# Brothers influencing sisters' development outcomes: Exploring caring masculinities in Cambodia and Samoa

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### Caring masculinities

"Caring masculinities constitute a critical form of men's engagement and involvement in gender equality" (Elliot, 2016, p. 240).

Values of care: positive emotion, interdependence, and relationality



Image taken from Rogers, A. (2014, p. 62). Beyond university: Photovoice portraits of some Cambodian young women's education, identities, and rights. Master's thesis: Victoria University of Wellington.

## Cambodia: Supportive fathers, caring uncles, and empathetic brothers



## Samoa: Cultural processes and caring

masculinities

The feagaiga, understood to mean balance within relationships and the brother/sister relationship

He [my brother] knows that my job is important, important to us as a family. He is proud that I have an office job; it has good prospects and is paid well (Logo: FHH, Jan 2002)

We live in the village but I work here in town in this place [guest house]. My brother will always drive me here and there. It suits me. I hate getting on the bus. It is much better to go by car (Leausa: FHH, Jan 2002)



Image taken from Stewart-Withers, RR. (2007, p. 242). Contesting a development Category: Female-headed households in Samoa. PhD thesis: Massey University.

#### Conclusion: Men's involvement

 Men long history of involvement in gender and feminist struggles (Connell, 2003)

Advocacy, alliances, campaigns and work with men and boys –
profeminist men; auxiliaries to feminism; still privileges the
importance of felt experience and women requiring to spearhead

Need to understand femininities and masculinities as plural

Gender equality will not progress without men and boys involvement