

Barbershops and Salons: An Investigation Into the Benefits and Dangers of ‘Male- Only’ and ‘Female-Only’ Spaces

An Abstract of the Thesis by

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Within the past several decades, words like patriarchy, feminism, equality, and toxic masculinity have become increasingly utilized within both social and politicized contexts. Given the complex historicism of these weighted terms, it may seem difficult to know how, when and where to jump into the conversation. In this piece, research was conducted to explore various aspects of these fields within the era of 21st century gender conversations. Can reimagining male-only spaces work in tandem with feminist efforts to overcome sexism and create a safer world for all of us, or are ‘man-caves’ breeding grounds for lewd jokes, gestures of dominance and the idolization of toughness? In a survey conducted in, among others, the United States, Germany and Saudi Arabia, questions probed to see involvement in gender -based social groups, along with reported views of gender roles, levels of stress and positive and negative affect.