

1 Masculinities

1.1 Becoming a Woman

1.1.1 Early anthropologists on Womanhood

- Relatively fewer 'rites of passage' for girls to become women
- Mostly associated with biological processes like menses (onset of menstruation) or giving birth (becoming a mother)
- Sometimes associated with related processes like marriage (becoming a wife)
- Femininity often associates with similar characteristics to childhood
 - Submissive, dependent, innocent, ignorant
- Thus, there is less pressure to distance oneself from childhood to establish adult womanhood

1.1.2 Contemporary anthropologists

- Recognize there is a variety of types of rites of passage for girls into womanhood that are not related to reproduction

1.2 Becoming a Man

- 'Manhood' like 'Womanhood' involves socially constructed concepts that demarcate transition from child to adult social roles
- Transition from boy to man often considered more challenging because there is a lack of significant biological events that would demonstrate 'manhood'
- The construction of manhood and masculinity often involves a distancing from attributes considered feminine and/or associated with femininity
 - 'Boys don't cry'
 - 'Be a man'

1.3 Rites of passage

- Ritualistic
- Guides change of status in society
- Overseen by elders (authority)
- Predetermined sequence of events

1.3.1 Three phases

- Separation
- Liminality
- Incorporation