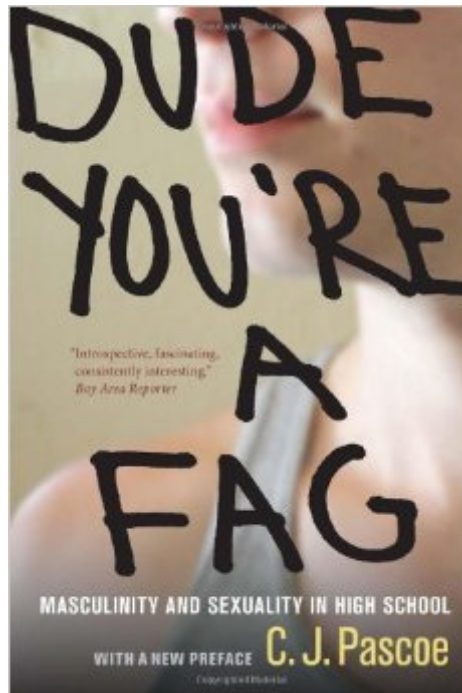


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# Dude, You're A Fag: Masculinity And Sexuality In High School



## Synopsis

High school and the difficult terrain of sexuality and gender identity are brilliantly explored in this smart, incisive ethnography. Based on eighteen months of fieldwork in a racially diverse working-class high school, *Dude, You're a Fag* sheds new light on masculinity both as a field of meaning and as a set of social practices. C. J. Pascoe's unorthodox approach analyzes masculinity as not only a gendered process but also a sexual one. She demonstrates how the "specter of the fag" becomes a disciplinary mechanism for regulating heterosexual as well as homosexual boys and how the "fag discourse" is as much tied to gender as it is to sexuality.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Those who are giving one or two stars and saying "who cares?" are the same idiots who pooh-pooh any research that doesn't directly apply to their own lives or don't understand the purpose and process of qualitative research. This is a great in-depth analysis of gender and sexuality in a high school. No, it doesn't apply to EVERY high school or ALL teenagers; qual. work isn't SUPPOSED to. It is an analysis of one school and one researcher's experiences there, and she gives a fascinating and very readable account. If you are interested in ethnography and the process of this particular type of methodology, this is a great resource.

A fascinating ethnography and vivid look into the often horrifically sexualized nature of high school. Pascoe witnesses some remarkable behavior from teens and her findings of just how compulsive boys and girls are to be masculine will leave you incredulous. She may have her own biases behind

her interpretations and is often quick to jump to the most anti normative viewpoint possible. Take her analyses with a dose of skepticism and you will still be amazed by her findings.

Pascoe's ethnography is first rate. The insights her work reveals are eye-opening. We are much informed by the work. It is also a disturbing read. Pascoe worked in a high school thousands of miles from my university on the east coast of the United States, but my students (in an upper level class) almost universally confirmed that the patterns of interaction that she found in the school she studied existed in their own. I found this depressing because in 2012, when I last used the book in class, I would have hoped that young people and the high schools were not reinforcing such negative gender patterns in the youngster's interactions. Where my East coast university students of 2012 vary from her earlier West coast high school students is in their attitude toward lesbians and gays. Those gender patterns have changed, for much the better in my opinion. But, sadly, the female / male interactions still show widespread acceptance of male dominance and control of the girls. That, my students said, is where their Eastern U.S. schools mirrored those of the West.

I liked the book. It is believable that such a policing of male sexuality does go on in high schools. The author mainly sat in on weightlifting and auto shop classes. No use going to classes where you don't see anything interesting, but my guess is that these classes are going to skew lower class. Pretty sure that higher SES classes and schools are going to have fewer public gay panic type comments. Especially if there is the right feedback from teachers. Interestingly, there is not the same type of policing of women and female sexuality with respect to lesbianism. The class president/homecoming queen is a lesbian and other lesbian students also have high status.

As someone who is going to school to be a counselor for teens this book was great. It is helpful to know what sort of information and reading material is out there for the teens, and this is also a great look at how we socialize kids to be what we think they should be. The shoe doesn't fit every kid so we have to help them make their own shoe that fits them.

An excellent read great for classroom discussion for master/ doctoral students. Supplement texts or media would compliment this nicely

Such a great book!

I'm actually horrified by the author's limited understanding of sexuality and gender roles. She seems to have a lot of sympathy for male victims of this kind of bullying, while going as far as to say that queer women don't experience anything to this extreme. In the book's preface, the author writes, "We are encouraged to think it incidental that all the youth who have committed suicide due to homophobic bullying are male" And, apparently in this book we're encouraged to think that this is the case at all. She goes on to explain further the issues that men face based on masculinity and (real or perceived) homosexuality. Issues which according to the author never happen to any female students.

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