

# Palgrave Games in Context

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Neil Randall  
The Games Institute  
University of Waterloo  
Waterloo, ON, Canada

Steve Wilcox  
Game Design and Development  
Wilfrid Laurier University  
Brantford, ON, Canada

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Nicholas Taylor • Gerald Voorhees  
Editors

# Masculinities in Play

Gerald Voorhees  
Managing Editor

palgrave  
macmillan

*Editors*

Nicholas Taylor  
Department of Communication  
North Carolina State University  
Raleigh, NC, USA

Gerald Voorhees  
Department of Communication Arts  
University of Waterloo  
Waterloo, ON, Canada

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Cover credit: “Target Practice” (2008) by Team Macho

Cover design by Fatima Jamadar

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The image on the volume's cover has been graciously provided by Team Macho, a collective based in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Nick first encountered their work (and this piece in particular) one day while on break from his dissertation fieldwork, studying a group of aspiring professional gamers. Something about the image stuck then—and obviously, still sticks. We have a female authority figure (mother? teacher?) whose labour is clearly supporting the young boy's mediated target practice, but who is nonetheless peripheral to the all-important relationship between him and the screen. We have the young boy himself, dressed in the uniform we associate with a certain kind of earnest, mid-twentieth century white boyhood. The shells scattered around him speak to long hours of training. The entire apparatus is at once deeply earnest, fundamentally unsettling, and utterly absurd—much like the contemporary formations of masculinity addressed in this book.

# Acknowledgments

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We also thank our fellow editors on the other volumes in this trilogy: Kishonna L. Gray, Emma Vossen, Meghan Blythe-Adams, and Todd Harper. While we believe these volumes stand on their own as separate and valuable contributions to the field of games and gender, it is important to acknowledge that this volume—much like masculinity studies itself—owes much of its dynamism and vibrancy to parallel work in feminism and queer studies.

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## Notes on Contributors

**Michael Austin** is Assistant Professor of Media, Journalism, and Film, and Coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program in the Cathy Hughes School of Communications at Howard University, USA. His research is focused on sound and music in emerging and interactive media.

**Gregory Blackburn** has a PhD from the University of Massachusetts, USA. His primary area of interest is the interplay between media violence, power, and portrayals of masculinity, and how the consumption of such mediated depictions can impact thoughts, attitudes, and affect regarding aggression and gender roles. Additional areas of interest include media effects theory and the application of traditional effects models to new and interactive media.

**Derek Burrill** is an associate professor in the Department of Media and Cultural Studies. He is author of *Die Tryin': Videogames, Masculinity, Culture* (2008), the first text to explore the relationship between games, gaming, gamers, and masculinity. His second book, *The Other Guy*, was published in 2014. Additionally, he has written numerous articles and book chapters, and works as an artist, musician, and filmmaker.

**Shira Chess** is Assistant Professor of Entertainment and Media Studies at the University of Georgia, USA. Her most recent book, *Ready Player Two: Women Gamers and Designed Identity* (2017), interrogates how video game design and advertising construct an idealized vision of women players.

**Steven Conway** is Course Director of Games & Interactivity at Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia. Steven received his doctorate from the University of Bedfordshire, UK, in 2010 on an AHRC National Award Scholarship. His research interests focus on the philosophy and aesthetics of play, games, and sport.

**Mark Cruea** is Assistant Professor of Communication and Media Studies at Ohio Northern University, USA. Past publications have examined the political economy of the video game industry, including planned obsolescence, externalities, and industry business models as well as the third-person effect in relation to male and female representations in video games. Mark has also been involved in Great Ideas for Teaching Students (GIFTS) at the National Communication Association and is past chair of Central States Communication Association GIFTS.

**Nicholas A. Hanford** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Communication and Media at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA. He is also editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Games Criticism*, an open access, peer-reviewed game studies journal. His research focuses on the role of player action in meaning-making in games and rhetorical effects of data mining.

**Robin Johnson** is Director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and an associate professor at the University of Idaho, USA, with research interests in gender, technology, and media and the production of video games and digital media. He is also on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Communication Inquiry* and *ADA: A Journal of Gender, New Media & Technology*.

**Kyle Moody** is Assistant Professor of Communications Media at Fitchburg State University, USA. His research interests include how video game fans and consumers are involved in the production and dissemination of fan and journalistic content. His ongoing research includes online communities of users and players of video games, new media design, social media applications, ethnography, cultural studies, and media production.

**Alexandra Orlando** is a freelance writer and academic Twitch streamer. She writes on topics of gender in esports, Twitch streaming, and narrative in games.

**Marc Ouellette** is author (with Jason C. Thompson) of *Post 9/11 Video Games: A Critical Examination* (2017) and is writing a book on masculinity in video games. He is a Learning Games Initiative Research Fellow.

**Valerie Palmer-Mehta** is Professor of Communication in the Department of Communication & Journalism at Oakland University, USA. Her research can be found in a variety of venues such as *Communication & Critical Cultural Studies*, *International Journal of Communication*, *Women's Studies in Communication*, *Communication, Culture & Critique*, *Text and Performance Quarterly*, and *Journal of American Culture*.

**Sam Srauy** is an assistant professor in the Communication and Journalism Department at Oakland University, USA. His research area includes the political economics of video game industries and narratives of inequality.

**Nicholas Taylor** is Assistant Professor of Digital Media in the Department of Communication at North Carolina State University, USA. He is also Associate

Director of their Communication, Rhetoric and Digital Media (CRDM) PhD program. His work applies critical, feminist, and socio-technical perspectives to experimental and mixed-methods research with digital gaming communities.

**Aaron Trammell** is Assistant Professor of Informatics at University of California, Irvine, USA. He was Provost's Postdoctoral Scholar for Faculty Diversity in Informatics and Digital Knowledge at the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism at the University of Southern California, USA, and he received his doctorate from the School of Communication and Information at Rutgers University, USA, in 2015. Aaron's research reveals historical connections between games, play, identity, and the US military-industrial complex. He is interested in how military ideologies become integrated into game design and how these perspectives are negotiated within the imaginations of players.

**Gerald Voorhees** is Assistant Professor of Digital Culture and Communication in the Department of Communication Arts at the University of Waterloo, Canada. His research is on games and new media as sites for the construction and contestation of identity and culture. In addition to editing books on role-playing games and first-person shooter games, Gerald is co-editor of Bloomsbury's Approaches to Game Studies book series.

**Rebecca Waldie** is a PhD student in Communications at Concordia University, USA. Her current research involves representations of mental illness and masculinity in video games. Her master's thesis research focused on the representation of hegemonic masculinity in horror video games using an intersectional content analysis, and her past work explored digital identity and identity construction in digital spaces.

**Lily Zhu** is a PhD candidate in the English department at the University of Texas, Austin, USA, studying the British novel in the long nineteenth century. Her primary research focuses on the invasive, foreign figure of the chemist across nineteenth-century fiction and modern video games. She is also developing a game criticism website, *Culture Bytes Back*.

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