

GEXcel – Centre of Gender Excellence

Theme 2: Deconstructing the Hegemony of Men and Masculinities

Linköping University Spring 2009

## WORK REPORTS FROM VISITING SCHOLARS

This document comprises the Work Reports from the GEXcel Theme 2 Scholars,<sup>1</sup> for different specific periods of time, during January to June 2009. The invited senior GEXcel Scholars were Dr Chris Beasley and Dr David Bell. The competitively selected postdoctoral GEXcel Scholars were Dr Marina Blagojević, Dr Fataneh Farahani and Dr Karen Gabriel, along with Dr Niels Ulrik Sørensen who returned for the second part of his postdoctoral GEXcel Scholarship begun last term. Nil Mutluer and PK Vijayan were competitively selected doctoral GEXcel Scholars. In addition, two of last term's GEXcel Scholars, Professor Toni Calasanti and Anna Boden, returned for the April 2009 conference, as did Dr Richard Howson, a GEXcel Open Position Scholar in 2008, all three thanks to their own university's funding.

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<sup>1</sup> The GEXcel "Scholars" were previously known as "Fellows".

Dr Chris Beasley

University of Adelaide

Australia

I was invited to take up a Senior Visiting Scholar position with GEXcel at Linköping University and visited for three weeks from 17<sup>th</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009. The invitation was associated with the GEXcel's Theme2, 'Deconstructing the Hegemony of Men and Masculinities,' I was asked to offer two formal presentations in this context. The first of these was a plenary paper for the GEXcel Conference, 'Men and Masculinities, Moving On! Embodiments, Virtualities, Transnationalisations', 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> April 2009. This paper was titled, 'Is Masculinity Studies increasingly the 'odd man' out?: Considering problems and possibilities in contemporary Gender/Sexuality thinking'. I was also asked to assist by undertaking other roles during the conference such as providing feedback as a discussant and as rapporteur for one of the four workgroups.

The second presentation was for the GEXcel Symposium, 'Men'/masculinities, Transnational, Spatial, Virtual: Hegemony, power and deconstruction', 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and this paper was titled, 'The Challenge of Pleasure: Let's Talk about Sex in Gender-Masculinity Studies'.

These of course are only the formal activities to which I was invited to contribute. Prior to, during, and following these formal events, the GEXcel organizational arrangements successfully supported a considerable variety of informal and semi-formal exchanges between international scholars, including junior and senior staff. These ongoing exchanges resulted in extensive feedback at a very high level of sophistication about individual papers providing invaluable opportunities to improve and advance individual research work. While all scholarly conferences may be said to entail this to some extent, it is unusual to experience such a continuously impressive level of debate and discussion, and even less usual to find this in an inclusive environment.

Additionally however, these exchanges between international scholars actively generated international research networks, in terms of enabling linkages between scholars regarding shared intellectual directions in different contexts/locations, and in the practical sense of enabling the development of new collaborative research teams and collaborative writing projects. The emergence of such a range of research networks in such a short space of time is by no means common.

The informal and semi-formal generation of both feedback and collaborative networks fed into and flowed from the formal conference and symposium. In sum, the organization of the formal and less formal interactions in this GEXcel theme resulted in an intensely productive research environment. Such an environment is rare in my experience. This outcome was by no means accidental but clearly very well planned.

Lastly, undertaking the Senior Visiting Scholar position for GEXcel Theme 2 has advanced my continuing work on an ongoing research project regarding masculinity and heterosexuality. There is no doubt that access to such a productive research environment and to a number of specialists situated in the one place has been exceptionally useful. I have been able to discuss my research project and concerns with scholars focusing on embodiment, notions of materiality, place, technologies, and sexualities, all under the umbrella of a shared focus on masculinities. This amounted to a genuine community of scholars who shared and debated substantive issues in the field. Unquestionably my research project will be significantly improved as a consequence.

I regard myself as privileged to have had the opportunity to experience such a hothouse of intense intellectual exchange.

Dr David Bell

University of Leeds

United Kingdom

I visited Linköping as a Senior Visiting Scholar in April-May 2009, and presented papers at two key GEXcel events linked to Theme 2, Deconstructing the Hegemony of Men and Masculinities. First, at the conference Men and Masculinities, Moving On! Embodiments, Virtualities, Transnationalisations, I presented a plenary paper called 'Geek Myths: technomascuInities in cybercultures', and acted as a co-discussant in the associated workgroup on virtuality, technology and representation. This conference brought together researchers from a range of disciplines, grouped around four key themes. The workgroup on virtuality, technology and representation included discussions of military masculinity, representations of physicists, car modifiers' websites, and metrosexuality. Over a number of intensive workgroup sessions, the group enjoyed a wide-ranging and lively discussion of common themes, including the notion of 'virtual hegemonic masculinity'. The conference created an excellent space for thinking and interacting, and all participants benefited from being able to share ideas and to network.

In 'Geek Myths' I marked the start of a new project to explore the cultural history of the geek. I focussed on representations, and drew out a number of key themes about the construction of the geek as a form of 'technomascuInity'.

The following week GEXcel hosted a half-day symposium, 'Men/MascuInities, Transnational, Spatial, Virtual: hegemony, power and deconstruction', which featured presentations from four visiting scholars. My paper was entitled 'The Gays and the Geeks', and formed a complement to my earlier paper. In this latter paper, I explored how the geek has been discussed in work on the 'creative class', and in particular the work of Richard Florida. Here, a causal, predictive correlation is described between the size of a city's gay population, and that

city's attractiveness to relocating geeks. I shared some material on the Swedish creative class, and discussed how the relationship between the gays and the geeks is depicted in urban and regional policy.

In both papers, in discussions and questions, and in the rest of my visit to Linköping, I was able to develop my ideas about geeks as at once marginalized but also hegemonic, and to think more deeply about how the figure of the geek represents shifts in our understandings of masculinity, in relation to technology. It was a great pleasure to be able to discuss geeks with other participants at these events, and with members of GEXcel and Tema Genus, during my visit. At the same time, it was equally enjoyable to meet new people and hear about their work. It was a very rich and enriching experience to be in the department at the same time as so many other visitors, and to have the time to talk to each other. I had particularly interesting and mutually beneficial discussions with GEXcel Visiting Scholars Chris Beasley and Nil Mutluer, but also had many many more exciting and interesting talks with people!

It was a real honour to be hosted in Tema Genus, to be able to work in such an interesting, transdisciplinary and transnational research environment. I would like to thank everyone in the Tema and GEXcel for their hospitality; in particular, Jeff Hearn, Berit Starkman and Katherine Harrison, who made the visit so easy.

Dr Marina Blagojević

AB Altera, Budapest

Hungary

**Intellectual stimulation, caring organization,**

**and vision above all...**

It has been an honour and a pleasure for me to spend three months (1 March – 30 May) under the GEXcel program as a visiting scholar, working on the project: Balkan Masculinities: Deconstructing Global/Regional/Local Hegemonic Masculinities.

During this time I participated in the following events:

1. GEXcel internal research seminar ('Knowledge and Gender at the Semi-periphery', 11 March)
2. Meeting of the Centres of Excellence in Umeå (presentation: 'Scientific Excellence beyond Gender and Locationality: From the Shortage to the Abundance Paradigm', 26-27 March)
3. Conference: Sustaining Everyday Life, Linköping University (presentation: 'Everyday life sustainability at the semi-periphery of Europe: Gender and locationality perspectives', 22-24 April)
4. GEXcel Conference: "Men and Masculinities, Moving On! Embodiments, Virtualities, Transnationalisations", 27-29 April 2009 (presentation: 'Masculinities as Sites of Transnationalisation: The Balkan Semi-periphery Perspective')

Most of my time was devoted to preparing the literature review related to masculinities. Other activities related to the coordination of ongoing projects (Single Parents in the Western

Balkans and Rural Women in Vojvodina). I also worked on the development of my postgraduate course on Gender and Development, which I teach at Sarajevo University. Furthermore, much of my time was spent contemplating the “next steps” of my own research both in terms of new work and the conversion of already undertaken research into publications. My biggest challenge at the moment is how to organize that very rich and insightful empirically based material in a series of research outputs.

During my stay in Linköping I have profited greatly from the contact and discussion with different colleagues. I gained important insights into contemporary state of art of gender research, and still existing lack of knowledge about the semi-periphery. This made me very motivated and empowered to continue my research and writing, although it does not exactly fit into the mainstream of gender research. But, the beauty of an academic environment such as GEXcel lies in this power to integrate knowledge, ideas and insights, which might initially seem to be at odds.

GEXcel is a very specific place in the present cartography of “centres of excellence”. Several qualities combine to make it quite exceptional. I will try to list some of them. Firstly, it is a very dynamic place, with a constant flow of very different scholars and ideas, and a highly intense agenda of events. This openness and intensity are carefully guided by the enlightened leadership of three people: Nina Lykke, Jeff Hearn and Anna Jónasdóttir. They ensure steady openness of the feminist project while at the same time staying faithful to the roots. There is a strong sense of direction of all GEXcel activities, although these activities are very diverse and numerous. My personal experience is that I have never felt more supported and less “Other”, than in a communication with these three outstanding intellectuals and academic leaders. GEXcel also has an extraordinary integrative power, which extends beyond professional integration into the direction of a creative community of scholars. Ideas are shared in a non-competitive and constructive manner, guided by clear vision. And that vision, whether explicit or not, gives cohesion to all the different small steps and individual activities. GEXcel is also a

“caring organization” with Berit Starkman being a “guardian angel” in her administrative role, a warm and reliable support for the newcomers.

The gains I have from this scholarship are multiple. I am strongly motivated to continue my work in a direction which I already have taken (the semi-periphery, de-development, locationality) and to produce a number of texts and a book on Balkan Masculinities. The most rewarding message I take from this stay in Linköping is that it is important to remain faithful to the motives that drew us to the feminist project in the first place.

Anna Boden, Doctoral Student

Lancaster University

UK

Having already been a visiting scholar for Theme 2 towards the end of 2008, thanks to my own university's funding I was delighted to be able to return to Linköping to attend the GEXcel 3-day conference in April 2009. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet colleagues I had had the privilege of already working with, whilst also interacting with other scholars in the field from a variety of disciplines and contexts. Of particular benefit was the ability to present my work, which was greatly advanced and enhanced by my previous visit and also to share thoughts and ideas with scholars in topic-specific seminar groups. I presented the paper on "Geographies of grandfather identities: Exploring the intersections of masculinity, old(er) age and the body from an intergenerational perspective", and was co-rapporteur for the conference workgroup on "Ageing and embodiment". As a PhD candidate, the format and quality of the conference provided an invaluable experience of academic life. Many thanks to those at GEXcel for organising the conference and being so welcoming once again.

Professor Toni Calasanti

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

USA

Following my visit as invited Visiting GEXcel Fellow last November and December, I had the opportunity to return with my own university's funding for the "Men and Masculinities, Moving On! Embodiments, Virtualities, Transnationalisations" conference held at Linköping University. I presented the keynote paper "Masculinities and Ageing Bodies: Considerations for Moving On", and also acted as co-rapporteur for the conference workgroup on "Ageing and embodiment". Further details are given in the workgroup report in *GEXcel Work in Progress Report Volume VI*. The group situation was a fantastic opportunity for people from different social backgrounds and academic disciplines to share their research at varying stages of completion and engage critically with issues of masculinity, age and embodiment in a supportive, thought provoking and enjoyable atmosphere. This was in terms of both intellectual growth and community. I would add that I have continued to interact with some of the people I met at the conference (and particularly in the workshop) and found that this broadens my intellectual and international perspective.

Dr Fataneh Farahani

Stockholm University

Sweden

During my last four months as a Postdoctoral Visiting GEXcel Scholar at Tema Genus at Linköping University (February-May 2009), my main activities included organizing partly my fieldwork in Stockholm, transcribing and translating interview materials, participating in local and international conferences, reviewing articles for three academic journals, and writing articles for academic journals and books. I have spent a major part of my time locating and reading relevant literature on masculinity and transnational masculinities. I have presented my research at a GEXcel internal seminar and GEXcel Conference.

My four months as a fellow at GEXcel has been fruitful and productive. In addition, to having time to read, write and reflect over my postdoctoral research project, the opportunity offered by GEXcel has been unique in allowing me interactions with others at the forefront of masculinity research. For somebody like me who has recently started to work on masculinity, my time at GEXcel has helped propel my research forward through meeting and discussing my research with these people. Since the area of transnationalisation and diaspora are other major focus points of my work, in addition to the theoretical and intellectual discussion, being surrounded by a variety of researchers with personal migratory experiences has added more depth and nuances to my work. I am deeply thankful for this opportunity.

In sum, the main activities during February-May 2009 as a GEXcel Visiting Postdoctoral Scholar at Tema Genus at Linköping University have been:

## **Conference and Seminar Presentations**

“Cultural and Racial Politics of Representation: A Study of Diasporic Masculinity among Iranian Men Living in Sydney, Stockholm and London”, GEXcel workshop: Diverse Perspectives on Transnationalisation/Virtualisation, in *Changing Men and Masculinities in Gender Equal Societies*, Roskilde University, Denmark, 28-30 January, 2009.

“On the Edge of Being the Insider and the Outsider: An ‘Immigrant’ Researcher Catch-22”, in *Feminist Research Methods*, Stockholm University, 4-6 February, 2009.

“Sexing Diaspora: Femininities and Masculinities in Diaspora Space”, at Department of Culture, Gender and History, Södertörns University College, 12 February 2009.

“Cultural and Racial Politics of Representation: A Study of Diasporic Masculinity among Iranian Men Living in Sydney, Stockholm and London”, at Tema Genus Seminar Series, Linköping University, 11 March 2009.

“Sexing Diaspora: Femininities and Masculinities in Diaspora Space”, at Tema Ethnicity, Norrköping University, 18 March 2009.

“Cultural and Racial Politics of Representation: A Study of Diasporic Masculinity among Iranian Men Living in Sydney, Stockholm and London”, GEXcel Conference on “Men and Masculinities, Moving On!: Embodiments, Virtualities, Transnationalisations”, Tema Genus, Linköping University, 27-29 April, 2009.

## **Discussant and Chair at International Conferences**

Chair for section “Transnationalisations“ together with Dr. Karen Gabriel, GEXcel Conference on “Men and Masculinities, Moving On! Embodiments, Virtualities, Transnationalisations”, Linköping University, 27-29 April 2009.

International PhD Workshop on Qualitative Methodology in Contemporary History and Related Field, (During a two day workshop, I was commentator for seven PhD students papers with focus on diasporic studies from various European universities), Södertörns University College, 20-22 March 2009.

Feminist Research Methods, Center for Gender Studies, Chairperson for Cultural Studies Workshop, Stockholm University, 4-6 February 2009.

## **Overall Activities:**

Conducted library research, collecting and reading related literature.

Carried out field work and interviewing Iranian men in Stockholm (still ongoing).

Attended a variety of Iranian cultural, social and political events in Stockholm.

Transcribed and translated existing interviews, scheduled new interviews (still ongoing).

Developed and discussed publishing plan with Professor Jeff Hearn and Associate Professor Elisabetta Ruspini.

## **Completed Paper for Submission:**

“Negotiating Sexuality in Shifting Cultural Landscapes”, ed. Haideh Moghissi (forthcoming 2009/2010).

Dr Karen Gabriel

St. Stephen's College, Delhi University

India

and

The Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi

India

I was selected to visit GEXcel as a Postdoctoral Scholar, from 20 April to 30 June 2009, to participate in GEXcel Theme 2, 'Deconstructing the Hegemony of Men and Masculinities', directed by Professor Jeff Hearn. During this period, I presented a paper titled 'Resisting Men: Gandhi, Gender and Anticolonialism' at the GEXcel workshop conference held on 27-29 April 2009, on 'Men and Masculinities, Moving On! Embodiments, Virtualities, Transnationalisations'. I was privileged to co-chair (with Dr. Fataneh Farahani) an extremely lively, engaged and passionate workgroup on 'Transnationalisation'. I found the conference a rich, intense and very interactive experience: the conference-cum-workshop structure allowed participants to engage with each others' work closely, which led to sustained and productive discussions on the papers themselves. Besides this, the sheer diversity of regional and disciplinary profiles that were represented at the conference in general, and in our workgroup in particular, meant that the range and variety of the discussions were unique and extremely educative in terms of the links and variations across cultures and regions. My paper will appear soon in the GEXcel Visiting Scholars Publication.

This was quickly followed by a series of events – including the very pleasurable one of wishing Professor Nina Lykke at her birthday celebration, and a highly engaging in-house GEXcel Symposium, again with a range of diverse speakers and another lively discussion – leading on to a GEXcel internal higher seminar paper that I delivered on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, on 'The Hegemonies of National Iconography: Gandhi and Mother India'. Here again, I found a receptive and critically engaged audience. I plan to publish a suitably revised version of this paper soon.

During the brief lull that followed I had the opportunity to interact with the other members of GEXcel and Tema Genus in a more leisurely way, and work out promising possibilities of cooperative and collaborative work later. In June the next set of GEXcel themes (4 and 5) began, with Professors Nina Lykke and Barbro Wijma. At the kick-off conference initiating this theme, 'Critical Feminist Dialogues on Sex Education, Violence and Sexology: Between Agency, Pleasure, Shame and Pain', P K Vijayan and I presented a joint paper on 'Sex, Silence and Pedagogy: the Problematics of Articulation', which dealt largely with the complex issues around the articulation of sex-speech – pornographic or otherwise – in India. Our paper received a rich and stimulating discussion and provoked a host of questions that ranged from the provocative to the profound. We hope to turn this brief study into a larger research project on the subject.

My stay at Tema Genus has been a comfortable, extremely pleasant, productive and useful one. I found it hospitable to the mind, body and spirit. It is a rare institution, whose democratic, feminist and non-hierarchical culture extends beyond the comfortable abstractions of theory into the tough nitty-gritty of everyday interaction. I felt at home at Tema Genus, Linköping as did my children. Thanks to all at Tema Genus for this, but especially to Professor Jeff Hearn, Professor Nina Lykke and the indispensable rock on which it stands, Ms. Berit Starkman, who facilitated so much for me and my family. I look forward to furthering this connection with GEXcel and all associated with it.

Dr Richard Howson

University of Wollongong

Australia

Following my research visit as an GEXcel Open Position Fellow last year, from April 27<sup>th</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 I had the opportunity, funded by my own university, to attend the “Men and Masculinities, Moving On! Embodiments, Virtualities, Transnationalisations” conference held at Linköping University as part of GEXcel’s sub-theme ‘Deconstructing the Hegemony of Men and Masculinities’.

This conference was an excellent opportunity to meet many delegates from around the world, whose work had or was engaging with critical studies of men and masculinities. As co-chair (along with Professor Anna Jónasdóttir) of the Theorising Masculinities Workgroup I was able to engage directly with other members and take particular notice of the ideas and arguments presented, which were extremely diverse, interesting and challenging. The workgroup format worked very well in the development of discussions and explanations in a pleasant and collegial environment. As such, I was able to share information and develop my own ideas from the discussions that followed in a very professional and open environment.

The work I presented and discussed at this conference is included partly in the *GEXcel Work in Progress Report Volume V* (2009) as 'Deconstructing Hegemonic Masculinity', and partly in the forthcoming *GEXcel Work in Progress Report Volume VII* as "Why Masculinity is Still an Important Empirical Category: Migrant Men and the Migration Experience". In addition, this work informed the chapter 'Theorising Hegemonic Masculinity' which was published in the Routledge volume *Migrant Men: Critical Studies of Masculinities and the Migration Experience* (2009). This volume also included a collaborative chapter with Professor Jeff Hearn entitled 'Policy, Men and Transnationalism'.

The experience of working in such an intellectually exciting, professional and enjoyable environment has been extremely instructive but also very productive. I would like to thank all at GEXcel for their hard work in organising this conference.

Nil Mutluer, Doctoral Student

Central European University, Budapest

Hungary

I had the opportunity to be a doctoral visiting scholar at Linköping University, as a part of the GEXcel Programme Theme 2: “Deconstructing Hegemony of Men and Masculinities” from April 14<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup> 2009. It was such a productive, constructive and fruitful visit that I found the opportunity to concentrate on my own PhD research, to raise new questions about the transnational dimension of men and masculinity studies and to have new interactions and connections with the scholars whom I have similar theoretical and empirical interests.

At Linköping University, I transcribed my interview materials, organized my field data, prepared my conference paper for GEXcel's “Men and Masculinities, Moving on!” Conference held between April 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009, wrote my paper titled “The role of Transnational and National Institutions in Internally Displaced Men's Everyday Life in Tarlabasi in Istanbul” for the publication of Theme 2 and wrote articles for some of the leading intellectual as well as feminist journals in Turkey such as *Varlik* and *Amargi*. In my article for *Varlik* whose June issue was about men and masculinities, I also mentioned the GEXcel Programme.

As my PhD project "Gender and Nationalism in Everyday Life: Internally Displaced Kurdish Men in Tarlabasi in Istanbul" focuses on the intersectionality of gender (specifically masculinity), sexuality (heterosexuality, homosexuality, transsexuality), transnationalism, nationalism/ethnicity forced migration (internal displacement) and identification/identity in the city context, GEXcel contributes to my project by bringing the local knowledge into the critical thinking and analysis process of the research. Being involved in such a joint research enables me to develop my critical analytical approach and theoretical knowledge as well.

The GEXcel programme also provided me with the opportunity to develop relations which I have carried to other circles. During my stay, the *Svenska Dagbladet* newspaper interviewed with me about the incidents that happened in the Southeastern region of Turkey. In the first week of July, the postdoctoral fellow Dr. Fataneh Farahani visited me in Istanbul and she gave a seminar in Amargi which publishes the above mentioned feminist journal and runs the first feminist bookstore in Turkey. At the seminar Farahani explored how the sexuality of Iranian women in Swedish diaspora had been shaped. She also evaluated the political incidents happened in Iran after the elections. As her seminar took the attention of the media, various media such as Newsweek Turkey, CNN Turk, Amargi and Evrensel made an interview with her.

To sum up, the excellent facilities of Linköping University, and generous and friendly hospitality of GEXcel scholars and staff, specifically Professor Jeff Hearn, Professor Nina Lykke, Berit Starkman, Katherine Harrison, Alp Biricik, the IT solutions creator Ian Dickson and all other scholars, enable me both to critically concentrate on my academic studies and develop interactions for future academic collaborations. I am deeply thankful to them all.

Dr Niels Ulrik Sørensen

Aarhus University

Denmark

I spent 21 April – 1 May at Linköping University as a GEXcel Postdoctoral Visiting Scholar. During my stay I participated in the GEXcel conference “Men and Masculinities, Moving On! Embodiments, Virtualities, Transnationalisations”, April 19-21, 2009. I chaired the Workshop on “Age and Embodiment” with Linn Sandberg from Linköping University.

The group met over the three days of the conference. It was a great opportunity for researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds to come together and engage in lively and critical discussions about age and embodiment within a critical men and masculinities studies context.

The conference as a whole was extremely thought provoking and interesting, the ambience was inspiring, and it was all very well organised.

The rest of my stay I spent writing on various papers and articles.

My stay in Linköping provided me with a valuable opportunity to exchange ideas with scholars from all over the world. There were many opportunities to socialise and continue the exchange of ideas in more relaxed settings.

Being part of GEXcel was both an academically and a personally rewarding experience. I would like to thank everybody involved in GEXcel, as well as others at Tema Genus.

PK Vijayan, Doctoral Student  
The Institute of Social Studies, The Hague  
The Netherlands  
and  
Hindu College, Delhi University  
India

I was a GEXcel Doctoral Scholar, from 23 April to 22 May 2009. I was selected to participate in GEXcel Theme 2, 'Deconstructing the Hegemony of Men and Masculinities', directed by Professor Jeff Hearn. During my stay at Tema Genus, I presented a paper on 'The RSS and the Construction of the National Man', at the workshop conference on 'Men and Masculinities, Moving On! Embodiments, Virtualities, Transnationalisations' (27-29 April 2009). I thoroughly enjoyed this experience, and found the way the conference was organized and structured particularly innovative and useful. I was with the workgroup on 'Theorizing Men and Masculinity'. While we tried to do justice to the onerous task indicated in our title, it quickly became clear from the variety of perspectives and contexts of the papers in the group, that there was little chance of arriving at any single meta-theory on men and masculinity. The participants of the group therefore engaged intensively and critically with each others' work, focusing on dialogue and the opening out of issues, rather than on meta-theoretical closure. Consequently, for me at least, it led to a very fruitful and provocative discussion on my paper. A re-worked version of this paper is soon to be published in the GEXcel Visiting Fellows Publication. I was also asked to be, with Chris Beasley, the rapporteur of the group, to report the discussions of the group at the final plenary. This again led to a very lively and engaged discussion, especially of the issues that crosscut with the themes of the other workgroups.

I then presented another paper in the middle of May, at the GEXcel Symposium on 'Men/masculinities, Transnational, Spatial, Virtual: Hegemony, Power and Deconstruction'. At this one-day event, I presented a paper on the 'The Nation and its Heroes' in which I sought to foreground the significance of the language of heroism to discourses of masculinity. Again, the

paper was well received. The symposium also saw a series of other papers and another lively discussion on cross-cutting issues and themes. The paper from the symposium is currently under revision for publication.

While my official term as GEXcel Scholar ended in May, I stayed on at GEXcel and worked, among other things on finishing my PhD thesis, which is down to the last chapter. In June I again presented a paper – this time in collaboration with Dr Karen Gabriel – on ‘Sex, Silence and Pedagogy: the Problematics of Articulation’, at the kick-off conference on ‘Critical Feminist Dialogues on Sex Education, Violence and Sexology: Between Agency, Pleasure, Shame and Pain’, organised by Professors Nina Lykke and Barbro Wijma. We were part of a very vocal and engaged group on Critical Sexology; the group decided, at the end of the conference, that we didn’t quite agree with our name, and re-christened ourselves the working group on ‘Critical Sexuality Studies’. The discussions were stimulating and wide-ranging, bringing multiple contexts and perspectives to bear on the idea of ‘Sexology’.

I have had an exceedingly pleasant and productive stay at Tema Genus. During this period I have had the time and the wherewithal to actually focus on my research, and I am truly grateful to Professor Jeff Hearn and Professor Nina Lykke for making this possible. The interactions with them, indeed with everyone at GEXcel, have been extremely stimulating and useful. Finally, a small note of immense gratitude to the irreplaceable Ms. Berit Starkman who ensured that my family and I wanted in no way. I hope that this will be the first of more such interactions with GEXcel.