

Abstract Richard Collier

Drawing on recent scholarship at the interface of critical studies of men and masculinities and the neo-liberal driven corporatization of universities, this paper explores how the concept of masculinity, and different ideas about the relationship between men and gender, have been deployed at particular moments within studies of Gender and Careers in the (Legal) Academy. More specifically, focusing as a ‘case study’ on recent developments in the UK Higher Education sector, it considers how research on women and gender and law schools, in the context of this rapidly changing legal academy, has sought to engage with masculinity. The paper argues that a richer and more nuanced interrogation of the concept of masculinity might itself contribute in several ways to the *JurPro* project, facilitating understanding of situations of women professors in law, reasons for the underrepresentation of women in senior positions, career obstacles and the opportunities and factors that constitute particular (nationally, culturally and legally specific) gendered research cultures. The paper suggests a reconstruction of the ‘good’ corporatized academic subject has been aligned with a distinctive ‘remasculinization’ of the legal academy that has played out in different ways across countries. This has run alongside, paradoxically, the embedding of formal equality and diversity agendas. At the same time, however, research suggests there is growing reason to question the analytic coherence of masculinity itself, a point the paper illustrates via a closer engagement with recent sociological work on the theme of ‘transnational business masculinities’ in the context of university law schools and the gendered academy.

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