

Book Review: Laura Kipnis, *Men: Notes from an Ongoing Investigation*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2014. ISBN: 9781627791878 (Hard Cover). 224 Pages. \$25.00.

Reviewed by Robert M. Worley¹

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In her book, *Men: Notes from an Ongoing Investigation*, Laura Kipnis, a social commentator and filmmaking professor at Northwestern University, deconstructs the contemporary American male in a variety of provocative and insightful essays. Kipnis, is no stranger to this subject, having written numerous scholarly articles ranging from men's consumption of pornography to their involvement in sex scandals. In this regard, her reputation offers credence to her work from the outset.

Given the large body of work that Kipnis has published on pornography, it is fitting that she begins her book by candidly discussing her face-to face meeting with Larry Flynt, the publisher of *Hustler* magazine, whom she affectionately refers to as a "scumbag pornographer" (11). The author describes visiting the porn emperor's office tower on Wilson Boulevard during a visit to Los Angeles. Kipnis portrays Flynt as charming and gregarious, rather than as someone who has made a career out of objectifying women. While some scholars might be reluctant to spend time chatting with Flynt, the author refrains from passing too much judgment on the first male subject of her book. In fact, she insightfully observes that *Hustler* magazine reflects the anxieties and

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