In 2018, Oxford Dictionaries selected “toxic” as the international word of the year, reflecting the contemporary use of toxic masculinity in political discourse, the #MeToo movement, even Gillette and Axe ad campaigns. How are the norms of traditional Western masculinity - be strong, independent, non-emotional - poisonous for men, their communities and the people they love?

The current crisis of masculinity is a health crisis in our communities and around the world. As men struggle to “man up” to unattainable expectations, they overcompensate with anxiety, anger, and violence that disrupts the health and well-being of women, children, and other men in their lives. Perhaps most telling, fragile masculinity has been linked to “deaths of despair” for men with the highest levels of aggrieved entitlement in the face of a destructive cocktail of unemployment, divorce, and depression. However, some men consciously become traitors to traditional masculinity by searching for engaged and nurturing relationships, as partners and parents - challenging the restrictive ways that men are permitted to express masculinity.

3:00pm –4:30pm
Special Events Room, 6th Floor McKeldin Library
University of Maryland College Park

Register: bahaichair.umd.edu/events