

Sport and Gender Seminar MEC2032 Obviously we will be doing the football for the seminar (meet at 9.15am at St Johns Sports centre reception desk), but if you are interested in this topic then have a look at the questions/reading.

Men and Sport

It is suggested that due to the type of contact on the rugby pitch and off, there is potential for homosexual activity. Hence there is deeply entrenched homophobia

- Can you think of any examples of this?
- Do you think that hypermasculinity is a part of this homophobia?

Muscles carry certain connotations in terms of masculinity. Look at the pictures - what are your reactions?



Women and Sport

It is suggested that women sports people are subject to feminisation of their sporting achievements, particularly in terms of their physical attributes.

- Why do you think this might be?
- The image below is of Caster Semanya. The headline in the Mail Online is 'Is she really a HE? You can read the article if you wish (particularly for details if you are unfamiliar with this story). Why do you think Caster's gender was questioned?



1. Discuss sports that are generally perceived as masculine in relation to gender norms (e.g. bodybuilding, boxing, rugby etc.).
2. From your own knowledge and the reading from Obel, how are women bodybuilders seen in comparison to male body builders?
3. From your own knowledge and the reading below, how do you think women's bodybuilding, and other sports which are perceived as masculine, are represented in relation to traditional notions of femininity? (See the reading from Obel, C. (2002) Collapsing gender in competitive Bodybuilding in S. Scraton and A. Flintoff, (Eds.) *Gender and Sport, A Reader*. Oxon, Routledge (Digital chapter available.)