

THE ADVERTISER

NEWS

Lecturers in world-first male studies course at University of South Australia under scrutiny

POLITICAL EDITOR TORY SHEPHERD

THE ADVERTISER

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LECTURERS in a "world-first" male studies course at the University of South Australia have been linked to extreme views on men's rights and websites that rail against feminism.

The lecturers' backgrounds are likely to spark controversy, but organisers of the predominantly online course, promoted as the first of its type in the world, insist they are not anti-feminist and "it's very difficult for anybody who has opposing views to get a word in".

Two lecturers have been published by prominent US anti-feminist site A Voice for Men, a site which regularly refers to women as "bitches" and "whores" and has been described as a hate site by the civil rights organisation Southern Poverty Law Centre.

The US site specifically welcomed the UniSA course as a milestone, editor Paul Elam saying it marked the end of feminists' control of the agenda.

One American US lecturer - US attorney and self-professed "anti-feminist lawyer" Roy Den Hollander - has written that the men's movement might struggle to exercise influence but that "there is one remaining source of power in which men still have a near monopoly - firearms".

He also argues that feminists oppress men in today's world and refers to women's studies as "witches' studies".

Another, US psychology professor Miles Groth, says that date-rape awareness seminars might be deterring men from going to university.

Mr Den Hollander has tried to sue ladies' nights for discrimination against men. He has likened the position of men today to black people in America's south in the 1950s "sitting in the back of the bus", and blames feminists for oppressing men.

The course, which has no prerequisites, begins this year and will canvass subjects from men's health to gender bias.

Course founder Gary Misan, from UniSA's Centre for Rural Health and Community Development, said they were "not anti-women" and that lecturers were associated with a range of groups.

"I wouldn't say any of them are extreme or anti-feminist," Dr Misan said.

"The aim of the courses are to present a balanced view and to counter some of the negative rhetoric that exists in society in general and in some areas of academe about men.

"It's very difficult for anybody who has opposing views to get a word in. As soon as somebody mentions anything they perceive as being anti-feminist, they're pilloried, and in some cases almost persecuted."

Dr Misan also said that writing something for a specific website did not necessarily suggest an affiliation.

Dr Michael Flood, from the University of Wollongong's Centre for Research on Men and Masculinity, said these types of male studies "really represents the margins".

"It comes out of a backlash to feminism and feminist scholarship. The new male studies is an effort to legitimise, to give academic authority, to anti-feminist perspectives," he said.

Flinders University School of Education senior lecturer Ben Wadham, who has a specific interest in men's rights, said there was a big difference between formal masculinity studies and "populist" male studies.

He said there were groups that legitimately help men, and then the more extreme activists.

"That tends to manifest in a more hostile movement which is about 'women have had their turn, feminism's gone too far, men are now the victims, white men are now disempowered'," he said.

"I would argue that the kinds of masculinities which these populist movements represent are anathema to the vision of an equal and fair gendered world."

Dr Wadham said that universities needed to uphold research based traditions instead of the populist, partisan approach driven by some.

Men's Health Australia spokesman and Male Studies lecturer Greg Andresen is also the Australian correspondent for US-based site *National Coalition For Men*, which declares false rape accusations to be "psychological rape", argues that talking about violence against women makes men invisible.

Asked about his connection to NCFM, he said they were the longest-running organisation in the world to look at discrimination against men and boys.

"Certainly they don't shy away from touching issues like false rape allegations, domestic violence, some of those hot topics," he said.

"We have had 20 if not 30 or 40 years where the only study on gender has been from a feminist perspective ... that's why I think this course is so long overdue," he said.

UniSA's Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Professor Allan Evans, said the courses covered important men's health issues and would equip allied health professionals who deal with men's health.

"All new courses are reviewed thoroughly prior to being offered to ensure they are suitable and beneficial to our students," he said.

University of South Australia distances itself from males studies proposals

Date January 14, 2014



Amy McNeilage

Reporter

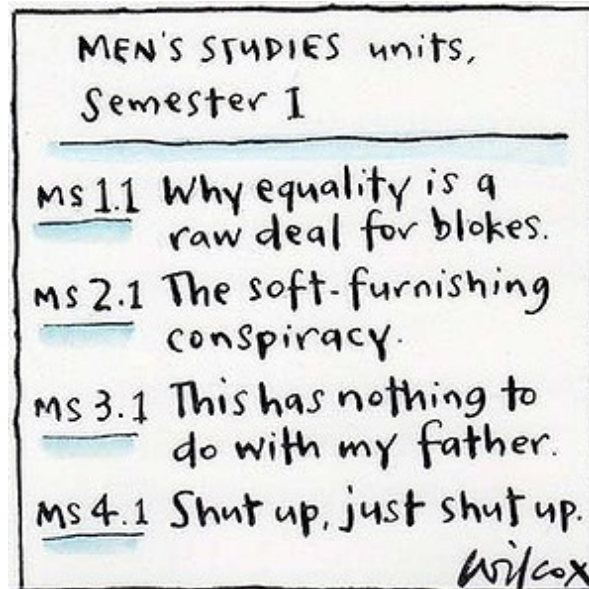
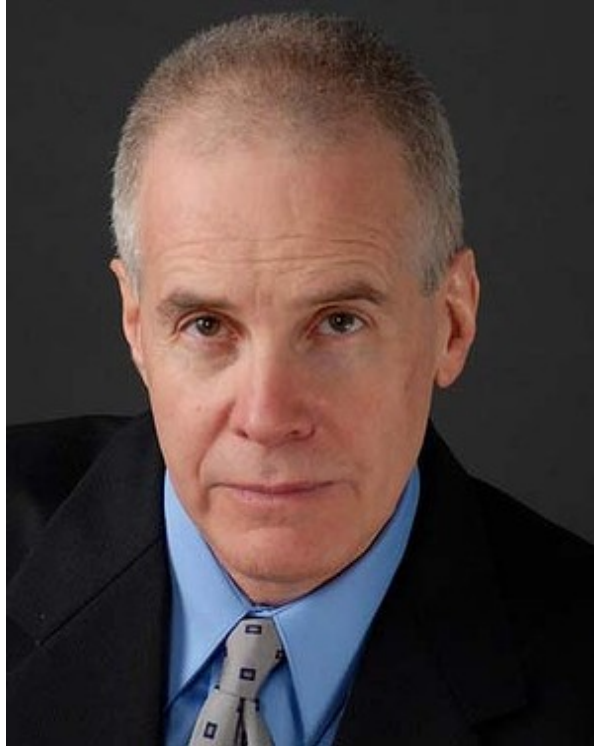


Illustration: Cathy Wilcox

The University of South Australia has distanced itself from a proposal for a series of male studies courses, some of which were to be taught by hardline anti-feminist advocates.

The university has approved one of four proposed graduate courses, a certificate in male health and health promotion, which will begin online next month.

But an original proposal by one of the university's academics outlined three further certificates, including a course called "males and sexism", which named lecturers who have been published on radical men's rights websites.



American lawyer and self-described anti-feminist: Roy Den Hollander. Photo: Supplied

Among those named was American lawyer and self-described anti-feminist Roy Den Hollander, who filed a lawsuit against Columbia University for offering women's studies courses that preached a "religionist belief system called feminism", *The New York Times* reported in 2008.

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Another proposed lecturer, Miles Groth from Wagner College in New York, wrote on the New Male Studies Facebook page on Sunday: "Two years of preparation and the support of the university from the start now seem to be jeopardy because of unnamed critics making erroneous accusations. It has been known for some years now that academe is held hostage by radical ideological feminists in the humanities and social sciences, and administration, who fear them."

The university emphasised it did not endorse views of the suggested lecturers. It said the courses, which were criticised in the media on Monday, were rejected in 2012.

Any future courses would need to go through the same approval process, a spokeswoman said.

But National Union of Students president Deanna Taylor said it was concerning that the academic who founded the course, Associate Professor Gary Misan, was linked to the controversial Americans.

"It's a slippery slope once you open the door to people with these views and give them a platform ... it's not long before proposals like the ones that were rejected actually get approved," she said.

Feminist academic Eva Cox said it was probably time to take a good look at how assumptions about gender constrain both men and women:

"Whether we need to run a university course on them, I've got my doubts," she said. "The only reason I can see that you'd be running men's studies is for the men who want to complain that they haven't had enough attention as victims, and that does worry me.

"Yes, some men have difficulties with going to doctors ... but I think we need to look at the assumptions about masculinity and femininity and how they trap both genders rather than picking on one or the other."

HERALD SUN

NATIONAL NEWS

University of South Australia gives controversial Male Studies course the snip

- TORY SHEPHERD POLITICAL EDITOR
- THE ADVERTISER
- JANUARY 14, 2014 11:15AM

CONTROVERSIAL aspects of a Male Studies course will not go ahead, the University of South Australia says - though lecturers involved with it still believe that it will.

The Advertiser revealed yesterday that some of the lecturers listed for the professional certificates had links to extreme men's rights organisations that believe men are oppressed, particularly by feminists.

The university yesterday said two short courses that would cover male health and health promotion programs targeting males had been approved, that "no other courses have been approved" and that only university staff would teach the courses.

Over the past two days, *The Advertiser* has spoken to several lecturers who believe the remainder of the proposed courses - on topics including gender bias and male power and privilege - are set to go ahead. An information sheet on the Male Studies course said it would be considered "if there is sufficient interest".

US "anti-feminist" lawyer Roy Den Hollander said yesterday that he was preparing a course that looked at how the law favours females when it comes to employment, crime, domestic relations, property, divorce and illegitimate children.

"The course is really looking back at 200 or 300 years of history and how the law treated guys and girls - and it treated girls more favourably than guys and it still does, maybe even more so.

Mr Den Hollander also stood by his claim that men's remaining source of power was "firearms". Asked whether he thought that was "extreme", he said that it was true that it was "really the only area that they control in society now".

He said that even where men dominate areas such as boards and politics, they are still enforcing the belief system of feminism.

However, Mr Den Hollander is unlikely to be able to tell Adelaide students about similarities he sees between the men's rights movement and the civil rights movement, as the university says the subject he is down to teach was never approved.

A statement from the university issued yesterday said only UniSA staff would develop and teach courses, and that the university did not "endorse or support the controversial comments on gender issues" revealed in yesterday's *Advertiser*.

Yesterday men's rights activists attacked criticism of the course as lies, corruption and fascism.

"As we know, feminist ideologues are well placed with the luxury of great control. But while this is clearly an exercise in their power, it is an exercise in power that is waning," Paul Elam, editor of the anti-feminist site A Voice For Men wrote, adding the "only way forward" was "straight through them".

National Union of Students president Deana Taylor said a course like that proposed for the university provided "a dangerous platform for anti-women views".

NEWS

Tory Shepherd: Pathetic bid for victimhood by portraying women as villains

TORY SHEPHERD THE ADVERTISER JANUARY 14, 2014 11:04PM

IF you accuse a bunch of men's rights extremists of calling women whores and bitches, be prepared for them to deny they call women whores and bitches.

And then prepare for them to call you a whore and a ... well, worse.

Which is no big drama - I learned long ago what happens if you cross these guys. Besides, last week I was called ShortHairLargeArse and ButchHairBargeBum. Far more accurate insults, although my hair has really grown quite long lately.

But I'm pretty keen to go over some of the ground that's been covered this week after uncovering plans to have a Male Studies course at the University of South Australia.

Most of the courses now won't go ahead - the uni says they were never approved, while other materials they say were pending sufficient interest, and a swag of proposed lecturers seemed to think they were locked in.

READ MORE: Gillard 'treatment' a political turnoff

Big ups to UniSA for having the sense to reject anything linked to those at the very fringe of the men's rights spectrum, and instead focus on men's health, taught by their own lecturers, not overseas ring ins.

You'd think I'd shut up now the plans are off the table, but it's really important to get across the bigger picture. See, most people probably think that the men's rights guys I was talking about - the ones who habitually call women names, argue that they routinely make up rape, and put it about that women either incite their own domestic violence or are the abusers themselves - are just circle-jerk misogynists.

They are - misogynists, I mean. And we're talking old-school misogyny - the hatred of women - as well as the new-school misogyny - entrenched prejudice against women.

Not just harmless condescension or unthinking stereotypes, but some serious anger.

The problem is, the circle is no longer closed, no longer just a bunch of angry guys in a basement. They're trying to get up the stairs and into the light.

They want to play outside with legitimate experts in men's issues and male disadvantage.

It's a classic tactic, used by pseudoscientific fraudsters. Adopt the language of the actual scientists. Find odd reports and old stories, random statistics and shocking anecdotes, and stitch them into a Hannibal Lecter-style creation that mimics valid inquiry.

Try to sound like the real deal, and look enough like them to fool some people, some of the time.

The good news is most of them struggle to keep up the farce. Paul Elam, editor of *A Voice For Men*, which is the global hub of men's rights delirium, popped up on FiveAA yesterday and said it was a lie that his site referred to women as bitches. That is, in turn, a lie. Any doubters should just Google it.

I suspect that Mr Elam's defence, as it is entirely clear that he loves to call women names, that he thinks women sometimes are "begging" to be raped, that he scoffs at domestic violence and seems to think women deliberately provoke violence against themselves to somehow get at men, is rather piss weak.

Maybe he just uses those words to describe feminists. He may even follow his managing editor's line of logic. Dean Esmay, talking about *The Advertiser* story on how their site likes to call women whores and bitches, said yesterday:

"We do not regularly call women as a class whores or c**ts... we will on occasion call a woman, like Tory Shepherd or a man like (University of Wollongong lecturer) Michael Flood a whore, a c**t, or a bitch... yes, we use heated rhetoric."

Yes, they do use heated rhetoric, and they do bang on interminably about how hard done-by men are.

Not in the important areas of health, where men are behind, or even education, where the same thing is happening. Or suicide.

No, not because of that, but because they keep getting ripped off and attacked by crazy bitches and feminazis out to oppress them.

Poor boys, trying desperately to claim the mantle of victimhood. It would be pathetic if it wasn't for the fact that they are trying to make women into villains at the same time.

It could be dismissed if they weren't trying to creep in where they are not needed, or wanted. If they weren't trying to lobby for law changes or to brainwash people into thinking black is white.

The shades of grey, of course, are that sometimes men are victims - of domestic violence, of false rape accusations, of gold diggers.

But these guys drown out any real discussion with their endless angry spittle. And that's the real bitch.

NEWS

Men's rights campaigner Roy Den Hollander attacks *The Advertiser's* Tory Shepherd in bizarre legal writ filed in New York County

TORY SHEPHERD THE ADVERTISER JUNE 18, 2014 2:15PM

ROY Den Hollander calls me a female-dog-in-heat reporter and a harpy, and says if feminists are hot, they can walk all over him in their stilettos.

Which isn't all that interesting in and of itself, except this is the guy who wanted to teach the men of South Australia about their position in the world.

After *The Advertiser* revealed UniSA was planning a course in men's studies that included men with links to US men's rights extremists, the course was canned.

Well, according to the university it was never formally approved, although there was a course list in existence and certainly Mr Den Hollander thinks he was in line to be paid \$1250 to lecture.

His subject was going to be about how the law discriminates against men and in favour of women.

See, Mr Den Hollander is a proudly "anti-feminist" lawyer with a fairly unsuccessful track record.

Most famously, he lost a court case where he tried to sue nightclubs for hosting ladies' nights – alleging they discriminated against men by giving women cheaper or free drinks or entry.

Now Mr Den Hollander is suing me (as the political editor of the "online newspaper *The Advertiser-Sunday-Mail-Messenger*) and Fairfax journalist Amy McNeilage from his home base of New York County.

■ WATCH: THE COLBERT REPORT ON ROY DEN HOLLANDER

So this is now the subject of legal action – from the land where free speech is in the Constitution.

So I probably can't bang on too much. But Mr Den Hollander, representing himself, has penned a legal document (handed over to *The Advertiser* by a sheriff – who knew we had sheriffs?) that cannot remain between me and my lawyer. It's gold and genius like this should be shared.

So with no further ado, here are some lessons from Mr Den Hollander, who will not be paid to give lessons at UniSA:

Lesson 1: How to censor a journalist by accusing them of censorship.

"Two modern-day, book-burning, Bacchae reporters from down-under authored and published false and misleading information concerning Plaintiff (Den Hollander) with the intent and result of harming his economic interests and interfering with a prospective economic advantage by causing the University of SA to incinerate the section of a proposed male studies course that Plaintiff would have taught," he writes. But wait.

Lesson 2: How to personally attack a journalist by accusing them of personal attacks.

"The two reporters, Tory Shepherd, AKA "Tory the Torch" for *The Advertiser* and Amy McNeilage, AKA "Amy McNeuter" for *The Sydney Morning Herald*, used their power as reporters to do what weak-minded ideologues have done throughout history — employ personal attacks to prevent the spread of knowledge and ideas that they disagreed with."

Lesson 3: How to prove you are not an extremist by sounding like an extremist.

"If these two feminist book-burners had not jumped on their broomsticks and scared the bejesus out of the administrators of the University of SA, students there would have had an opportunity to acquire information and consider views not available anywhere else in higher education."

Brilliant, no?

Mr Den Hollander goes on to argue that the "psychological-bacchanalian frenzy" was "yellow, female-dog-in-heat reporting" that somehow created the impression that he was "evil and should figuratively, if not literally, have his tongue cut out". And questions where I "ever uttered a disparaging word about men when going through the trouble of maintaining blonde hair at (my) age". Whatever that means.

"Thank goodness for Australians that Tory was not around for Australia's battle against the Japanese. Her anti-gun advocacy for men might have even resulted in her and Amy ending up as Japanese 'comfort girls'," he writes.

He also talks of his concern that "alien wives and girlfriends" are making up phony abuse cases against men, and that men are being targeted by feminists because they were trying to escape said feminists by going overseas for girlfriends.

Guys don't get off scot-free, though – he also has a crack at "girlie-guys". In the men's rights vernacular, "girlie-guys" are usually known as "manginas". The terms refer to males who

believe in equality for women – in Mr Den Hollander’s words: “girlie-guys who hope that by being sycophants, they can avoid being hexed by the feminists”.

It’s at about this point that I start to wonder: Why on Earth give such a man more publicity?

But it’s important, I think, to remain aware and wary of people like Mr Den Hollander.

I suspect the people at UniSA who flirted with the idea of bringing him over to teach may not have really understood his philosophy.

I also wanted to use this opportunity to put on the public record that I may be a harpy, and somewhat bacchanalian, but I never, ever wear stilettos.