« Men in the Kitchen in France. Sharing Household Tasks »

Alex Miles

Men can be divided into two categories; those who cook and those who don't! The purpose of this article is to understand men's behavior with regard to their position in the couple, the family, the workplace and the society at large, by the fact that they cook at home daily, often, sometimes, or never. Our study will attempt to explain why men cross the threshold into the kitchen, an area traditionally reserved for women, what their attitudes are about their participation in the household task of cooking and how they see themselves in this role. These men have stories to tell about their first experiences with food preparation, what they intend to communicate by their culinary act and how cooking may influence or affect other parts of their lives. We'll look generally and specifically at cooking to get a better image of the place it has in our society and how it may be an indicator of certain types of social behavior. A series of 23 interviews were conducted in the field with which we gathered considerable information for the quantitative study. The methodology used for the individual portraits is comprehensive non-directive interviews. We performed a survey of over 300 men as they exited 3 supermarkets and the "Marché" in Dijon. The analysis of the information gathered is treated by the program Sphinx. The questionnaire and results of this study will be presented alongside the field work interviews.

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