“Men” as a gendered category is now on many social, cultural and political agendas. How this has been framed has changed markedly over the last 40 years in many parts of the world. In this session I examine some of these changes, along with the complex relations between the diverse politics of men’s gender-conscious activism, the development of explicitly gendered policy-making on men, and the establishment of the sub-field of critical studies on men and masculinities. In the last of these arenas a crucial issue is to what extent and in what ways studies on men and masculinities are critical, or not, and how they relate to wider feminist and gender debates and theorising.

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