A man in crisis or crisis of men?
Masculinity and societal challenge in the 1970s in Sweden.
Hansson, Kristofer

2018

Document Version:
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Link to publication

Citation for published version (APA):

Total number of authors:
1

General rights
Unless other specific re-use rights are stated the following general rights apply:
Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.
• Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
• You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
• You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

Read more about Creative commons licenses: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/

Take down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

21. Men in the post-factual world – masculinity revisited

Kristofer Hansson

1 Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University, Sweden

Abstract

The psychological term ‘Individual crisis’ was introduced in Sweden in the late 1960s. To have a crisis was framed as natural and also meaningful in order to psychologically grow as a human being. Rather fast it became a term used in many different contexts. In movies and novels the term was used to describe the meaning of men in crisis. It was as though the crisis gave room for freedom to leave an old and solidified family life. The crisis was an “excuse” to find a new and more fulfilling ‘Self’. Parallel to this development, a societal challenge also seems to occur where it were debated that men should be more engage in household chores and childcare. The men should not only fulfilled their life’s outside the home, but more equal share the burden of the home. Men should now develop a Self that had a more ‘soft side’. But the criticism did not wait, and it was debated if the Swedish manhood was in a crisis. The term ‘velor dad’ was coined as a criticism against a soft and compassionated manhood that have lost the ability to be a solid guide for the family.

In this paper I am analysing how the world ‘crisis’ can be used as a keyworkd (Williams 1976) to methodological analyse how discourses of masculinities came to matter in the 1970s. This will also be my empirical starting point to theoretically discuss how crisis became central for ‘shaping of the private Self’ (Rose 1990).