

Ryan, Maura. "Crew Cuts, Combat Boots and *Babies?*: Gender Accountability (and Responsibility) in Masculine Lesbian Talk about Pregnancy." [under review at *Gender & Society*, after a revise and resubmit decision]

Abstract

This study relies on interview data with 14 heretofore childfree masculine-identified lesbians about the ways in which they are able (or unable) to imagine themselves as pregnant people in their future lives. The bodily production of pregnancy has been socially gendered as feminine because of its association with female-bodied people. Being that not all female-bodied people are feminine in their gender expression, the possibility of being pregnant has gender consequences for masculine female-bodied people. The author revisits West and Zimmerman's (1987) contribution of *Doing Gender* to assess the ways in which masculine lesbians are held accountable for not being feminine, but also hold themselves responsible for the masculine presentations they have chosen. The author shows that in order to remain responsible for their masculine gender presentations, some of her participants used positive community discourses on female masculinity to story themselves as possible pregnant people.