

Subject: Re: [profem] Journal special issue on men's rights / anti-feminism
Date: Friday, 3 June 2016 at 10:45:32 PM Australian Eastern Standard Time
From: mark reed
To: Michael Flood

Darn. The when that happens. Here's the WSJ article.

Sex and the Citizens: Trump Edition

He has exposed illusions—mine, anyway—about gender relations in the U.S.



ENLARGE

At Donald Trump rally in San Diego, May 27. Photo: Getty Images



By

William A. Galston

May 31, 2016 6:37 p.m. ET

[91 COMMENTS](#)

[Donald Trump](#) doesn't speak the truth so much as reveal it. His campaign has ruthlessly exposed the illusions of well-educated middle-class professionals—people like me.

We believed that changes in law and public norms had gradually brought about changes in private attitudes across partisan and ideological lines. We thought that longstanding racial and ethnic prejudices had been marginalized. We hoped that the most religious population in any Western democracy would deal compassionately with the suffering of refugees from war-torn nations, whatever their religion. We assumed that some beliefs had moved so far beyond the pale that those who continued to hold them would not dare to say so publicly.

Mr. Trump has proved us wrong. His critique of political correctness has destroyed many taboos and has given his followers license to say what they really think. Beliefs we mocked now command a majority in one of the world's oldest political parties, and sometimes in the electorate as a whole.

Nowhere is that truer than in gender relations. Mr. Trump's attitudes toward women are a throwback to the Rat Pack. His past on-air conversations with shock-jock [Howard Stern](#) make Don Draper of "Mad Men" sound like a feminist. His response to the familiar critique that these attitudes "objectify" women is, in effect: That's what men do. The difference is that I don't hide it. You've tried to make us feel guilty, and we're not going to take it anymore. In my America, men will be free once again to be men, and the country will be better off.

Surprising numbers of Americans seem to agree with him.

In April, survey researchers at the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) asked a blunt question: Do you agree or disagree with the statement that "Society as a whole has become too soft and feminine." Fifty percent of men agreed, as did 34% of women. Whites and Hispanics gave the statement identical 42% support, with African-Americans a few points lower. Whites had the largest gap between men and women (20 points), with the African-American gap close behind at 17 points. The Hispanic gap stood at only six points—Hispanic women were significantly more likely to agree with the sentiment than were their white and African-American counterparts.

Forty-five percent of respondents with a high-school education or less agreed with the "too soft and feminine" proposition; so did 48% of those with some college education, compared with only 31% for those with a bachelor's degree or more.

Age made less difference than might have been expected. In fact, Americans in the 30-49 age range were somewhat more likely to agree than were those 50 and older, with only the youngest adults registering a significantly different view.

By contrast, partisanship and ideology made a big difference. Sixty percent of Republicans felt that American society has become "too soft and feminine," compared with 43% of independents and only 29% of Democrats. Support among conservatives, moderates and liberals stood at 58%, 44% and 24%, respectively.

Gender and partisanship interact. Seventy-two percent of Republican men endorsed the statement, compared with 46% of Republican women. Although Democratic men were less than half as likely as their Republican counterparts to agree, they were 10 points more likely to do so than were Democratic women.

As one might expect, Mr. Trump has mobilized the most passionate opponents of America's current gender regime: 68% of his supporters believe that society has become "too soft and feminine"—74% of men backing him, and 59% of the women. (Females in the Trump camp are 25 points more likely to express this sentiment than are women as a whole.)

So Mr. Trump's supporters want a tougher, more masculine America. But what does this mean, exactly? The PRRI survey, conducted in partnership with the Atlantic magazine, offers some clues. Although only 39% of Americans believe that society is better off when men and women hew to traditional gender roles, the figure rises to 50% among Mr. Trump's backers.

Women are often seen as more compliant with established rules than are men, and more inclined to pursue progress through compromise within these rules. But large majorities of Americans think the country is on the wrong track, and in the PRRI poll nearly half—45%—have concluded that to set things right, we need a leader who is willing to break the rules on their behalf.

Among Mr. Trump's supporters, 65% endorse this view. My interpretation: They think it will take a "real man," indifferent to respectable opinion and procedural niceties, to blow up the entire corrupt system and get the country back on track.

The general-election contest between Donald Trump and [Hillary Clinton](#) will bring gender to the center of American politics, with consequences that are no more predictable than any other dimension of this astounding year.

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On Thu, Jun 2, 2016 at 10:36 PM, Michael Flood <mflood@uow.edu.au> wrote:

Mark, thanks for this. The piece is behind a paywall, but it sounds interesting.

Regards,

Michael Flood.

From: mark reed [mailto:mkreed39@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, 2 June 2016 11:03 PM

To: Michael Flood

Subject: Re: [profem] Journal special issue on men's rights / anti-feminism

Michael, thanks for the links to the articles. In my mind there is no coincidence between the rise of masculinist groups and the nearly simultaneous rise of the alt right, especially here in the USA. Don't know if you saw it but there was a fascinating piece yesterday in the Wall Street Journal about a poll that asked the question "Do you believe society is becoming too soft and feminine?". The results were very revealing. Here is the link if you are interested.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/sex-and-the-citizens-trump-edition-1464734248>.

Mark

On Wed, Jun 1, 2016 at 7:32 PM, Michael Flood <mflood@uow.edu.au> wrote:

The International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy has a special issue on "Fighting Feminism – Organised Opposition to Women's Rights" (Volume 5, Number 2, 2016). The full text of all articles is available from <https://www.crimejusticejournal.com/issue/view/21>

Articles include:

Forks in the Road of Men's Gender Politics: Men's Rights vs Feminist Allies / Michael A Messner

State Antifeminism / Francis Dupuis-Déri

Masculist Groups in Poland: Aids of Mainstream Antifeminism / Katarzyna Wojnicka

The Harper Government's New Right Neoliberal Agenda and the Dismantling of Status of Women Canada and the Family Violence Initiative / Ruth M Mann

Sexual Violence in the 'Manosphere': Antifeminist Men's Rights Discourses on Rape / Lise Gotell, Emily Dutton

Defending Battered Women in the Public Sphere / Elizabeth Sheehy

The Trolls Disappear in the Light: Swedish Experiences of Mediated Sexualised Hate Speech in the Aftermath of Behring Breivik / Maria Edstrom / 'I'd just lose it if there was any more stress in my life': Separated Fathers, Fathers' Rights and the News Media / Vivienne Elizabeth

For more critiques of anti-feminist men's groups etc., see XY's articles and other materials here:
<http://www.xyonline.net/category/article-content/mens-fathers-rights>

Regards,

Michael Flood.

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