Institutionalized Homophobia: Homosexuality in the Realm of Aesthetic Masculinity

\[ \text{Rainbow Flag} + \text{NFL} = \text{Erase The Hate} \]

homo phobia harm (a fobe a) insecure about being heterosexual.
Esera Tuaolo
Two Possibilities

- There are virtually no homosexuals in the NFL and it is completely dominated by heterosexual males, Or:

- There are many other people still active in the NFL who are homosexual and similar to Tuaolo, is keeping it a secret while performing masculinity
Questions to be Answered

- Why are players so adamant about not coming out while in the NFL?
- How many other Tuaolo’s are out there?
- Why was it so important for Tuaolo to perform heterosexuality while he was in the NFL?
THE FEAR FACTOR

THE HETERO-MASCULINE DIVIDE

CRITICAL RHETORIC OF GENDER SEXUALITY

SOCIETAL AND MEDIA INFLUENCE
Key Concepts

- Objective Heterosexuality
- Objective Homosexuality
- Subjective Heterosexuality
- Subjective Homosexuality
Tuaolo states, “…[Teammates] would have taken me out so that their own masculinity would not be questioned for playing alongside a sissy.” (Tuaolo, 3)

This helps us understand why it was okay for him to come out, after he was no longer employed behind the ‘shield’ of the NFL.
Myth of Gender: Gender is a division that is...a balancing between two essentially different beings: man and women, strong and weak, hard and soft, rational and emotional. This ‘balancing’, as feminism has shown us, is nothing more than a cover-up, a concealment of male supremacy, which, as Anthony Wilden has said, is ‘the biggest and most deeply rooted form of organized bullying in the history of human culture’. (Pronger, 64)
Sexuality a Cultural Creation

- the myth is, “...a ‘speech’ on the interplay of the different mythic powers of men and women that gives heterosexuality the false appearance of being ‘natural,’ ahistorical, universal timelessness, when, in fact, heterosexuality is a cultural creation” (Pronger, 64)

- Foucault’s theory of sexuality-sexuality was not a universal human feature; it varied from culture to culture
“In our culture, homosexual relations constitute a betrayal of masculinity” (Pronger, 83).
Hyper-masculine institutions, create a repressive environment that forces those who are within that institution, to maintain a certain ideology that has been learned throughout a life time from narratives from the media, culture and society who have been tremendously influenced by the media, and various other social institutions (school, family, work, etc.).


