

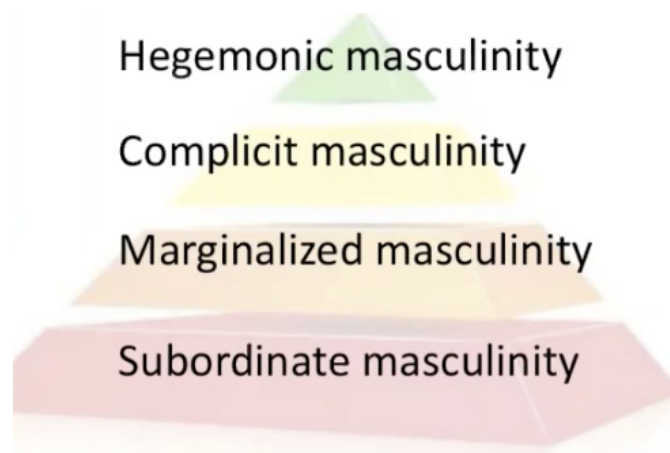
While there are infinite causal explanations for why women voted for an anti-woman candidate, the notes below try to explain one possible reason why.

This worksheet will help explore the dynamics of how women are socialized to prioritize the desires and needs of men over their own. Drawing on R.W. Connell's work in *Gender and Power*, we will examine how societal norms around masculinity and femininity shape gender relations. We will focus on the concept of **hegemonic masculinity**, which represents the dominant form of masculinity that shapes all other masculinities and legitimates male authority globally. In contrast, femininity—particularly the form of **emphasized femininity**—is structured in relation to male dominance. Women, through socialization, are often taught to embody traits that align with male expectations, from sexual receptivity to compliance in both public and private realms. The worksheet will guide you through an analysis of these patterns and how they perpetuate the unequal power dynamics between men and women, particularly through the lens of socialized behavior and institutionalized gender roles.

Hegemonic Masculinity and Femininities

R.W. Connell, *Gender and Power*

Connell's hierarchy of masculinities:



- **Hegemonic masculinity is the dominant form that is expected in society**
 - o Not the most prevalent, but the most culturally valued
 - o Qualities: heterosexuality, suppression of emotions, amplification of aggression, powerful, white, etc.
 - o **System of hegemonic masculinity helps legitimate the global subordination of women to men.**
- **Complicit Masculinity**
 - o **Most men**
 - o May not fit most of the characteristic and ideals of hegemonic masculinity, **BUT he doesn't challenge the system of hegemonic masculinity, because he still reaps the benefits, and idealizes male hegemony as the goal.**

- Marginalized masculinity
 - Where a man doesn't have access to hegemonic masculinity because of certain characteristics he possesses (like sexuality, race, disability etc.)
 - Still embody and perform certain elements of hegemonic masculinity
- Subordinate masculinity
 - Where men exhibit qualities that are opposite to those valued by hegemonic masculinity
 - Crying, weakness, feminine men, gay men, etc.
 - Correlation between subordinate masculinity and femininity

This hierarchy allows us to understand the way masculinity changes across time

ASYMMETRICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MASCULINITIES AND FEMINITIES

- For Connell, there can be **no femininity that is hegemonic**
 - This is because **all forms of femininity** are **constructed in the context of** male domination and the **subordination of women**.
- For this reason, there is no femininity that holds around women the position that hegemonic masculinity holds among men.
 - Helps to explain why toxic masculinity is far more pervasive than toxic femininity
- Limited scope for women to construct institutionalized power relations over other women
 - No institutional avenues for women to dominate other women (or even other men) because women don't control institutions.
 - In this way, women inhabit a different social and political space than men

****Typology for forms of Femininity****:

Non-compliant femininity

- Rejection
- Forms of female masculinity
 - Ex. "the strong independent women", Butch, tom boys, etc.

Emphasized Femininity

- **Compliance is the central part of this pattern of femininity ***
- Counterpart to hegemonic masculinity.
- This form is defined around compliance with women's subordination and **is orientated around accommodating the desires and interests of men**
 - Ex. In the workplace women are more likely to adopt patterns of feminine behaviour to get ahead and this translates to large scale patterns of behaviour
- Displays of sociability rather than competence
- Sexual submissiveness

- Expression of sexuality through the lens of the male gaze
 - "10 things guys crave in bed" articles - women's sexuality is about what men crave, not their own desires.
- Compliance for men's behaviour, ego stroking
- Private realm:
 - Acceptance of marriage and childcare as a response to labour discrimination against women. Idea that marriage, children and the emotional realm of the home is a female responsibility and domain.
- At a mass level Connell argues these traits are most centrally organized around themes of sexual receptivity
- **Perfect fit between emphasized femininity and masculine hegemony**
- **Women are socialized into emphasized femininity at a much larger scale than men are socialized in masculine hegemony *******