
ANTHROPOLOGY OF GENDER

UDC 39

DOI: 10.33876/2311-0546/2025-1/163-174

Original Article

© Gennady Snedkov

MASCULINE MODELS IN MODERN ICELAND IN THE CONTEXT OF GENDER POLICY REFORM AND THE ECONOMIC CRISIS OF 2008–2011

The article examines the masculine patterns and images that are the most popular among modern Icelanders. The author shows how the reforms in gender legislation in the early 2000s and the economic crisis of 2008–2011 have contributed to the emergence of new masculine models in Iceland, such as the “caring father”, and led to a rethinking of the role of more conventional, dominant gender images which appealed to the Viking Age. The crisis and new gender legislation have created a more inclusive environment, that has contributed to the emergence not of the one new, dominant masculine model, but of many non-mutually exclusive masculine identities that intersect and coexist. The work also touches on the main perspectives that exist in the anthropological literature on the problems of the intersection of masculine and national discourses in Iceland. The models which researchers use to explain the emergence and existence of certain masculine images in Icelandic society are described as well. It is also shown how these images are utilized in the construction of Icelandic national myths and the modern Icelandic nation.

Keywords: Iceland, masculinity, gender, intersectionality, crisis, historiography.

Author Info: Snedkov, Gennady A. — Postgraduate Student, the Russian Academy of Sciences N. N. Miklouho-Maklay Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology (Moscow, Russian Federation). E-mail: jgus@bk.ru ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7797-4271>

For citation: Snedkov, G. A. 2025. Masculine Models in Modern Iceland in the Context of Gender Policy Reform and the Economic Crisis of 2008–2011. *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)* 1: 163–174.

References

- Anderson, B. 1983. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso. 240 p.
- Arnalds, A. A., G. B. Eydal, and I. V. Gíslason. 2013. Equal Rights to Paid Parental Leave and Caring Fathers — the Case of Iceland. *Icelandic Review of Politics and Administration* 9(2): 323–344. <http://dx.doi.org/10.13177/irpa.a.2013.9.2.4>
- Centonze, A. L. 2011. Iceland’s Financial Meltdown. *Journal of Financial Education* 37(1/2): 131–166. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/41948662>
- Einarsdóttir, T., and G. M. Pétursdóttir. 2017. Well-earned Respectability or Legitimation of Masculinities? Powerful and Publicly Celebrated Men in Pre- and Post-Collapse Iceland. *Women’s Studies International Forum* 61: 48–57. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2017.02.001>
- Einarsdóttir, T., G. L. Rafnsdóttir, M. S. Sigurdardóttir, and M. T. Torfason. 2020. Networks, Homogeneity and Gender in Icelandic Business Elites. *Scandinavian Journal of Management*

- 36: 17–60. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scaman.2019.101091>
- Gíslason, I. V. 2017. Fathers on Leave Alone in Iceland: Normal Paternal Behavior? In *Comparative Perspectives on Work-Life Balance and Gender Equality. Fathers on Leave Alone*, ed. by O'Brien, M. and K. Wall. Springer Open. 147–162. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-42970-0_9
- Gíslason, I. V. 2007. *Parental Leave in Iceland: Bringing the Fathers in. Developments in the Wake of New Legislation in 2000*. Akureyri: Jafnréttisstofa. 35 p.
- Gíslason, I. V., and S. Simonardóttir. 2018. Mothering and Gender Equality in Iceland: Irreconcilable Opposites? *Social Policy & Society* 17(3): 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1474746417000525>
- Gremaud, A.-S. N. 2010. The Vikings are Coming! A Modern Icelandic Self-image in the Light of the Economic Crisis. *Nordeuropa forum* 20 1(2): 87–106. <https://doi.org/10.18452/8040>
- Jóhannsdóttir, A., and I. V. Gíslason. 2018. Young Icelandic Men's Perception of Masculinities. *Journal of Men's Studies* 26(1): 3–19. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1060826517711161>
- Jónsson, A. K. 2018. Family Policies, Childbearing, and Economic Crisis: The Case of Iceland. *Demographic Research* 39: 561–592. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26585340>
- Koester, D. 1995. Gender Ideology and Nationalism in the Culture and Politics of Iceland. *American Ethnologist* 22(3): 55–63.
- Loftsdóttir, K., and L. Jensen. 2014. *Crisis in the Nordic Nations and Beyond*. London: Ashgate. 188 p.
- Loftsdóttir, K. 2010. Loss of Innocence: The Icelandic Financial Crisis and Colonial Past. *Anthropology Today* 26(6): 9–13. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8322.2010.00769.x>
- Loftsdóttir, K. 2014. Vikings Invade Present-Day Iceland. In *Gambling Debt: Iceland's Rise and Fall in the Global Economy*, ed. by E. P. Durrenberger and G. Pálsson. Denver: University Press of Colorado. 3–14.
- Pesonen, A. 2015. Encouraging Work-Family Balance to Correct Gender Imbalance: A Comparison of the Family and Medical Leave Act and The Iceland Act on Maternity/Paternity and Parental Leave. *Houston Journal of International Law* 37(1): 157–196.
- Þorvaldsdóttir, T. 2011. The Gender-Equal North: Icelandic Images of Femininity and Masculinity. In *Iceland and Images of the North*, ed. by S. R. Ísleifsson, D. Chartier. Québec: Presses de l'Université du Québec, "Droit au Pôle" series, and Reykjavík: Reykjavíkur Akadémían. P. 405–434.