

Summary

Food provisioning practices are strongly associated with a domestic ideology of female caregiving. The kitchen is still a female sphere, however there *are* men who are responsible for everyday cooking at home. Objective of this research project is to collect older men's narratives about their domestic cooking careers aiming to find out how men create and display their masculinity through these stories.

Background to research

Changes in Society but cooking is still women's work (Meier-Graewe 2006, Brombach 2005)

Why look at cooking?

cooking constitutes and displays gender relationships (DeVault 1991)

- Depends on resources
- Reveals power structures

Objective

The aim of this research project is to find out more about how men make sense of their practices in a environment generally perceived as feminized. A range of questions around men's narratives about domestic cooking will be captured. The main focus is on how men narrate their everyday domestic provisioning practices and how they create and display their relation towards masculinity through these stories. A case-study approach is used to capture food routine memories of retired men who are currently engaged with domestic cooking. It will be investigated how these routines have changed over their life course.



Research Design



Research Questions

1. Under which conditions do men engage in everyday domestic cooking?
2. How are men recruited into domestic cooking?
3. How do men who do everyday domestic cooking make sense of these practices?

Methodology and Methods

Narrative inquiry to investigate habitual nature of routinised practices and people's personal accounts. Focus on life course perspective to reveal turning points.

Participant observation in cooking classes
Biographic narrative interviews with men from a variety of socioeconomical backgrounds, employment and relationship statuses doing routinized domestic foodwork.

Key areas to look at		
Acquiring knowledge	Pleasure seeking in food	(Absence of) Care work
		
Construction and ascription of knowledge How does ascribed 'natural' expert status relate to the process of learning how to prepare food?	Crucial role of pleasure seeking strategy (Roos et al. 2001) Change from event to everyday? Dependent on social class → lifestyle?	Notion of care work strongly tied to femininity. Do men avoid this ascription and/or frame it differently?

NOVELLA
NARRATIVES OF VARIED EVERYDAY LIVES AND LINKED APPROACHES

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