

## Life

## Louis Theroux tackles the ‘manosphere’



Louis Theroux in a photoshoot with Nike Sportswear. Theroux's Netflix documentary, "Inside the Manosphere," released on Wednesday.  
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Louis Theroux, a British American documentarian, took to Netflix to release his newest documentary "Louis Theroux: Inside The Manosphere," which released on Wednesday.

In his first collaboration with Netflix, Theroux ventures into the "manosphere," a right-wing content space filled with social media personalities who push misogyny online.

Theroux is best known for his hands-off interviewing style and delicate questioning, which lets his radical subjects "shine," for better or worse — whether it be white supremacists, doomsday preppers or Israeli settlers. The same approach is taken in this documentary as well, as Theroux spends time with some of the more extreme figures in the manosphere, documenting their day-to-day activities and digging deeper into the motivations behind their toxic masculinity, their views on feminism and how they ended up in this situation.

The first thing that's blaringly obvious about these men is how each statement they make is immediately contradicted by the next. A fair amount of screen-time is spent with Harrison Sullivan, whom Theroux calls HS, in Marbella. While working out, Sullivan talks about how he'd disown his son if he was gay. Yet in the next sentence, he told Theroux his mom would hate it if he said anything homophobic. The examples are endless.

Another interesting facet of this documentary is that Theroux isn't the only person with a film crew here; the influencers also know how to point and shoot. This can provide two battling viewpoints on how these influencers are covered — you have Theroux's documentary team and Theroux peppering Nicolas Balinthazy (aka Sneako), one of the more popular content creators within the manosphere, with questions on what messages he thinks his content sends to people. The documentary then cuts to Balinthazy laughing off this interaction on a livestream to his followers. This calls to mind another

motivation behind all these content creators: They're all doing it for money and fame. These men saw they could get rich and internet-famous by telling young, vulnerable men lies about how to improve their quality of living. In turn, they've created young men who parrot their toxic views in public and potentially create future influencers like them.

Sullivan posted clips online saying he's alright with Theroux calling him a "pimp, scammer, racist, homophobic d\*\*\*head," because he's only doing it for the money. He doesn't care about the morality of it all.

Truth be told, the content creators aren't the most interesting part of the documentary; Theroux thrives on getting people who live in closed-off, marginal groups to spew hateful rhetoric they wouldn't dare say to mainstream media outlets. But for these influencers, the stuff they tell Theroux is the same thing they say in whatever podcast or livestream they're on that day. He isn't breaking new ground by asking Balinthazy who he thinks controls the world.

One interesting piece about the manosphere is the people who aren't rich and famous. While these men have found community and friendship, it's disheartening to hear someone tell Theroux his brother committed suicide, yet depression isn't real. The audience is left perplexed seeing the logical hoops and hurdles he jumps through to justify his point while not trying to sound rude about his brother's passing.

The people who idolize these content creators are arguably much more interesting subjects to make a documentary on. They're sold the allure of endless wealth and pleasure despite the fact it's a goal attainable to only a few. In fact, it's a subject that's been explored in the BBC documentary "Men of the Manosphere" and the Netflix miniseries "Adolescence."

One aspect that could have led to groundbreaking insights is highlighting more of the women who deal with these content creators, although it is possible that this is something Theroux wanted to do but was shot down by his documentary subjects.

Theroux pressed Amrou Fudl, who goes by Myron Gaines online, and his girlfriend Angie on the nature of their relationship — what Fudl describes as "one-sided monogamy" — until Fudl shuts down the interview and the audience never sees his girlfriend again until the epilogue when it is revealed that Angie and Fudl have broken up.

Despite the 90-minute runtime, Theroux pays lip service to the people not in the manosphere but are affected by its acolytes, save for a short news montage at the end. It's something that deserves more research, to see how the hate speech these content creators shout affects their victims.

Overall, this is one of Theroux's poorer works. Since these content creators are already a well-treaded topic, Theroux didn't need to give them a platform to reveal their true beliefs. You can already find them online.

**Rating:**  
**2.25/5**

## The UConn Women's Center on women and gender equity



The Women's Center on the UConn Storrs campus. The center is meant to celebrate gender diversity and celebrate women's accomplishments.  
PHOTO BY GOLBI LORANGER/ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR

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The University of Connecticut has over 700 student organizations, including six cultural centers. One of those cultural centers is the Women's Center, a space where students can receive support while striving to achieve gender equity on campus.

According to the center's website, the Women's Center was established in 1972. The origins of the center can be traced back to the late 1960s, when a group of faculty, community members and students began to host community efforts to spread awareness about discrimination against women on the UConn campus. These efforts led to the establishment of the Free Women's Collective in 1972, which led to the founding of the Women's Center that same year.

Today, the Women's Center has a sole purpose, which is to create a community where gender diversity and the strengths of women can be honored and celebrated. The Women's Center strives to fulfill this mission by providing support services for students who have experienced sexual assault on campus. The center also hosts educational programs that target gender

stereotypes and current issues that revolve around women and people of diverse gender identities. Besides programs, the center offers a free space where students can come in and study, chat, watch TV and more.

"I think the Women's Center is very important because people need a place of belonging, so I think creating that space for the UConn student population is good for that," said Nuratu Quarshie, an interim director of the Violence Against Women Prevention Program. "And we have so many student programs that operate under the Women's Center, so if they need specific needs addressed, they can reach out, and we can talk about that."

One of the center's programs is the Violence Against Women Prevention Program. According to the website, people in this program are passionate about addressing sexual violence by hosting workshops that focus on advocacy of the topic.

Besides the prevention program, the Women's Center has Greeks Against Sexual Assault. The purpose of this group is to train members of fraternities and sororities on how to address and challenge gender-based violence. Members of the sub-organization attend weekly meetings that explore gender-related violence and how it

can be prevented in Greek life.

These aren't the only programs at the Women's Center, however. "We have Women in STEM, which is like a mentor-mentee program for women pursuing STEM degrees," Quarshie said. "We have Between Women, which is a sub-organization for queer folks. They can come in and have discussions like sharing experiences that people have had. We have In-Power, which is a survivor group that meets on Tuesday evenings. This is an important sub-organization because it provides a space for survivors of sexual violence on campus. We also have the Men's Project. Anybody can join it, but the main goal is to address gender-based issues from a man's perspective."

Quarshie also elaborated on the significance of having so many sub-organizations in the Women's Center. "I think that in general, we wish we could have so many organizations, but the ones we have here do a good job highlighting the diversity of the Women's Center," Quarshie said.

According to the website, everyone is welcome at the Women's Center, including men. The majority of the center's programs such as the Men's Project are dedicated to people of diverse gender identities

and not just women. The website also states that if the center wants to achieve gender equity, it needs support from everyone.

"So many people can learn so many things from different groups, which is why the Women's Center is open to everyone," Quarshie said.

To promote gender equity and diversity, the Women's Center planned a variety of events that focus on those subjects. On March 29, the Women's Center will host the Sexual Assault Awareness Month 5K Walk, Run & Jog to spread awareness of sexual assault. On March 23 and March 25, the Women's Center will have the Women & Substances Trivia Wheel at two different dining halls: McMahon and Connecticut Hall. The Women's Center will also host Unbreakable: Rising from Within, a women's trauma group, on March 13.

In addition to hosting general events, the Women's Center is doing events that honor Women's History Month. On Wednesday, the center hosted an International Women's Day celebration that featured creative and social activities that honored women and their accomplishments. According to Quarshie, doing Women's History Month events is very crucial.

"I think it's so important to

highlight the accomplishments of women in diverse programs," Quarshie said. "We have a lot of programs that we're doing this month. Matika Wilbur is coming on the 25th of March. She's our guest speaker for Women's History Month. Besides Wilbur, we have a range of events that highlight and appreciate our women as well as honor how far women have come in general."

Every year, students have the opportunity to become a part of the Women's Center's staff. Students are able to apply for positions in the center's student staff and volunteer sections. Students also have the opportunity to become a part of one or more of the center's sub-organizations. Naya Peterson, an eighth-semester psychology student, says working in the center is an astonishing experience.

"I really love working at the Women's Center," Peterson said. "Before joining my junior year, I feel like I struggled to find a community. When I came here, everyone was super welcoming and inviting. And there's such a diversity of people here, so I feel like there's a space for everyone."

For those interested in learning more about the Women's Center, its sub-organizations or its events, check out its website and Instagram page, @uconnwomenscenter.