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Roland [x] Superhero

Towards a new relation between the art sciences and concepts of political education in the field of sex/gender

This text focuses on the figure of the *Bremer Roland* in two aspects: First it is an example for the discussion of *masculinity* as a cultural construction, in which one specific hegemonic model is always based on the exclusion of others. So Roland is discussed in difference to other representations of masculinity as Saint Sebastian and Muhammad Ali. This point of view discusses the possibilities of political education of children in the field of sex/gender-stereotypes, choosing the theme of “Super-Heroes”. From another point of view Roland is discussed as a research object of the art sciences. Here the potential of a science is revealed which knows, that an “image” or “sign” such as *Roland* mustn't be reduced to some „facts” about the historical context or functionalities for specific cultural formations of masculinity.

Since neither of these perspectives seems to come into contact with the other, drawing a relation between them usually isn't of much interest. Adapting a proposal of W.J.T. Mitchell the possibilities of such a relation are shown by the performance of an encounter.

The *Slash* “/” in this text is chosen as a sign opening the space that such an encounter offers. Referring to the different points of view the slash changes: first it becomes a backslash “\”, then it is combined to “V” and “^” as used in computer-languages and finally transferred into an [x]. The new relation – as a proposal for further discussions - can be written as: art sciences [x] political education.