotomized view. The author highlights significant discussions of men's issues, which have traditionally received little visibility.