

ABSTRACT

In the Boys' World: An Exploration of Female Teacher Identities At Queen's Royal College

This research paper attempts to deconstruct essentialist notions about the feminine in teaching, which is more often than not stereotypically conceived as maternal and soft. Drawing on ethnographic research at Queen's Royal College, an all boys secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago, the paper examines the intersections between gender, identity and teaching work among female teachers. Female teacher identities are discussed in the context of historical, discursive and gendering processes at the school and in the life-histories of research participants. The feminine at QRC manifests both in maternal and anti-maternal practices, expectations and ideologies. It infuses the ideas of professionalism and pedagogy held by teachers and students and it is negotiated through gender difference between female teachers and the varied masculinities of their male colleagues and students.

Key words: Teacher identity, gender, feminization, masculinity, Queen's Royal College