



# Traditional Masculinity & 1<sup>st</sup> Gen Canadians

**Abstract:** Although Canada may be increasingly tolerant of gender fluidity, individuals still struggle with gender expression around their family. For my research I explore traditional and ethnic masculinity values and how 1<sup>st</sup> generation Canadian's navigate between their identity in contemporary Canadian society and ethnic background. I observe and compare intergenerational & cultural differences, and traditions that shape the identities of immigrants.

## Research Question:

What are the social implications of cultural masculinity expectations on first generation Canadians?

## Common Traditional Values

- Physical appearance
- Dressing
- Career & being able to provide for their future family
- Non-heterosexuality would not be accepted

**Method:** For my research I used semi-structured interviews from three participants.  
 P: Polish Canadian  
 J: Jamaican Canadian  
 I: Indian Canadian



**Findings:** 1<sup>st</sup> gen immigrants, associated traditional values as family values. They all reported that they grew up around these expectations and agreed with many of the values their parents held. However, they all said they are more open-minded to non-gender conformity and accepting of it whereas their parents were strictly against it. J's parents learnt to tolerate LGBTQ existence in Canada, but would not accept their sons in the community.