

WORK IN PROGRESS
TO NOT BE QUOTED

Rethinking methodology in
transnational mobility studies. The
research Programme “*Transnational
lives, mobility and Gender*”.

Transnational Lives
Mobility and Gender
TL
Network

Marzia Grassi (ICS-UL)



- The **TL network** was formalized in Lisbon in 2010 with the support of the ESF (European Science Foundation) and is located in the Institute of Social Sciences - University of Lisbon (ICS-UL).
- Within the **TL network** the researchers are interested in the various aspects of life and transnational families and recognize how people, goods, money and ideas move across national boundaries causing changes in the relationships between individuals and institutions.
- **TL network** proposes an innovative approach and theme in transnational studies in the contemporary world.
- The **TL network** is part of the Observatory on families and family Policies, located at ICS-UL..

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Projects

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- ✓ **GENDERCIT** (FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IRSES) coord. *Marzia Grassi* Equipa: *Tatiana Ferreira, Marianna Bacci, Bolseiro,*
 - ✓ **“Lugares e Pertenças: conjugalidades circulares entre Angola e Portugal”** (PTDC/AFR/119149/2010)
Coord: *Marzia Grassi* **Equipa:** *Jeanne Vivet,, Tatiana Ferreira , Luena Marinho e B.T.I.*
 - ✓ **“Transnational child-raising arrangements between Angola and Portugal”** (TCRAF-EU/2009)
Coord: *Marzia Grassi* **Equipa:** *Jeanne Vivet, Luena Marinho*
 - ✓ **“Trajectórias migratórias de origem africana, ilegalidade e género: um estudo comparativo entre Portugal e Itália”** (PIHM/GC/0046/2008) **Final:** 31/12/2011
Coord: *Marzia Grassi* **Equipa:** *Marianna Bacci Tamburlini, Pedro Rodrigues, Tatiana Ferreira, Augusto Nascimento, Alberto Sobrero, Martina Giuffrè, Caterina Cingolani e Francesco Fanoli*
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Advanced Training

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Post-Doc projects

- ✓ **“Associativismo para quê? Transnacionalismo, género e famílias na Guiné-Bissau”**

Investigador: *Aline Afonso* Supervisor: *Marzia Grassi*

PhD projects

- ✓ **“A presença da ausência: as crianças e os seus modos de viver e representar a família, entre Portugal e Angola”** (SFRH/BD80499/2011)

Claúdia Luena Marinho. Orientadores : *Marzia Grassi e Ana Nunes de Almeida*

- ✓ **"Transnational conjugalities and citizenship: experiences of undocumented migrants in Italy and Portugal"** (SFRH/BD/72765/2010)

Marianna Bacci Tamburlini Orientador : *Marzia Grassi*

- ✓ **"Género e gerações: processos de transição para a vida adulta dos jovens descendentes de imigrantes dos PALOP"** (SFRH/BD/61130/2009)

Tatiana Ferreira Orientadores: *Fernando Luís Machado e Marzia Grassi*

Questions

- **How does transnational mobility change the individual and shape group relationships (familiar and social networks) between Africa and Europe?**
- **How are individuals affected by migration laws in Europe and in Africa and how is gender power negotiated in transnational conjugality and transnational parenthood?**
- **How do the different sending and receiving national contexts influence the functioning of social lives of transnational family members?**



- Transnationalism affects migrant economic and social behavior, not only in the country of immigration but also in the country of origin
- Transnational family experiences relate to economic, political, social and cultural factors and have causes and repercussions.

This approach enables to

- identify and question the need to **avoid the epistemological ethnocentrism** that seeks out forms of immigrant inclusion in the European context)
- stress the necessity to **refine the understanding of migrations' consequences for all family members living “apart together”**) (Levin 2004)



- In migration and development studies family is mostly considered as an homogeneous unit of analysis with members living in the same geographical location, overlooking those living in other countries.

- Scholars on transnationalism recognize that:
 - people, goods, money and ideas move across national borders engendering changes in relationships between individuals inside families, households, political affiliations

 - researching on the ways in which male and female migrants negotiate their gender and ethnic identities present new challenges for research on development

Transnational mobility and family

- effects of migrations on the life of individuals
- in origin and host countries
- the central place of gender as an analytical category
- comparison as a tool of analysis also within economic issues

Methodology

Multisited

transnational approach

Diversified

team-work : working at several places simultaneously,
multidisciplinary approach

Mixed Methods

adapting the instruments to the different contexts
(field work, triades (Mazzucato, 2009))





**TCRAf-Eu Program:
Effects of Transnational Child Raising Arrangements on Life-Chances of Children,
Migrant Parents and Caregivers between Africa and Europe**

The TCRAf-Eu is coordinated by the **University of Maastricht** (V. Mazzucato) in collaboration with the **University College Cork** (A.Veale) and the **ICS- University of Lisbon** (M. Grassi).

Portugal-Angola case study team:

Marzia Grassi

Jeanne Vivet: post-doc researcher

Luena Marinho: PhD researcher



➤ **Netherlands - Angola;**

➤ **Netherlands - Nigeria.**

➤ **Ireland - Nigeria**



Formas transnacionais de criar filhos

- **Organização informal**

(Oien 2006; Baldassar et al 2007; Carling, 2007; Wall e São José, 2004; Grassi, 2008).

- **Evidências parciais ou de pequena escala**

- **Aspectos negativos** : custos emocionais para filhos e pais

(Levitt, 2001; Parreñas, 2005; Olwig, 2007, 1999; Zontini, 2007, Suarez-Orozco, Todorova, and Louie, 2002, etc.).

- **Efeitos positivos:** das remessas, que constituem o foco da literatura e dos debates sobre migração e desenvolvimento

(Carling 2007; Grassi 2007, Mazzucato 2009)

Transnational Families

Transnational Families:

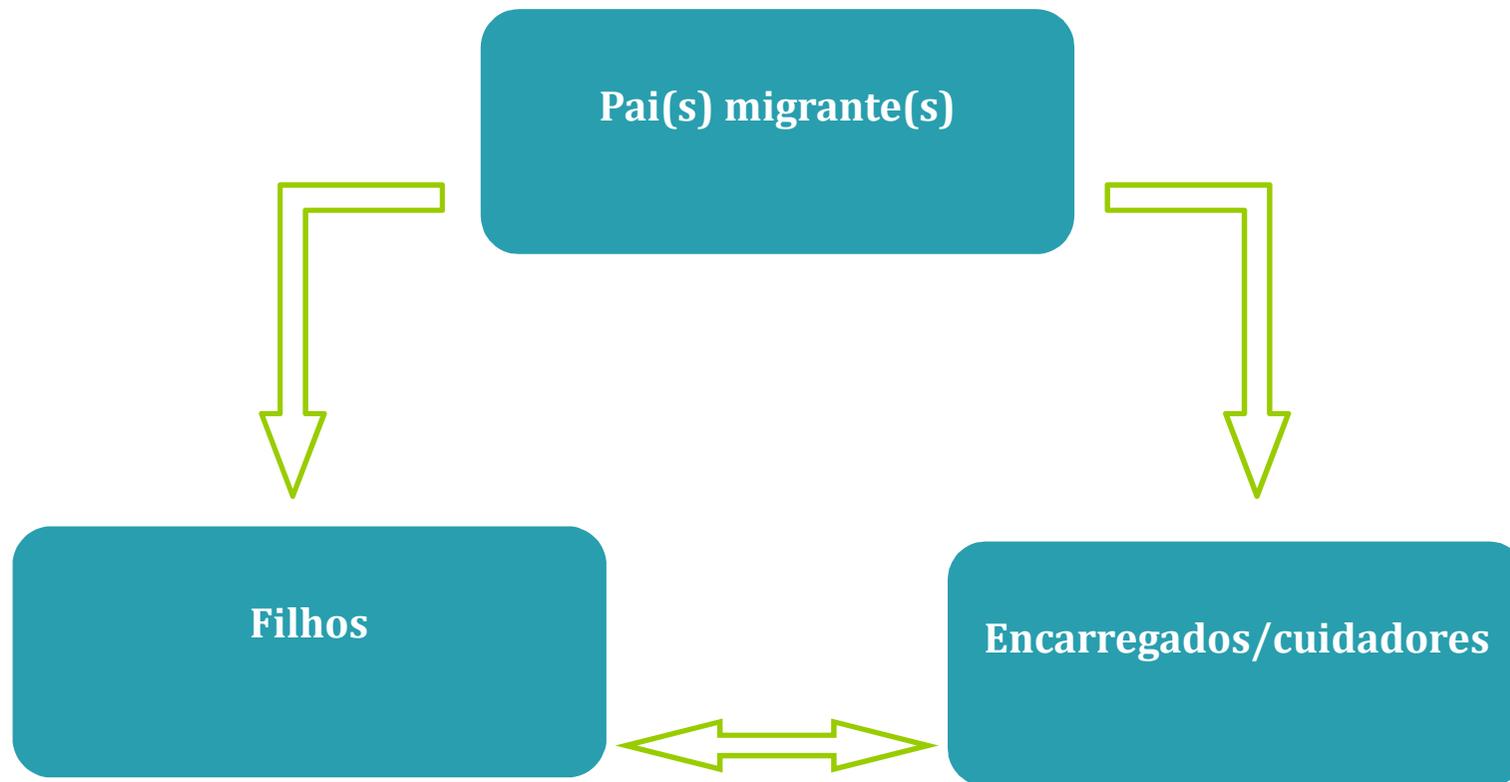
Families whose members live apart most of the time, but still together and still want to achieve common collective welfare, based on the union / unity, even across borders (Bryceson and Vuorela, 2002)

- **Geographical separation parents / children**
- **Family and social unity**
- **Organization of parenting at distance**

Transnational agreements of child care between Angola and Portugal

- Transnational parenthood
- Children's live opportunities
- The impact of laws, contexts and social norms in the actors

Laços familiares e parentalidade a distância: as “triades”

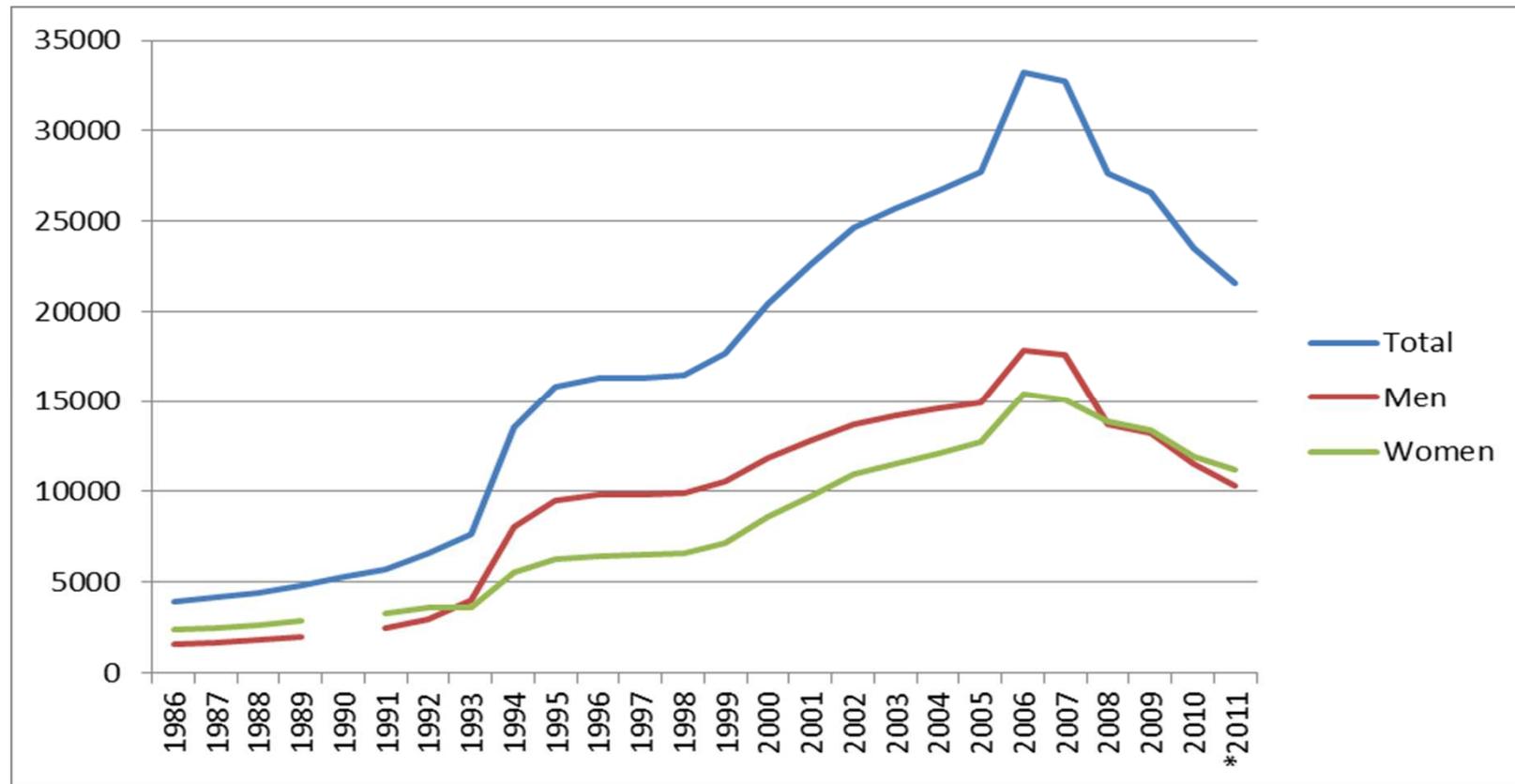


Data Collection Methods

1. **Survey in Portugal** with **300 parents** of angolan origin
2. **Survey in Angola** with **2250 children**
3. **Interviews with key informants**
4. **In-depth interviews with 20 family-“triads”**

CONTEXT

ANGOLAN POPULATION LEGALLY RESIDENT IN PORTUGAL BY GENDER (1986-2011)



Source: elaborated from Grassi, 2010, INE and SEF).

*2011 provisional data



Legislation and transnational families: feedback from the field

- Youth in transnational families: a legislative void
- Existing regulations: the "minor child at risk"
- Existence of a *Consuetudo praeter legem*
- Challenges to the implementation of laws to protect the rights of transnational families youth in migratory contexts

Gender roles, angolan transnational family and parenthood

- ❑ **family and parents' expectations in transnational families**

(Bryceson and Vuorela (2002) Parreñas 2005)

- ❑ **gender expectations** (Risman 1999)

- ❑ **parental migration and parental conjugality** (Nobles 2011)

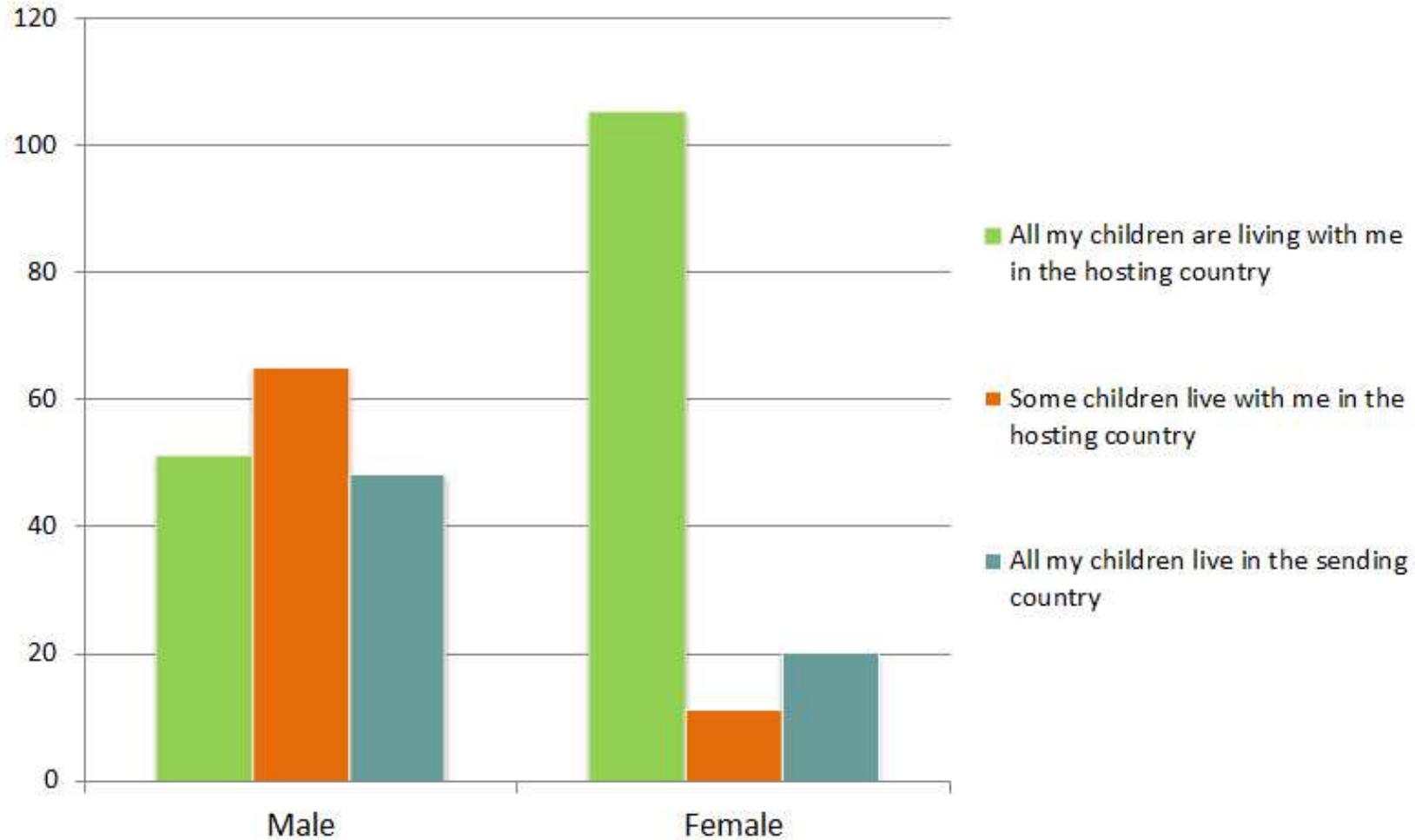


Characteristics of our sample

- ✓ 80% of our interviewees in a TCRA situation are men
- ✓ 75% of caregivers in Angola are the children's mothers
- ✓ few students have their mother living abroad (20 %).
- ✓ 94% of the TCRA fathers (full or mix) are separated from the mother living in Angola (70% separated before the migration)
- ✓ TCRA fathers have 2.8 children on average
- ✓ 82% have children from different partners
- ✓ one third of the current partners have children from another relationship
- ✓ The tcra are not recent: the migration duration is around 10 years. (same duration found in the two surveys)



TCRA: Gender and Angolan migration to Portugal



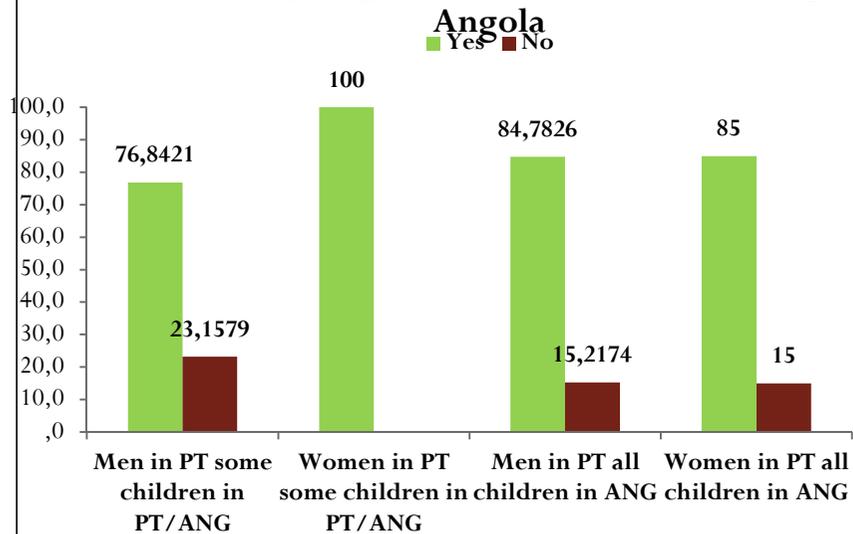
Fatherhood and conjugality in transnational families

- **Parenthood** (Erikson 1950) exercise, experience and practice
- **Transnational Fatherhood : Cultural expectations and male-gender issues** (Avila 2008:169)
- **Family desestructuring context** (Nzatuzola, 2005)
- **Constructions of masculinity** (Miescher, 2005, Amadiume 1987)

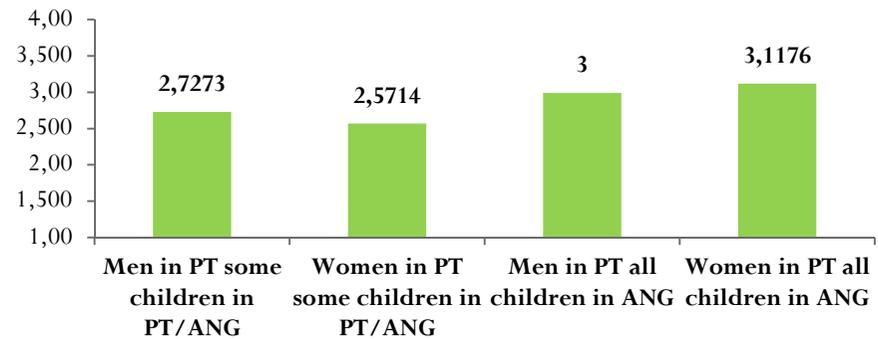


Bread-winner role

Do fathers and mothers living in PT and in different TCRA conditions (Mixed and Full) send money or goods to their children living in



With what frequency fathers and mothers living in PT and in different TCRA conditions (no TCRA, Mixed and Full) send money or goods to their children living in Angola



1 (He did not send me anything); 2 (Once a year);
3 (Several times a year); 4 (Once a month).



Conclusion

Angolan transnational patchwork families characteristics

- Parents are separated as a couple and most of them are in a new conjugal situation
- Transnational / national geographical separation between father and children
- Physical distance of separation is not crucial for the wellbeing of parent-child relation
- Fatherhood experience has a very strong symbolic weight
- Fatherhood practices absent and not expected in the family structure
- Generational reproduction of gender roles
 - Father breadwinner role through sporadic and by consumer products constructs masculinity through conjugality
 - Mother breadwinner and care-giving role constructs woman high social status and gender role

Patchwork family is a biological family whose members assume the belonging to the same family but live at distance, in which conjugality become central for the construction of masculinity, and the role of bread winner becomes crucial to construct femininity.



Thank you...

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