

Abstract Title:

**“The Representation of Age and Masculinities
in US Blank Fictions”**

Filippo Maria Bagnasco



The proposed dissertation analyzes how representations of masculinities enter texts that portray extreme and transgressive situations and characters, specifically contemporary US texts that have been grouped under the label blank fiction. The goal is to analyze how different masculinities are represented within these texts, what kind of critique of masculinity emerges from these texts, whether we can identify types of masculinity according to current theoretical descriptions of masculinities, what are the intertextual associations that contribute to a particular construction of masculinity, and how and possibly why is masculinity represented in certain ways in texts that deal with extreme or transgressive narrative situations. This analysis of masculinity is also intersectionally informed by considerations derived from studies on aging and ageism, specifically concepts like time, age, and duration relative to the construction of masculinity in literary texts. The focus on masculinities is due to the fact that in much research on blank fiction the topic is either not addressed or just cursorily mentioned and the focus often falls on the more clearly prominent issues of violence, sex, urban life, and commodification. The intention of this dissertation is to show how issues of masculinities underlie all of these other issues