

08/26 Pre-Class Notes

The F-Word: Revisiting Feminism

- no single or universal woman / female experience.
- controversial 'single story' definition of feminism.
 - bell hooks: feminism is to want, for all people, liberation from sexist role patterns, domination, and oppression.
- what makes it so misunderstood?
 - women's actions have always been pushed for universal rights, albeit from a female lens.
 - despite feminist action, word has negative connotations.
- 1st wave:
 - legal rights for white, middle class women.
- 2nd wave:
 - discrimination in society, education, workforce.
- 3rd wave:
 - expanded conv. gender, sexuality, heteronormativity:
- 4th wave:
 - current wave — discussions relevant to current happenings.
- conversations need to stay on these challenging topics.
- violence against women is an instance of this:
 - we are able to recognize that such violence exists, but fail to attribute it to patriarchy.
 - bell hooks made this point, too.
- we try and educate victims instead of fixing the issue itself (the perpetrators).
 - starts from the beginning: socializing our children, implicit roles of women in videogames, media.
- conversations are important — they allow change to happen!

↳ What do you think of Bone's examples of how we talk about feminism?

I agree, and I think this results from a societal lack of accountability: we're at an age where certain topics are impossible to avoid on the internet, feminism being one of those topics and it's fairly easy to think that that may be enough.

- What are some examples of media that help us start and maintain conversations about feminism?
I don't have any specific examples, but: a) media that treats women like normal people and b) media that treats violence toward women as something just as severe and non-ambiguous as violence towards men.

Lecture Questions

- ↳ what do you know about the waves of feminism? what do you think they are? What could they be?
 - I think the 1st wave encompasses proto-feminism, which wasn't ridiculous in a derogatory sense but rather primitive in the same way pre-Wright-brothers planes looked a bit goofy.
 - ↳ mainly focused on legal rights, e.g. voting rights, for middle class white women.
 - 2nd wave feminism expressed a bigger push for civil rights, and day-to-day protest of discrimination and mistreatment.
 - ↳ at this stage (at least at the beginning of it) is when I feel feminism's ideological components began to form.
 - 3rd wave feminism was "not your mother's feminism": it was a big push forward in ideology and I think developed components of feminism key to bell hooks' 'revisionary feminism'.
 - ↳ at this wave, feminists were able to reflect on past movements, identifying what they did & didn't agree with.
 - 4th wave feminism is today.
 - ↳ more all-encompassing: more discussions about gender, heteronormativity.
- more information due to technology! This enables for bigger, more focused organizing and ∴ more confrontation.
- I feel it's important to note that all of these waves are feminism. Treating a woman like a normal person is feminism. Flouting rules if you want them is feminist. Not having kids if you don't want them is also feminist. You don't have to follow a template to be a feminist & you don't have to be a perfect feminist, either. These waves just make marking key progress points easier.