

MALE PREGNANCY

when females second-sex males in the fantasy world.

Ruichao Jiang



To every woman who works hard for the freedom of creation.

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Type set in Optima and Graphik type family.

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My thesis idea began with my desire to exploring the world. Thesis in GD MFA program is a very valuable opportunity. Therefore, I hope I can use this chance to do something of my own interest. I have never stopped thinking about the universe, mankind, the known and the unknown, and I have a passion for seeking to rewrite the very definition of being human, expanding the concept of identity by denying its singularity and refusing the traditional ideas about humanity and the human condition.

I know it is a great fortune and privilege to be able to purse a MFA degree, so it is very important to think about what kind of attitude I should voice and what kind of role I should play. I hope my design can help people think beyond their own identity and understand the world in a more open way.

Abstract Glossary Essay Exploration Body of Work Thanks

Male Pregnancy is one of popular plots setting in female fanfic culture and females enjoy seeing their appreciating male characters suffering from pregnancy and becoming vulnerable. This is the embodiment of fanfic community females gazing at males and showing what these females want to see in this process. The project explores why and what females enjoy when they see Male Pregnancy, and try to create a space where the power dynamic between genders is inverted, and gives females the agency to look, feminizing and objectify the male body.

ABSTRACT

Glossary

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Male: the biological sex that typically produces relatively small, usually motile gametes which fertilize the eggs of a female.

Female: the biological sex that typically produces eggs.

Fanwork: A fanwork is a creative work produced by one or more fans, generally intended for other fans. A common defining phrase used in fandom is "by fans for fans," or something similar, though this definition might incorporate other fan activity as well.

A fandom is a community of fans, participating in fanac and interacting in some way, whether through discussions or creative works. The interaction may be face-to-face at gatherings such as conventions, or written communication, either off- or on-line.

Fanfiction (fanfic, fic) is a work of fiction written by fans for other fans. taking a source text or a famous person as a point of departure. Fanfiction is most commonly produced within the context of a fannish community and can be shared online such as in archives or in print such as in zines. Fanfiction is also written by fans in isolation, perhaps shared with a few friends or no one at all. Writing fanfiction is an extremely widespread fannish activity; millions of stories have been written, and thousands more are written daily.

Slash is a type of fanwork in which two (or more) characters of the same sex or gender are placed in a sexual or romantic situation with each other. Slash can also be a verb: to slash is to create a slash fanwork or to interpret the chemistry between the characters in the source text as homoerotic. The adjective form is slashy. Slash more commonly refers to male/male pairings, with femslash being used more often to refer to female/ female scenarios.

Het (heterosexual) is a subgenre of romantic or erotic fanfiction. It can also be used to describe other types of fanworks. The label het generally indicates that a fanwork is focused on a heterosexual relationship or male/female encounter.

Nisu: A kind of Internet trend. Female consumers fantasize male stars as women. They can be sisters, wives and, of course, mommy etc. At this time, women's identity is a hypothetical man, and women substitute men's identity and enjoy the female body of male stars in spirit.

Mpreg (short for male pregnancy) is a plot device in which men become pregnant. It occurs with some frequency in slash and very rarely in het.

Omegaverse/Alpha/Beta/Omega or Alpha/Omega (occasionally Alpha/

Beta) is a kink trope wherein some or all people have defined biological roles based on a hierarchical system, with the terms originating from animal

This document refers to "male" and "female" as biological sex characteristics, as distinct from one's gender identity as "man" or "woman."

"Fanwork." Fanlore, 26 Mar. 2021, 01:22, fanlore.org/wiki/Fanwork.

"Fandom." *Fanlore*, 1 Mar. 2021, 11:01, fanlore. org/wiki/Fandom.

"Fanfiction." Fanlore, 2020, fanlore.org/wiki/ Fanfiction.

"Slash." Fanlore, 1 Apr. 2021, fanlore.org/wiki/ Slash.

"Het." Fanlore, 6 Jan. 2020, 21:29, fanlore.org/ wiki/Het.

"Mpreg." Fanlore, Feb. 2021, fanlore.org/wiki/ Mpreg.

"Alpha/Beta/Omega." Fanlore, Mar. 2021, fanlore.org/wiki/Alpha/ Beta/Omega.

behaviour research. There may be werewolf, knotting, or other anir elements involved, or the characters may be otherwise purely hum

F/F: Female/Female relationships

F/M: Female/Male relationships

Gen (General): no romantic or sexual relationships, or relationships are not the main focus of the work

M/M: Male/Male relationships

Multi: More than one kind of relationship, or a relationship with multiple partners

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nan.	

	Works, Organization for
	Transformative. "Archive
	of Our Own Beta." Archive
	of Our Own, 25 Apr. 2021,
s which	archiveofourown.org/.

Essay

Why I am interested in Mpreg?

The first time I got to know Mpreg is from gay romantic fanfic I read in my teens. At that time, I didn't really understand why people enjoy that and feminizing males made me feel wierd. As said in the fanfic community "Mpreg is a rather polarizing genre even within fandom: Whereas some fans really like it, many fans go out of their way to avoid it, and relatively few fans are indifferent to it." ^[1] The extreme confusion in gender characteristics like male pregnancy always makes people very reactive.

I have been actively writing since I was young, but I didn't write any fanfic until I read fanfics for several years. Because at the beginning, I thought fanfics were just a kind of fan entertainment and I should not spend to much time on them. But after a period of contact with the fanfic community, I realized that this is not just a superficial popular culture phenomenon. In other words, female's enthusiasm and devotion to this type of creation has a deeper meaning. In my time as a fanfic writer, I have created for several different fandoms, including English movies, comics, TV series and Chinese fictions, as well as different relationship types, such as Female/ Female relationship, No-Sexual relationship, Male/Male relationship and multi ones. I have gradually increased my number of readers in fandom and I began to communicate with readers and other creators. In the process, I realized that, like most female fanfic creators, I prefer to create Male/Male relationship fanfics. I also started to enjoy fanfic novels with Mpreg plots, and communicate with the creators and readers who also enjoy Mpreg. For me personally, creating these kinds of plots for my favorite characters help me reconcile myself with the fact that I am attracted to males, which often causes me self-loathing. Because of some experiences in my childhood, I had a hard time trusting males or treating males as similar people who can communicate on an equal footing. I hated the fact that I was attracted to men, and hoped I could be a lesbian.

As my age and personal consciousness increased simultaneously, it became more and more difficult for me to accept many plots in traditional heterosexual relationships, such as female characters moving towards marriage, having sex with men, giving birth and so on. I can't stand a female character becoming a "woman" in the traditional sense just because she is attracted to a man. It seems like as long as you are attracted to men, as long as you desire the attention and love of men, you will be disturbed and even controlled by the male gaze. This is more obvious and more common in the social environment of East Asia, and it makes me feel more self-loathing towards myself and I can't put a woman's romantic fantasy on men. I also write female/female romantic fictions, but this still can't appease the heterosexual part of me. Being attracted to the opposite sex and the resulting self-loathing brings me a certain degree of confusion and pain. It should be noted that as a native Chinese speaker, the experiences I have described here and below are more based on the Chinese fanfic community, but part of the Chinese fanfic culture is deeply influenced by English fanfic community. I will point out if I talk about the commonality of this kind of communication below.

[1] "Mpreg." Fanlore, Feb. 2021, fanlore.org/ wiki/Mpreg. For me personally, creating these kinds of plots for my favorite characters help me reconcile myself with the fact that I am attracted to males, which often causes me selfloathing.

ESSAY WHY I AM INTERESTED IN MALE PREGNANCY

MALE-PREGNANCY

However, writing fanfics gives me a different experience. When I am attracted to a male character in a fandom, I don't have to fantasize about having a romantic relationship with him as a female, but I can place him in the context I have set up for the story to happen. At the same time, I realized that when the object of my fantasy character is also a male, everything becomes more acceptable. I can put some plots that I don't allow to happen to women on men, such as pregnancy. This gave me a place where I could escape from my social identity and place my erotic desires properly. I have noticed that for creators and readers who enjoy similar plots as me, many stories about men's pregnancy are not about a happy family, but about the psychological

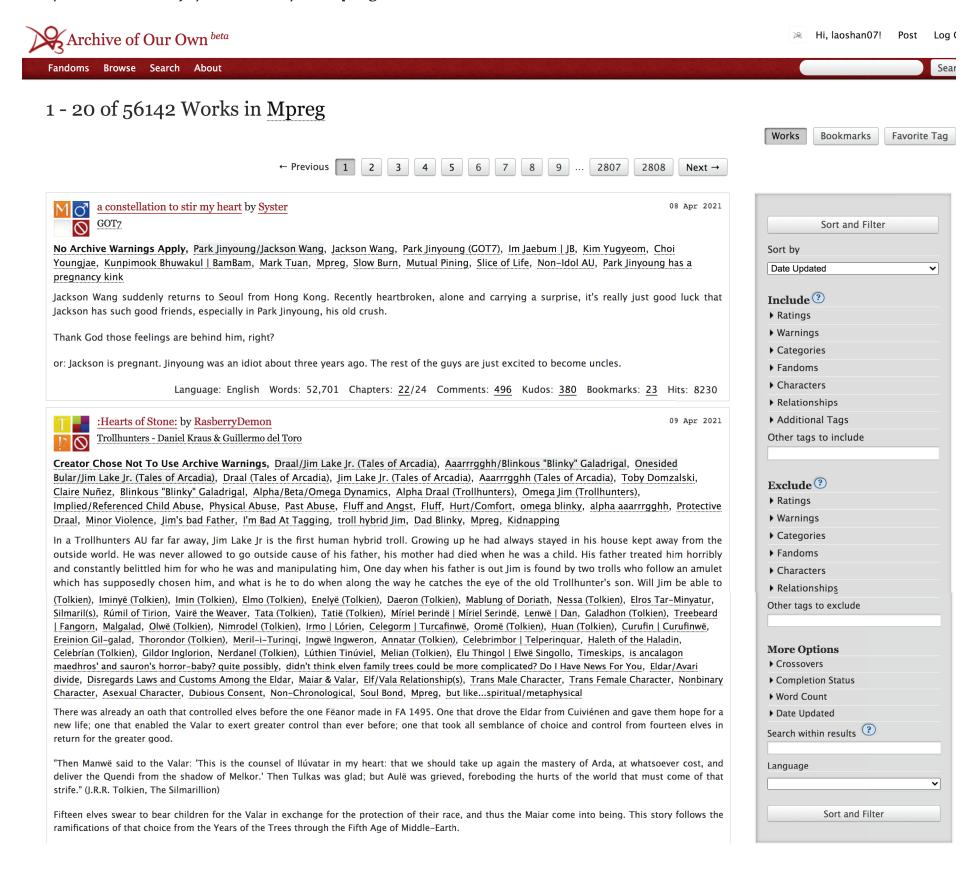
and physical struggles men endured during the pregnancy, much of which will make males feel uncomfortable. A group of women scrambled to discuss how to get a man to be used for pregnancy, which is hard to imagine for many men. It's interesting to observe their reactions when I tell this to my male friends, and from this I also realize that there is something more interesting behind this "ridiculous hobby" of women.

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Why do females enjoy male pregnancy? Maybe we can start with gay romance, which is almost the only way for males to get pregnant in females fanfic work.

Why do females enjoy the fantasy of Mpreg? Maybe we can start with gay romance, which is almost the only way for males to get pregnant in females fanfic work. According to the largest fanfic and female fantasy archive website Archive of Our Own (AO3), there are 47886 Mpreg works in Male/ Male relationship category, while only 6797 works in Female/Male relationship category and all the rest of the other categories are only about 5000 in total ^[2]. Mpreg is obviously often used as a method of feminizing men in Male/Male relationships.

[2] Works, Organization for Transformative. "Archive of Our Own Beta." Archive of Our Own, archiveofourown. org/tags/Mpreg/works.



Image from www.imdb. com/title/tt11585100/.

Therefore, as we can see from the interviews of female gay romance writers in the documentary What Women Want: Gay Romance directed by Charlie David, female readers (most of whom are sexually attracted to males) enjoy gay romance for the following reasons: 1. There are too many male gazes in heterosexual romance works. 2. Readers don't need to bring in female protagonists when reading gay romance, they can escape from the gender dynamics of real life. 3. Instead of presupposing that you are a female in a romantic relationship, you are free to substitute the perspectives of both parties in gay romance. 4. It gives women space to have agency to hold their lives ^[3]. In the early analysis of Slash related theory in the late 1980s and early 1990s, many scholars also argued that Slash was a feminist subject. For example, Joanna Russ proudly declared that Slash is a "pornographic novel written by women and women as the audience"^[4].

- [3] David, Charlie. "What Women Want: Gay Romance." IMDb, IMDb. com, 7 May 2020, www.imdb.com/title/ tt11585100/.
- [4] Joanna Russ, "Pornography by Women, For Women, with Love,"in The Fan Fiction Studies Readered, Karen Hellekson and Kristina Busse, Iowa City University of Iowa Press 2014,82-96.

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 Chinese actor, Singer, Shunxi Zeng
 Image3 from Weibo: 109X-Files Image4 from Joseph Studio Official

5 Chinese actor, Hao Qin

6 German actor, Lars Eidinger 9 English musician, Jarvis
7 10 Branson Cocker
8

With the popularity and development of this gay romance, more and more feminine male settings are appearing in such creations. For example, the omega setting in Omegaverse, where men can get pregnant, give birth to breasts, etc^[5]. This trend is not only found in fanfic writing, but even more so in some of the terms used in the fan community and in the appellations given to male stars or fictional characters. Especially in the Chinese fan community, feminizing males is all the rage^[6]. This kind of "feminization" does not necessarily imply that the subject behave in a traditionally feminine way (e.g. feminine in temperament, soft voice, etc.). Rather, these women in the fanfic community are keen to use the words that men use to discuss women to evaluate these male subjects, such as "fuckable thicc", virtuous wife etc. As well as, more specific descriptions and imagery of some scenes. For example, a slightly bulging belly and softened lines can be said to be pregnant, and a sexy look that exposes the breasts can be said to look like sluts^[6].

- [5] "Alpha/Beta/Omega." Fanlore, Mar. 2021, fanlore.org/wiki/ Alpha/Beta/Omega.
- [6] Zeng, Yuli. "When Female Fans Call Male Stars 'Wife': Female Appeal behind the Phenomenon of 'Nisu.'" The Paper, 31 Mar. 2021, www.thepaper. cn/newsDetail_ forward_11939260.

This kind "feminization" does not necessarily imply that the subject behave in a traditionally feminine way. Rather, these women in fanfic community are keen to use the words that men use to discuss women to evaluate these male subjects.



vis 11 British musician and actor, Carl Ashley Raphael Barât 12 German singer, Mark Seibert

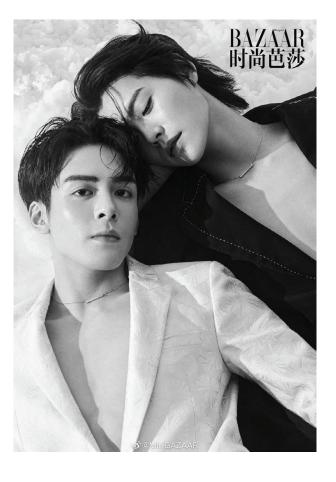
However, because this type of feminized male writing often replaces the female position in heterosexual romance novels with a man, and lacks female characters. Some female audiences see this discourse as the dwarfing of women's egos and the worship of men. In some of these fanfic writings, there is indeed a tendency to favor men and squeeze women out^[6]. According to Xiging Zheng, a researcher at the Institute of Literature, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, "There is a hesitation between stereotyping and promoting gender hierarchy and creating an atmosphere of equal intimacy." At the same time, she points out that this hesitation and compromise will have different values and meanings in different contexts and in the eyes of different people. We should not rush to give a "progressive" or "conservative", "idealized" or "corny" label. Instead, we should see how these authors and readers translate the realities of sexism and inequality into the stories of their favorite characters in the same situation, and how they hesitate and reflect in the process^[7]

It is because this vague and hesitant attitude exists in feminine male contexts that I hope to be able to express my own point through my thesis work, especially since I am part of this community. I want more female fanfic audiences to be able to gain autonomy in this process, and establish that they hold the power in this relationship between the gaze and the gazed upon, and to emphasize this point.

[7] "Zheng, Xiqing. Alpha & Beta & Omega's Gender Politics: Self-Exploration and Reflection of Women in Internet Fan Writing" WeiWenKu, 22 May 2019, www. luoow.com/dc_ tw/200563520.

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Shunxi Zeng, Yuliang Xiao. miniBAZAAR, China, March Photo: Chao Xing Director: Xiaobai Wang

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In my opinion, it's not essentially "feminizing males", rather it can be **second-sexing** males, where women objectify men according to females' taste. It resembles a kind of "homoerotic revenge". Women use the contexts and vocabulary that have been developed in patriarchal societies to express their desire to gaze at and manipulate males, creating a dissolution of the original male gaze. Females use "feminine terms" to "demote" or even "humiliate" men, such as "easy girl", "slutty little mother", "defenseless beauty", etc. It must be said that many of these keywords are very popular in male oriented pornography^[8], and some female fanfic writers as well as some female fans are keen to use these words on the men they appreciate. At this point these female fans' fondness is no longer about worshipping a man's masculinity, but about enjoying the thrill of gazing at and manipulating a male.

There are also some female fans who are in the mindset of praising you with my gender. In a 2021 article analyzing this phenomenon of feminized masculinity in the Chinese fan community, it was noted that "He is still a man, but in this imaginary relationship, fans are willing to share with him and to 'protect' him. As one blogger wrote, 'feminized masculinity, redefining sister you are my sister with whom I share, you are ourselves. A sister, I put all the trials and tribulations and love that a girl needs to go through in the world with you. Sister, sister. From now on, you hurt and so do I.^(m) ^[6] It is difficult to isolate most heterosexual females from being attracted to men, but because of discomfort with the real-life gender environment, female fans are appreciate males in their "true" gender. Instead, placing them in a fantasy female identity is safer and easier to empathize with, and prevents being triggered by real life.

In any case, this fondness of female fans for male figures is a way to pull men down from the position of the dominant gender and become individuals equal to females or even further place them in the position of the second sex to gaze at them. It's important to remember that female fans have gained the power to pull these men down from dominance. They do not neet to assimilate themselves into the male group, or even stand against women, in order to gain some fantasy of equal position and love. In any case, this fondness of female fans for male figures is a way to pull men down from the position of the dominant gender and become individuals equal to females or even further place them in the position of the second sex to gaze at them.

[8] April 8, 2021 Tweet function(d,et al. "The Pornhub Tech Review." Free Porn Videos; Sex Movies - Porno, XXX, Porn Tube, www. pornhub.com/insights/. ESSAY WHY DO FEMALES ENJOY THE FANTASY OF MPF



Through All the Stars I Can See by KRISwhitekillerchic

Star Wars - All Media Types

Creator Chose Not To Use Archive Warnings, Obi-Wan Kenobi/Anakin Skywalker, Anakin Skywalker | Darth Vader, Obi-Wan Kenobi, Sheev Palpatine | Darth Sidious, Ahsoka Tano, Darth Maul, Mace Windu, Padmé Amidala, Top Anakin Skywalker, Submissive Obi-Wan Kenobi, Arranged Marriage, Alpha/Beta/Omega Dynamics, Mpreg, Emperor Darth Sidious, Dark Lord Vader, Poor Jedi Council, Eventual Smut, Alternate Universe - Canon Divergence

共和国在克隆人战争失败以后,为了换取和平,不得不低头向帝国提出和亲。而那个肩负使命即将嫁给皇帝的人,就是曾经的绝地武士,欧比旺肯诺比。

Language: 中文-普通话 國語 Words: 73,060 Chapters: <u>15</u>/18 Comments: <u>78</u> Kudos: <u>317</u> Bookmarks: <u>32</u> Hits: 6031

♂ 愚人之心 by Sovakieee

03 Jun 2019

28 Jan 2017

09 Feb 2020

Captain America (Movies), The Avengers (Marvel Movies)

Creator Chose Not To Use Archive Warnings, James "Bucky" Barnes/Steve Rogers, James "Bucky" Barnes, Steve Rogers, Natasha Romanov (Marvel), Tony Stark, Pepper Potts, Wanda Maximoff, Thor (Marvel), Darcy Lewis, Nick Fury, Alpha/Beta/Omega Dynamics, Omega Bucky Barnes, Alpha Steve Rogers, Sex, Mpreg, Past Torture, Hurt/Comfort, Blood and Violence, Happy Ending, Alternate Universe – Modern Setting, 嗯差不多就这样

吃饭的时候,巴基在旧报纸下面发现了一张皱皱巴巴的传单,自从找到omega中心之后的7个月里,他已经把它来来回回看了无数次了,上面印着微笑的情侣牵着手,坐 在柳树下的野餐垫上,还有一排醒目的大字写着"为国家服务"和"需要你的奉献"。

Language: 中文-普通话 國語 Words: 87,359 Chapters: <u>15</u>/15 Comments: <u>4</u> Kudos: <u>347</u> Bookmarks: <u>51</u> Hits: 6887



Rape/Non-Con, Underage, Steve Rogers/Tony Stark, Steve Rogers, Tony Stark, Howard Stark, Alpha/Beta/Omega Dynamics, Alpha Steve Rogers, Omega Tony Stark, alpha howard stark, Howard Stark's Bad Parenting, Physical Abuse, Verbal Abuse, Dark Steve Rogers, Dark Tony Stark, Dark Howard Stark, 霍→盾单箭头, Howard/Tony提及, 言语/身体虐待, 未成年人性行为, 严重角色黑化, Out of Character, Mpreg, 未成年怀孕, 孕期Play, 产乳梗, I Can't Believe I Wrote This, Dirty Talk

Language: 中文-普通话 國語 Words: 73,098 Chapters: <u>23</u>/23 Collections: <u>1</u> Comments: <u>51</u> Kudos: <u>659</u> Bookmarks: <u>46</u> Hits: 21811



▲ 水子地藏 by <u>Yellowisdevil</u> 個映华亭 | Royal Nirvana (TV)

Rape/Non-Con, 萧睿鉴/萧定权, 身心鉴权, 鉴权 – Relationship, 萧睿鉴, 萧定权, Ratings: R, Father/Son Incest, Implied Mpreg, Implied/Referenced Abortion, family trauma, Family Issues, Unresolved Emotional Tension, Religious Imagery & Symbolism, Japanese Mythology & Folklore, Manipulative Relationship, Depressive Son, Manipulative Father, Top!Father, Bottom!Son, Daddy Issues, Creepy Family, Alternate Universe – Modern Setting

水子地藏怀慈悲, 血海婴灵得善度。

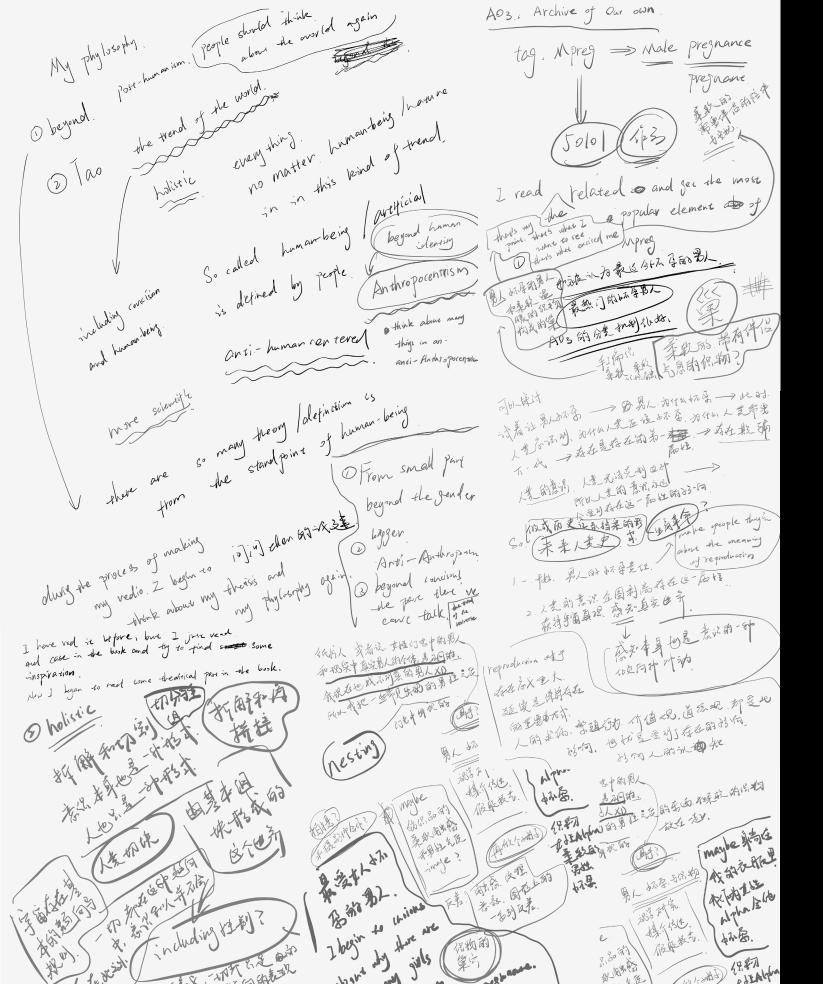
Language: 中文-普通话 國語 Words: 5,165 Chapters: 1/1 Hits: 18

According to the kudos and hits, these fanfics are quite popular in the fandoms.

> Pregnancy and parenting usually are regarded as the most natural responsibility of being a female. Placing such a feminine setting on a traditionally masculine character will create a great contrast with his position of power in the real world.

On the one hand, as I mentioned in the first part, I chose Mpreg out of my personal preferences and experiences, and delving into this topic is also a personal exploration of my own. On the other hand, in the process of reading and writing about the setting, I found some commonalities. Through my research in AO3 tag category, I found that, in Chinese fanfics under Mpreg tags, Mperg is often put together with some cultural context that is regarded as traditional dross. Such as feudal families, polygamy, wife sharing in a family and forced to be a tool for pregnancy, etc, which are often used as tools by the patriarchal society to brainwash and oppress women. Female fanfic creators are keen to apply the shackles that these men once placed on females to male characters, and enjoy these^[2], while pregnancy is an extreme manifestation of feminizing males. Pregnancy and parenting usually are regarded as the most natural responsibility of being a female, and the ultimate destiny is also a part of the individual suffering. So placing such a feminine setting on a traditionally masculine character will create a great contrast with his position of power in the real world, giving his fate an unimaginable blow, which obviously gives satisfaction to the females who enjoy gazing at men.

Images from Archive of Our Own, archiveofourown. org/tags/Mpreg/works.



Exploration

What was going to be the final delivery?

Little Mommy War



① 加入 豆瓣欧美娱 小组即可投票	
小妈总选举决赛 (最多选 2 444人参与	2项)
01, 艾德里安布洛迪	52(12%)
02, 亚当德赖弗	95(21%)
03,本阿弗莱克	49(11%)
04, 基里安墨菲	91 (20%)
05, 亨利卡维尔	241 (54%)
06, 詹姆斯麦卡沃伊	89 (20%)
07, 裘德洛	43 (10%)

Images from https://
www.douban.com/group/
topic/163212619/



The visual exploration of this topic began with an online competition "Little Mommy War 2020", which imitated the typical female beauty contest, voting to select the most popular and attractive male little mommy. Then I collected the final contest results and put the winners with their most popular mommy styling in an old fashioned entertainment magazine.



LITTLE MOMMY WAR

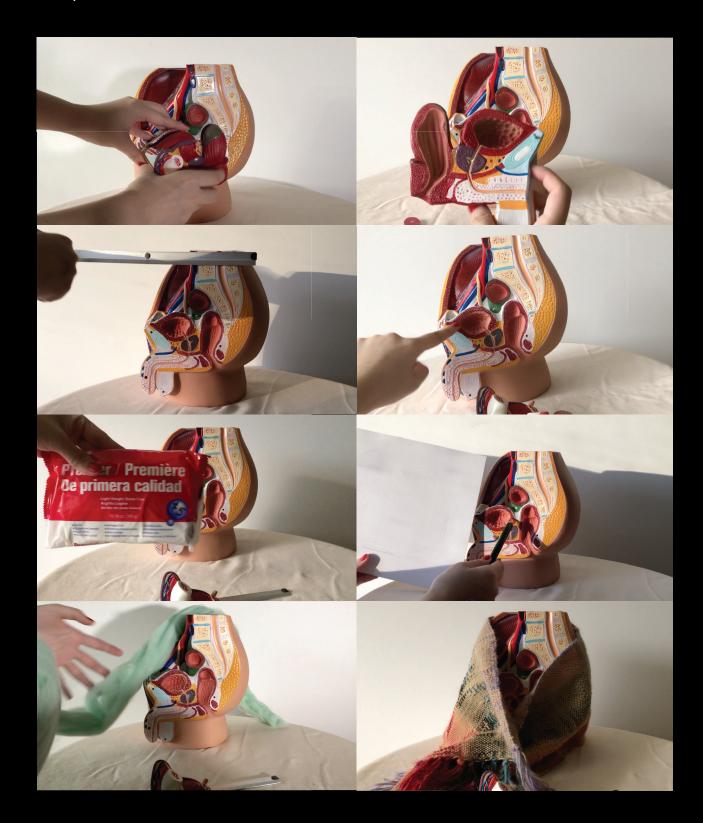
EXPLORATION







MALE-PREGNANCY





For the body reference, I purchased a male body model, which I shot on video to document how I was going to transform the body. I thought the act itself had a symbolic meaning, in that I, as a woman, became the dominant actor in the video. It also made me think more about how to interact with the object, which in turn gave rise to some subsequent forms of work. 26







In the Omegaverse, it is very popular that a pregnant man will need soft fabric with the pheromone of his lover to stabilize his emotions^[9]. The traditional male figure will show a vulnerable side in this setting. Therefore, I experimented with soft textiles to explore whether this traditionally feminine material can create a strong visual contrast with some masculine items (e.g. knives, cigarettes, etc.).



[9] Jūmpêř øf. "What Is Omegaverse?: Wiki:|BxB Roleplay: Amino."|BxB Roleplay Aminoapps.com, AminoApps, 6 Jan. 2018, aminoapps.com/c/yaoirp-6/page/item/what-isomegaverse/4YxK_lmTvI2 EmlxnPgxb1Ne2M3aQ0g6LK b#:~:text=Omegaverse%20



Body of Work



Sculpture and Exhibition

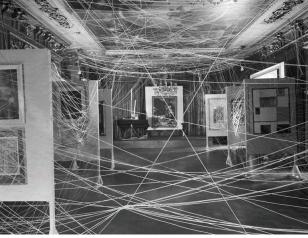
The first part is an exhibition in a real physical space. Women's gaze and desire tend to stay in a fantasy world, and the male's gaze and desire are more threatening and fearful to women's feelings in real life. Female gaze is not threatening in the eyes of men and it is often treated as a joke, so I want a physical space to make it to be seen.

Research



Ai Hasegawa, I WANNA DELIVER A SHARK ..., 2021

I was inspired by Ai Hasegawa's work. When we speculate about an idea, it would be interesting to actually bring it to life. Ai's work is a very realistic model of a body carrying a shark and explaining how it works, making it feel like a real technology. I also wanted to have the effect of bringing the pregnant man's body to life to allow the viewer to confront the desires that women project onto pregnant men in the fanfic writing.



Installation view of First Papers of

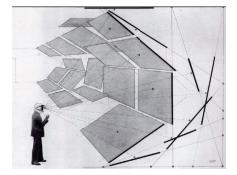
Duchamp's His Twine 1942 Gelatin silver print

Surrealism exhibition, showing Marcel

John D. Schiff

My works through the thesis can be divided into three parts, and each part represents one opinion of mine on Mpreg.

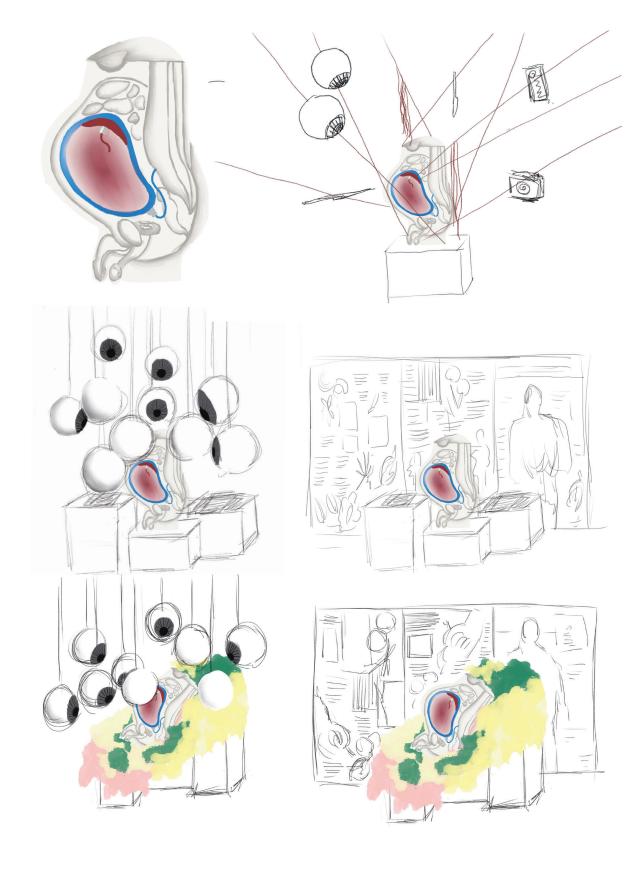
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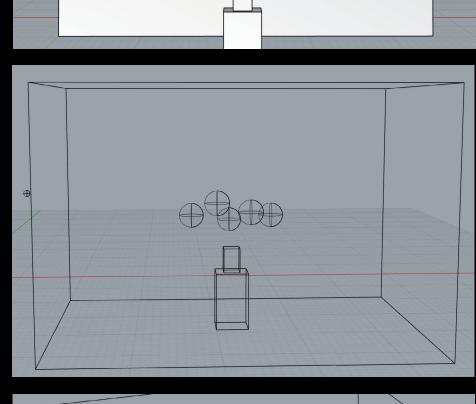


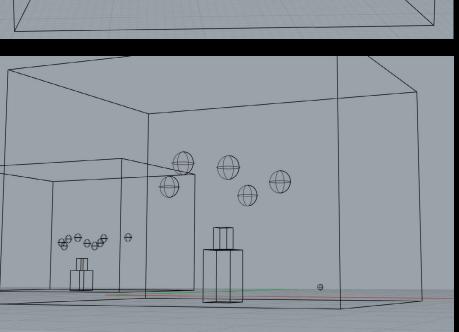
But in the process of trying, I realized that, considering the cost, it would be difficult for me to make a model with such a degree of refinement, and perhaps digital modeling would be a more economical choice. But I felt it was very important to bring it to a realistic physical space. Maybe I didn't need to focus on the sculpture so much. Therefore, I started to think about the relationship between this sculpture and the space, what I want to design is not only a sculpture, but an exhibition space to give people the feeling, a visual atmosphere. In this space, I wanted to emphasize the discomfort of being watched, of being gazed at. While you are standing in the empty space, you feel like you are disturbed by something invisible. I wanted to use something to express being seen, being watched, being objectified, and started sketching with this concept.

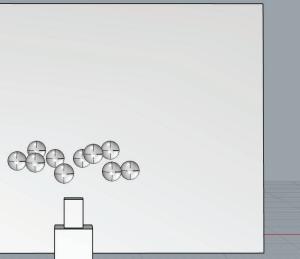
32



Modeling to experiment the exact spatial relationships of objects



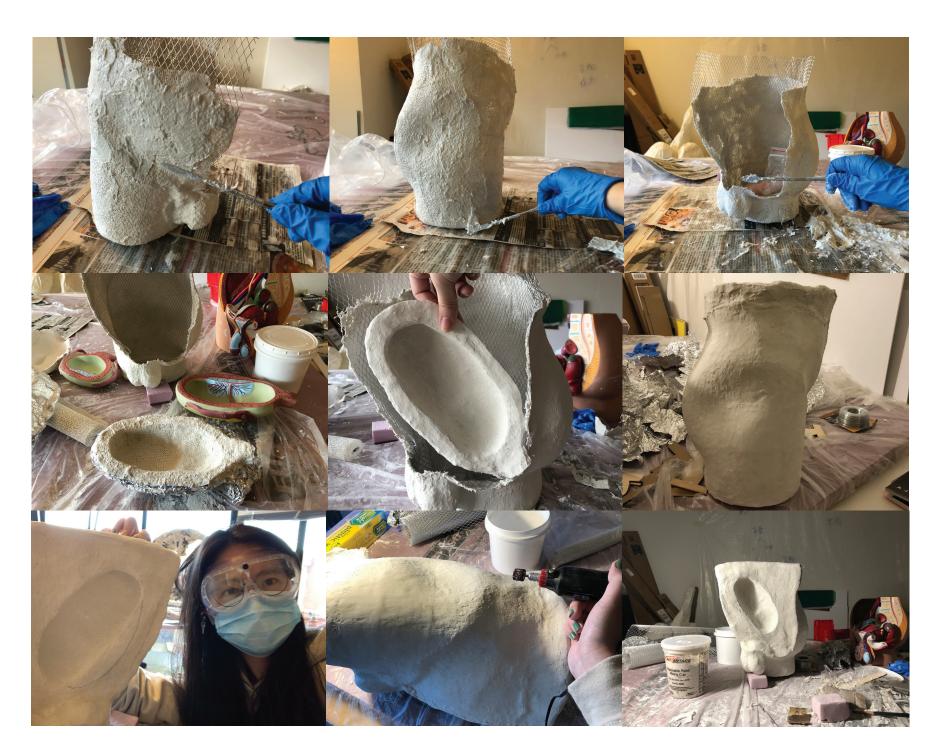




EBODY OF WORK SCULPTURE AND EXHIBITION

MALE-PREGNANCY

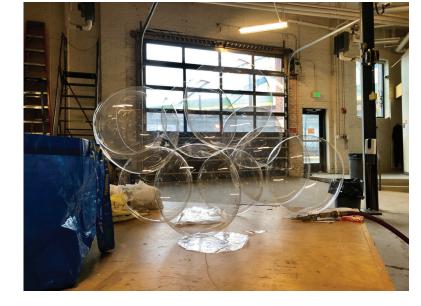
34



Thanks to my friend Yang Liu (MICA Rinehart 2021), for his guidance and technical support.

Paper mashed clay, plaster bandage, metal mesh.

I tried to create an atmosphere with a sense of eerie oppression by using the grotesque giant eyeballs hanging and the pale plaster texture. Because women's enthusiasm for a subject like male pregnancy also reflects a desire to stare and destroy, just as men do to women in real life. I hope that the cisgender men who enter this space will feel an uncomfortable atmosphere which is contrary to their nomal experience.













Paper mashed clay, plaster bandage, wax, balloons [®] Exhibition



Photographed by Dan Meyers



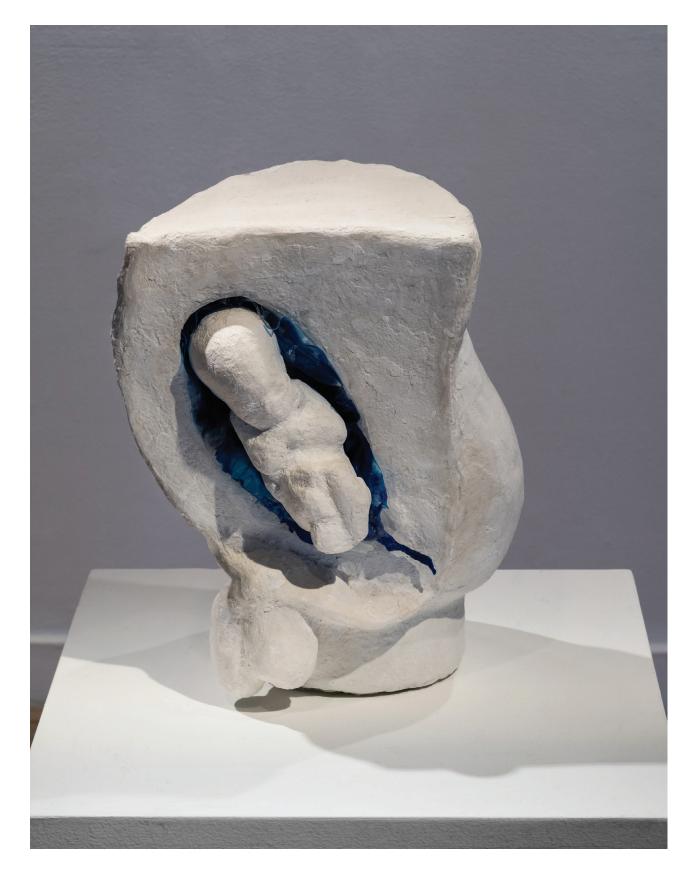
SCULPTURE AND EXHIBITION BODY OF WORK





Photographed by Dan Meyers

















MALE-PREGNANCY

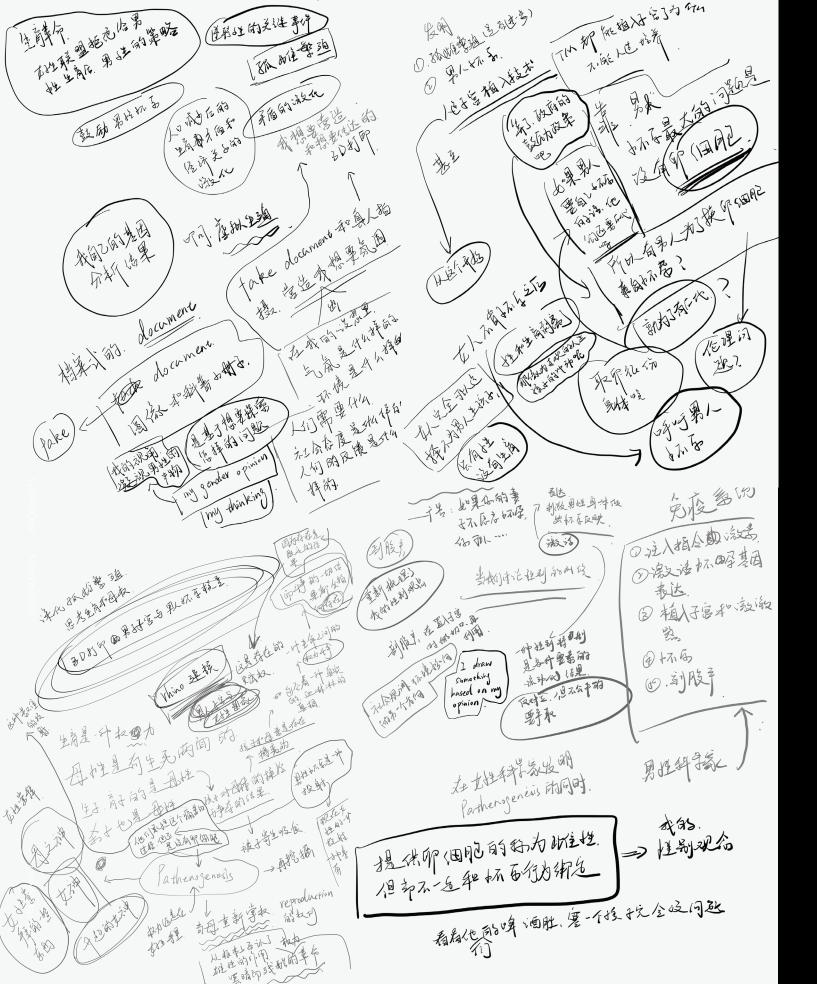






BODY OF WORK SCULPTURE AND EXHIBITION

MALE-PREGNANCY



Brochure

The second part is a brochure for pregnant males. Because there are many setting differences in Mpreg novels. For example, how a man gets pregnant, whether he has a vagina and a uterus, whether he is able to get pregnant from a congenital deformity or an acquired artificial transformation, or even a kind of malicious enslavement that turns him into a surplus tool. From the details of the setting, we can feel the author's attitude towards Mpreg. That's why I'm going to try to build my own setting about Mpreg as an author, which will show my attitude and opinion about Mpreg, and what I want to convey to my audience.



Parthenogenesis, Ruichao Jiang, 2019

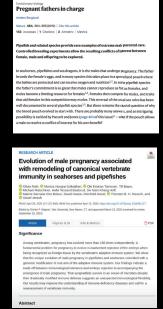
I combined Mpreg with a previous project I was working on, Parthenogenesis, which talks about the setting in which two female oocyte can form a fertilized egg and develop, and the male becomes less necessary in the reproductive species. This further contributes to the return of reproductive rights to women exclusively, where reproduction itself is a female right. It also contributed to the reproductive crisis of men, who, after realizing that they had no access to the female womb, had to think of alternatives, such as male pregnancy. Such pregnancies are artificial, but men still need access to egg cells to accomplish this.



Image from ins: Pregnancyplanet_.



Image from Google.



I also consulted professional academic papers because I wanted to make the audience feel that this is a real possibility. I also referred to some popular settings in fanfic writing, such as the possibility of implanting a full set of female genitalia for body modification. Because of the fantasy ideal setting, the entire booklet uses a dreamy hazy style.

Women still have full reproductive rights, and men become subordinate to this process. They even need to compete with pregnancy for the woman's egg cells, thus transferring this painful process to the male. This setting represents a flip-flopping of reproductive power, but in real life, oppression comes from multiple sources, so this is a fantasy ideal. And as I set out in this brouchure, procreation is the root of gender, and gender only has its ultimate meaning when we discuss procreation. So this reversal of the fertility setting is an ultimate reversal of gender.



MALE-PREGNANCY

EBODY OF WORK BROCHURE

WELCOME TO MALE PREGNANCY

Everything you need to know about male pregnancy.



What Is Male **Pregnancy?** 1

Why Choose Male **Pregnancy?** 2

How Do Males Get **Pregnant?**

Taking Care of a Pregnant Male. 4

What

to Know.

Female:

Partners Need 5

3

This document refers to "male" and "female" as biological sex characteristics, as distinct from one's gender identity as "man" or "woman."

Male: the biological sex that typically produces relatively small, usually motile gametes which fertilize the eggs of a female.

the biological sex that typically produces eggs.

What Is Male Pregnancy?

Male pregnancy is an assisted reproductive technology that helps people who weren't born with a female reproductive system get pregnant.

It is suitable for healthy males aged 25–45 who have legal egg resourses.

In various animal species, including syngnathid fish (seahorses and pipefish), the male organism is responsible for the development of embryos. The male sea horse has a specialized brooding structure in which the embryos are aerated, protected, and nourished. Although human males have no natural system for supporting embryo development, male pregnancy can now be achieved through in vitro fertilization, artificial uterus implantation, and an embryobrain interaction system.

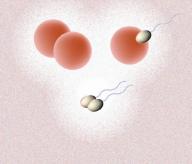
As this technology is further utlized and test, the cost of implementing it will gradually reduce and the safety will increase, giving more males the opportunity to experience pregnancy.

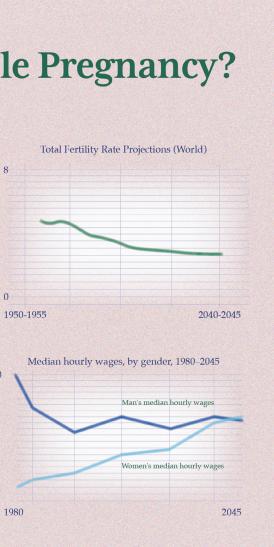
Why Choose Male Pregnancy?

Redistribute Family Responsibilities

With more and more women taking part in paid work opportunities, the burden of pregnancy and child care is added to other life responsibilities, leading to dropping birth rates in many parts of the world. Male pregnancy provides new possibilities for the distribution of labor in traditional families and gives fathers the opportunity to be pregnant and raise babies by themselves. In particular, it provides a new way to solve the contradiction for the families whose incomes are dominated by females. At the same time, in families with female infertility problems, male pregnancy offers a humanized and helpful assisted reproduction technology.

Offer Fertility Options for Diverse Families







2

Gender identity, gender roles, and family structures are varied and fluid. For gay families and transgender families, male pregnancy can provide a new outlook on childbearing. Transgender women or nonbinary people who were assigned male at birth may wish to experience the adventure and responsibility of pregnancy. Men may wish to abandon traditional gender roles and realize their potential as pregnant people, while females may wish to share this burden with others.

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Redistribute Reproductive Power

In a certain species, if one sex limits the reproductive success of the other, the other sex may evolve traits enhancing its intrasexual competitive potential and/or attractiveness to the other sex. For example, seahorses and pipefish (Syngnathidae) have reversed sex roles with regard to embryo care, as stated above.

Male pregnancy technologies anticipate the expansion of parthenogenesis, reproduction by the development of an unfertilized gamete, usually female. Parthenogenesis is common among lower plants and invertebrate animals. As this process extends to humans via new technologies, sperm will no longer be necessary for human reproduction. By placing reproductive power completely in the hands of women, parthenogenesis will lead to greater competition among males. Male pregnancy technology can help men improve their reproductive competitiveness and ease the pressure of competition. Statistical data show that in gender selection, men with male pregnancy intentions are 20% more likely to be selected by heterosexual partners than those without such intentions. At the same time, research shows that men who have such intentions have higher family happiness after marriage.

Furthermore, many males desire to conceive and cultivate an intimate bond with their offspring. The desire to bear children is no longer limited to the female sex, and males can express their desire openly.



Professor Jiang with her new research finding, 2019.

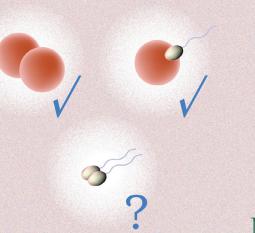


Laboratory sample No.1, 2019

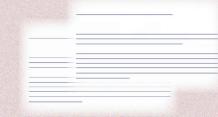
How Can Males Get Pregnant?

Submit Applications

1. Check the table to see if you have the conditions for male pregnancy. Especially if there is a legal source of egg cells. 3. Select qualified medical institutions to submit the form, and conduct further review and physical examination.



2. After confirming the conditions, you can download the male fertility application form from the website or you can contact your family doctor or local fertility clinic to complete the application.





of the doctor.

BROCHURE

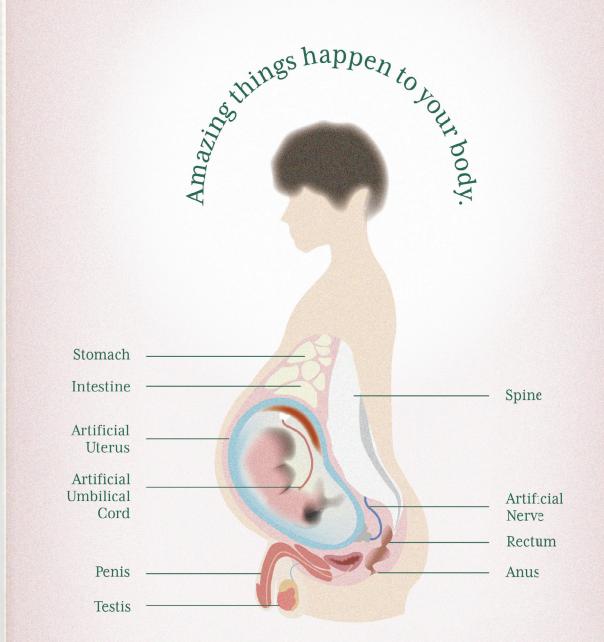
Meet Reproductive Doctors

Meet a professional reproductive doctor and talk about your pregnant plan. Please follow the instructions

> Turn to the next page to view what to expect after meeting a doctor.

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MALE-PREGNANCY



Inside A Pregnant Male Body

7

Eat healthy foods.

Eating healthy foods is especially important for pregnant women. Your baby needs nutrients to grow healthy and strong in the womb. Eat plenty of colorful fruits and vegetables, whole grains, calciumrich foods and foods low in saturated fat.

Take a daily prenatal vitamin.

Taking a daily prenatal multivitamin can help ensure you get the right amount of the key nutrients you and your baby need during pregnancy. These include folic acid, iron and calcium.

Stay hydrated.

A pregnant male's body needs more water than it did before pregnancy. Aim for eight or more cups each day.

Get plenty of sleep.

Ample sleep (7 to 9 hours) is important for you and your baby. Try to sleep on your left side to improve blood flow.

Don't drink alcohol.

Alcohol can impact a baby's health in the earliest stages of pregnancy, before a male may know he is pregnant. Therefore, male who may become pregnant also should not drink alcohol.

Don't smoke.

outcomes.

Get a flu shot.

The flu can make a pregnant woman very sick and increase risks of complications for your baby. The flu shot can protect you from serious illness and help protect your baby after birth, too. Ask your doctor about getting a flu shot.

BROCHURE

WORK

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Don't drink alcohol before and during pregnancy and while breastfeeding. Drinking alcohol increases the risk of having a baby with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). FASD can cause abnormal facial features, severe learning disabilities and behavioral issues.

Smoking is unhealthy for you and vour unborn child. It increases the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), premature birth, miscarriage and other poor

What Partners Need to Know.

A pregnant male needs need more accompany from his partners.

Make sure your partner have enough time to stay with you everyday. It is dangerous to leave a pregnant male alone because they are easily to feel unsecurity and pressure, which will increase the risk of lost baby. If it is impossible, make sure there is someone else can take care of pregnant man.

A pregnant male may be interested in soft and warm fabrics.

Do not feel disturbed, this is a normal phenomenon caused by hormonal changes. Pregnant male may also have the feeling of wanting to wrap yourself in something soft, as pregnancy instincts drive a pregnant male to find a warm and safe place. Prepare something you like at home, make sure they are safe, then you can seek comfort in when you feel the need.

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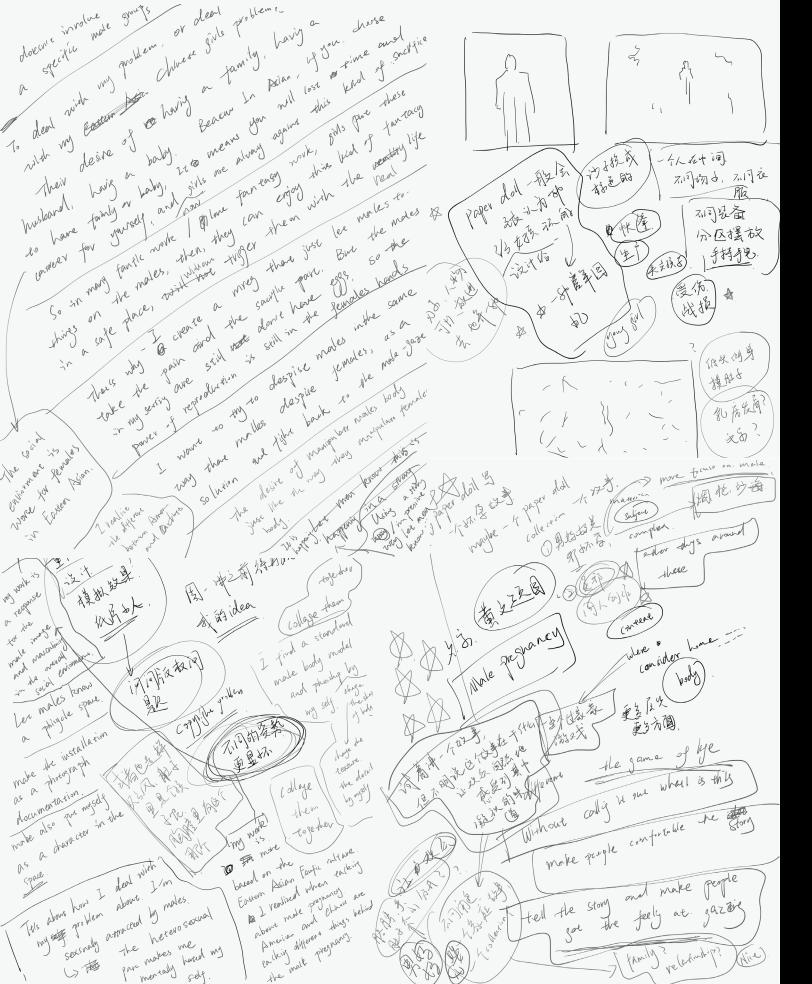




The Mpreg process and technical details are referenced to real women's pregnancies and are fictionalized by myself.

The setting about pregnant men relying on soft textiles and partners is based on a popular setting in Omegaverse.

The content on page 8 is from https://brighamhealthhub. org/12-ways-to-stay-healthyduring-pregnancy/. BODY OF WORK BROCHURE



Paper Dolls

Paper dolls are often regarded as little girls' toys, and the themes are often limited to beautiful girls and family life. I made paper dolls with the theme of Mpreg, in order to show that these pregnant men can also be used as toys for girls, and become the object of girls' games and fantasies. The interactive approach emphasizes the relationship between subject and object, play and being played.

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The plot of this paper dolls' story is designed according to an Mpreg story I wrote. The story is about a pregnant man but his lover has disappeared due to an important secret mission, and everyone thinks it is impossible for his lover to return. He couldn't give up his lover, so he decided to go to the Tomb of The Sea to rescue his lover even if he is alone. The heavy body makes it inconvenient to move, and harsh environment and dangerous adventures may harm the only baby his lover and he have.

At different stages of the story, I prepared different items and scenes for the main character, and the audience can place the character in different scenes and wear different clothes. I hope to continue this project and perfect different scenes and props.







Images from Vintege Shop on Esty.





Images from Amazon.

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TOMB OF THE SEA

His lover has disappeared due to an important secret mission, and everyone thinks it is impossible for his lover to return. He couldn't give up his lover, so he decided to go to the Tomb of The Sea to rescue his lover even if he is alone. The heavy body makes it inconvenient to move, and harsh environment and dangerous adventures may harm the only baby his lover and he have. Lover, baby, life, death, struggling destiny, how does he choose...what will he do...

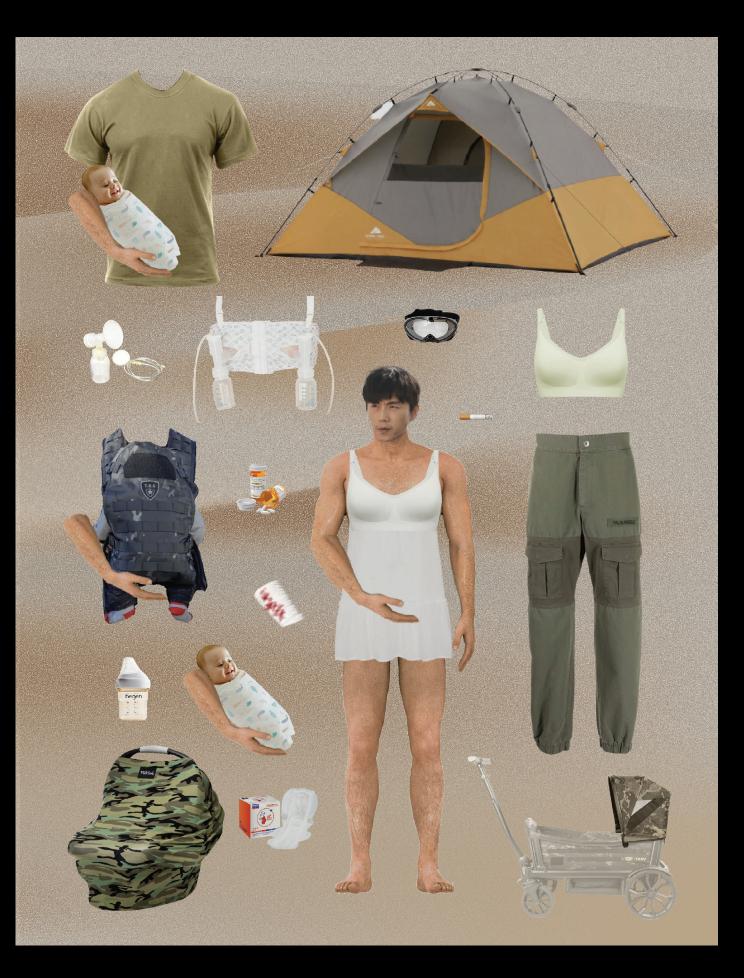
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4

PAPER DOLLS

BODY OF WORK





The fanfic writing of the paper dolls background story is based on *Tomb of The Sea* by Xu Lei.

The image of the character is based on Wu Xie (acted by Qin Hao) in *Tomb of The Sea (TV)*.

The Original images of clothing and accessories from Google search.

The Tactical Baby Carrier, Tactical Baby Gear and The Original Milk Snob are from TBG (https:// tacticalbabygear.com/) Because of covid-19 shutdown and scheduling reasons, I did not have the opportunity to make the paper dolls into physical objects and interact with more people, I will further improve this series in the future. BODY OF WORK PAPER DOLLS







PAPER DOLLS

BODY OF WORK

MALE-PREGNANCY

BODY OF WORK PAPER DOLLS









BODY OF WORK PAPER DOLLS

Thanks

Thank you

I would like to thank all the people who have supported me and helped me during these two years. My two years at MICA GD MFA have been the most enjoyable and beneficial time of my studies. I would not have had such a wonderful two years without your company and help.

This particular period of covid-19 was full of confusion, hardship and uncertainty, thank you all for making this time less difficult.

Thank you for all your advice, help, sharing, communication and response during the thesis year, it was a very valuable time. Thesis Advisors Ellen Lupton Jennifer Cole Phillips Bobby Joe Smith III

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Special Special Thanks

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my family my friends Grace.M and Lik







