

Copyright is retained by the first or sole author, who grants right of first publication to the IARTEM *e-Journal*. The IARTEM *e-Journal* is published by the International Association for Research on Textbooks and Educational Media.

**With Gender Awareness:
Improving the reading of gender in educational texts and
illustrations**

Citation: Knudsen, V. Susanne (2010). With gender awareness: Improving the reading of gender in educational texts and illustrations. *IARTEM e-Journal* 3 (1) 1 - 17

Abstract

The article gives examples from analyses of textbooks and computer games, observations in 8th grade in a Norwegian school and interviews with some students. The theoretical inspiration comes from gender research on “doing gender”, and gender is studied in constant interchange and negotiation. The textbooks confirm traditional gender and equality of the genders. However, with gender awareness the texts, tasks and illustrations in the textbooks open for exploring femininities and masculinities in plurality. The observations of the students work and interviews with the students working with computer games pointed towards other constructions of femininities and masculinities than the constructions in the computer games. The different constructions of femininities and masculinities are examples of the transformation from computer games published for use in spare time to their representations in a school textbook.

Keywords: acting masculinity, warlike masculinity, family-oriented masculinity, academic masculinity, nerdy masculinity, male femininity, romantic femininity, femme fatale femininity, sexually-exposed femininity, hard-working femininity, academic femininity, female masculinity.