

Social Justice Watch 0920

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Dystopian Scribe

@MsKellyMHayes

PSA: There is no shame in admitting that you were previously speaking from a less informed place. There's a lot of info in the world. No one has all of it. We do our best, and at our best, we help each other learn.

10:07 AM · 28 May 18

up Kentucky city
to pay \$12M
for ~~death~~ of ~~murder~~
~~Black woman~~
~~BREONNA TAYLOR~~

DYLAN LOVAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE, KY.—The city of Louisville agreed to pay \$12 million (U.S.) to the family of Breonna Taylor and reform police practices as part of a settle-

Even if you are using a wire story, you can change the headline.

I did it for you. You are welcome.

[#BreonnaTaylor](#)
[#SayHerName](#)
[#BlackLivesMatter source](#)

ONCE UPON A TIME
a prince asked a beautiful princess
WILL YOU MARRY ME?
~~~~~ the princess said ~~~~  
~~~~~ **NO** ~~~~

and the princess lived happily ever after
and traveled around the world and met interesting people and learned new stuff
and she hooked up with some cute guys and nobody thought she was a slut
and always put herself first

➡ AND WENT TO ROCK CONCERTS ⬅

**AND NO ONE EVER TOLD HER
"GO MAKE ME A SANDWICH"**

and kept her apartment and all of her shoes and never got cheated on, period.
and all her family and friends thought she was fucking cool as hell

◆ **AND MADE TONS OF MONEY** ◆
& the toilet seat was always down
(like it's supposed to)



A switcheroo on a graphic story by  www.carlosnaude.com NAUDE

SO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT

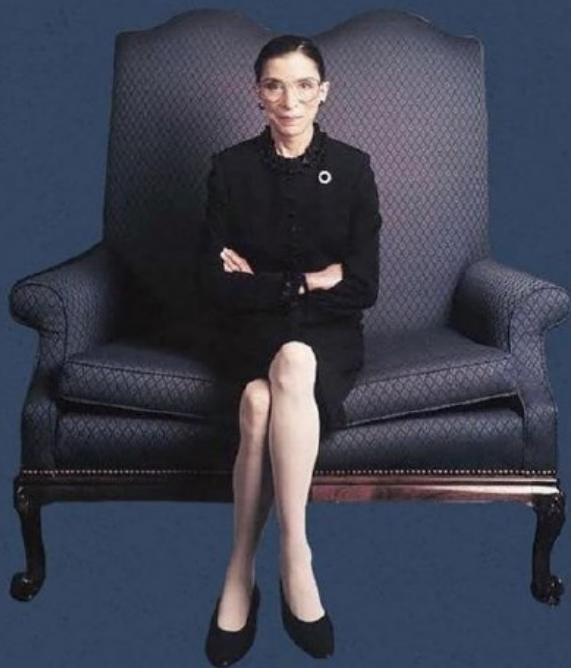
RUTH BADER GINSBURG



Ruth Bader Ginsburg

1933 - 2020

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT
X @WOMENFORTHEWIN2020



Ruth Bader Ginsburg

was an American lawyer, jurist, and Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Ginsburg was appointed by President Bill Clinton and took the oath of office on August 10, 1993.

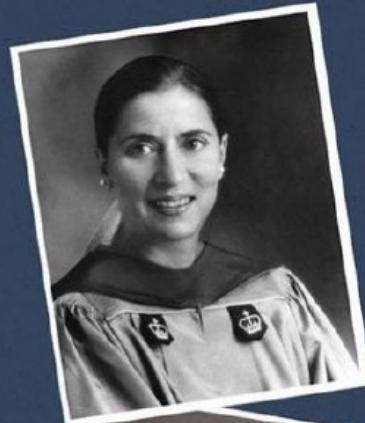
She was the second female justice of four to be confirmed to the court.

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT
X @WOMENFORTHEWIN2020

RBG: the early years

Born in Brooklyn, NY in 1933, Ruth earned her Bachelor's degree at Cornell University before studying at Harvard and Columbia Law School.

Ruth graduated top of her class. After graduating, she became a professor at Rutgers Law School and Columbia Law School. She was one of very few women teaching civil procedure at the time.



@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT
X @WOMENFORTHEWIN2020

A champion of women.

Ruth spent a considerable part of her legal career as an advocate for the advancement of gender equality and women's rights, winning multiple victories arguing before the Supreme Court.

Ruth was a staunch supporter of a woman's right to her own reproductive health decisions, and fought to protect Roe v. Wade.



@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT
X @WOMENFORTHEWIN2020



"I would just like people to think of me as a judge who did the best she could with whatever limited talent I had to keep our country true to what makes it a great nation and to make things a little better than they might have been if I hadn't been there."

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT
X @WOMENFORTHEWIN2020

<https://www.facebook.com/shityoushouldcareabout/posts/751207752388184>

When the detainees launched hunger strikes in protest, according to the complaint, they faced reprisals. At a certain point, the warden shut off the water in a wing of the facility, forcing at least one detainee to drink from the toilet. After a woman complained about the arrival of new detainees who'd been transferred into Irwin from other centers across the country without first being tested for the coronavirus, a guard told her, "This isn't her house. She's not paying the bills. She doesn't have a say." When detainees with flu-like symptoms begged to be tested, a prison health administrator said, "All they want is attention."

This deserves your attention. [source](#)



<https://www.facebook.com/LeftWingLadies/posts/1224407594609027>



Alex Schiller

Jul 21 at 9:35 AM •

...

Me: Hey what did they call the people who supported Hitler but didn't hate Jews?

History: Nazis

Me: No, no. Just the ones who wanted a better economy and wanted to "make Germany great again."

History: Nazis

Me: But, like, the ones who didn't condone all the rhetoric or the cruel policies, but liked what he was doing for the country?

History: Nazis

Me: Yeah but the people who just stayed quiet, but if they had it to do over again they wouldn-

History: NAZIS

<https://www.facebook.com/cakemusic/posts/10159557846879305>





Ann-Marie Kennedy

Women, if you have a credit card in your own name and your own credit history, if you have leased an apartment or bought property in your name, if you have consented to your own medical treatment, if you played a sport in school, you can thank Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

<https://www.facebook.com/feministnews.us/posts/1315388508808364>

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telegra.ph/America-Needs-to-Start-Treating-Childcare-as-Infrastructure-09-18-2

Telegraph

America Needs to Start Treating Childcare as Infrastructure

Katherine Clark serves as a U.S. representative for Massachusetts's 5th congressional district. It may not be as obvious as a bridge or a tunnel, but ask any parent – including moms like us in Congress — and we will tell you that childcare is just as essential...

telegra.ph/Why-Are-Men-Still-Explaining-Things-to-Women-09-18

Telegraph

Why Are Men Still Explaining Things to Women?

“Would you please please please please please stop talking.” — The girl, from “Hills Like White Elephants” (1927) by Ernest Hemingway In Her Words is available as a newsletter. Sign up here to get it delivered to your inbox. It’s common. It’s...

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/obituaries/100000006849413/ruth-bader-ginsburg-obituary.html>

Nytimes

Video: The Radical Project of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the Supreme Court’s feminist icon, not only changed the law, she also transformed the roles of men and women in society, according to Linda Greenhouse, contributing writer and former Supreme Court Correspondent for The Times.

telegra.ph/The-one-thing-Democrats-can-do-to-stop-Trump-from-replacing-Justice-Ginsburg-09-19-2

Telegraph

The one thing Democrats can do to stop Trump from replacing Justice Ginsburg President Barack Obama had the opportunity — or should have — to fill Justice Antonin Scalia's seat in 2016 and give liberals a majority on the Supreme Court for the first time since the Nixon administration. But he didn't get that opportunity. Instead, Republicans...

On July 17, 2019, Trump met with victims of religious persecution in China, who asked him to take action. His responses were short, and led many to believe that he had no idea about any of it. <https://daikon.co.uk/blog/we-have-not-heard-from-my-baba-jaans-relatives-in-kashgar-for-almost-two-years-now>

daikon* zine

We have not heard from my Baba-jaan's relatives in Kashgar for almost two years now.

The work of resistance and dismantling all systems of oppression is messy. We cannot dispose of people whose lived experiences do not match up to our ideological assumptions and projections.

<https://daikon.co.uk/blog/essex-39>

daikon* zine

Grieve the Essex 39, but recognise the root causes

We must confront the global systems that lead people to risk dangerous travel, and fight to undo deadly border regimes.

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America Needs to Start Treating Childcare as Infrastructure

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An Enviro-Master employee disinfects toys with an electrostatic virus vaporizer at a childcare center in Elk Grove, Calif. on July 23 amid the coronavirus pandemic

Katherine Clark serves as a U.S. representative for Massachusetts's 5th congressional district.

It may not be as obvious as a bridge or a tunnel, but ask any parent – including moms like us in Congress — and we will tell you that childcare is just as essential to the productivity of our economy. And the dual crises of pandemic and economic recession has threatened a permanent and dramatic contraction of this vital sector.

Across the U.S., 60% of all childcare providers were forced to shutter completely during the pandemic, costing them months of expected revenue. Those losses are devastating to an industry already operating on extremely thin margins, often without access to reserve capital. And while new pandemic relief programs like the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) were available to childcare providers, it was an imperfect solution for an industry that rarely is supported by traditional banking. One survey of childcare providers saw reports of systematic denial for PPP loans because of a lack of business checking accounts, despite those not being an SBA qualification requirement.

For months, childcare providers have warned that they don't have the financial resources to reopen – especially in the face of strict and costly new safety guidelines. Massachusetts requires providers to construct new barriers to create separate spaces, install handwashing stations and purchase additional personal protective equipment. And in Iowa, a survey of providers earlier this year indicated that at least 13% were already not planning to reopen. Providers are struggling to stay afloat – and now that we've asked them to do more with less, it shouldn't be a surprise that we're facing a wave of permanent closures.

Approximately 76% of moms and 96% of dads with children under age 6 work full-time. If a major tunnel in your town collapsed and kept even close to that many working parents from their jobs, everyone would leap into action. If we do not address this childcare crisis, rebuilding our local economies is impossible.

This looming childcare crisis also falls disproportionately on mothers. According to a Census Bureau survey from July, approximately 31% of women ages 25 to 44 with children have left the workforce because of a lack of childcare, compared with 11.6% of men.

Even before the pandemic came, the rising costs of care were previewing what this crisis could do to our workforce. In 2016 alone, an estimated 2 million parents reduced work due to childcare issues – and annual cost of some providers is now equal to college tuition in some states. If we don't do something to put childcare back into the grasps of middle-class families, working parents will be forced to limit their careers or put off reentering the workforce altogether. We need direct federal investments to support our childcare industry to both prevent crippling an entire generation of working families and ensure millions can return to work when ready.

While Congress provided a down payment of support in the CARES Act, more is needed to support childcare providers and working families so that they in turn can help rebuild the countless industries still feeling the effects of this economic downturn. And we need use this moment not to get us back to the status quo, but to invest in improving the cost and quality of care by understanding childcare as a cornerstone of economic growth – just like other public goods like infrastructure and public transportation. Just as we've banded together to connect this nation with roads and rail, so too must we join together to support our working families in order to finally build an economy that works for everyone.

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The one thing Democrats can do to stop Trump from replacing Justice Ginsburg

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Supreme Court Associate Justices Clarence Thomas, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, and Samuel Alito listen to President Trump during the swearing-in ceremony of Brett Kavanaugh on October 8, 2018.

President Barack Obama had the opportunity — or should have — to fill Justice Antonin Scalia’s seat in 2016 and give liberals a majority on the Supreme Court for the first time since the Nixon administration. But he didn’t get that opportunity. Instead, Republicans blocked him under a new stricture they invented, audaciously named the “Biden rule,” which decreed that no Supreme Court vacancy that arises in the final year of a president’s term may be filled.

The Biden rule got its name from an exaggerated reading of a 1992 speech by then-Sen. Joe Biden, where the future Democratic presidential nominee argued that then-President George H.W. Bush “should consider following the practice of a majority of his predecessors and not — and not — name a nominee until after the November election is completed” if a vacancy arose on the Supreme Court.

The question four years later: Are Republicans serious about their adopted rule? Will they risk Biden himself filling the seat left vacant by Ruth Bader Ginsburg if Trump loses in November? McConnell’s been clear: The answer is no. On Friday night, a few hours Ginsberg’s death, McConnell said Trump’s nominee would get a vote.



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell speaks to reporters after the weekly Senate Republican policy luncheon on September 9.

Trump is still president for at least a few more months. Democrats are in the minority in the Senate (although the Democratic “minority” represents 15 million more people than the Republican “majority”). These two facts matter because the Constitution gives the president the power to nominate judges and the Senate the power to confirm those judges.

Right now Republicans have a 53-47 vote majority in the Senate. That means that, unless Democrats can somehow convince four Republican senators to honor the so-called “Biden rule,” Ginsburg’s seat is being filled by Trump.

But if Democrats win both the presidency and the Congress, they can ensure that the GOP supermajority on the Supreme Court will be short-lived. They could pack the Court.

Court-packing and the Constitution

The Constitution provides that there must be a Supreme Court, but it does not set the number of justices — that number is set by Congress. The Judiciary Act of 1789 originally established a six-justice Court, and this number vacillated considerably during the nation’s first century. The number of justices briefly grew to 10 during the Lincoln administration, before finally settling at nine under President Ulysses S. Grant.

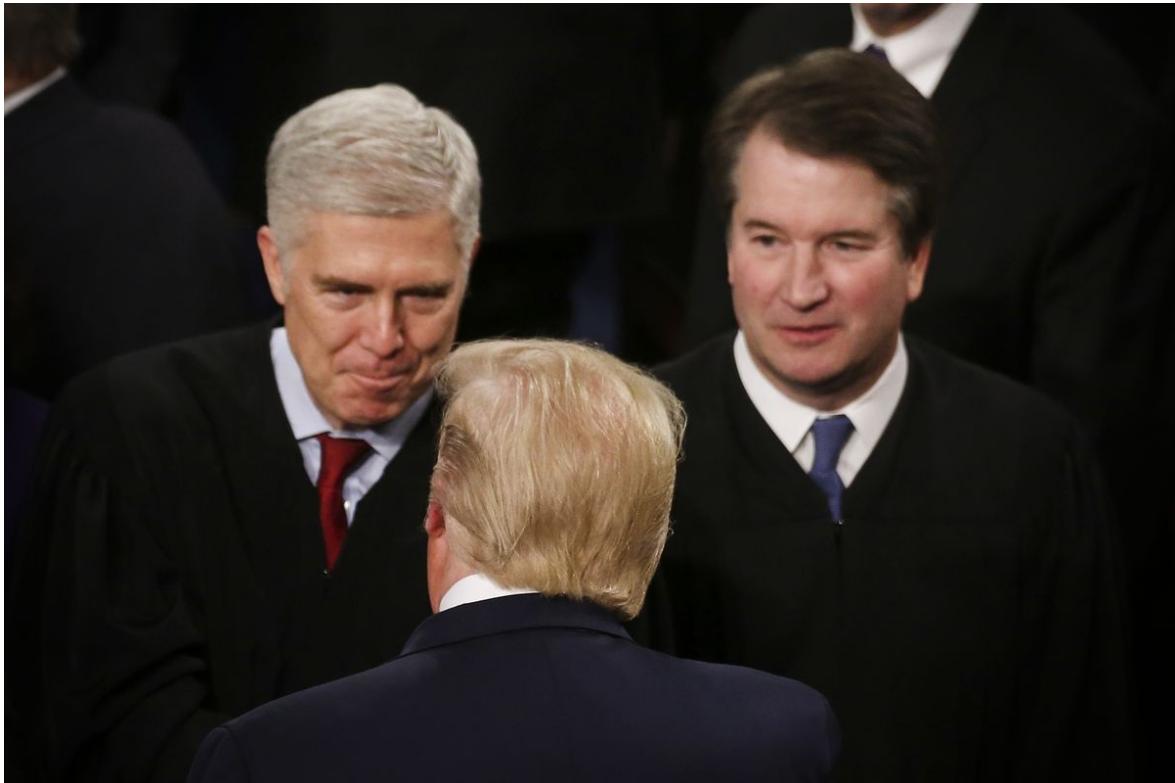
If Democrats control the White House and the Congress, in other words, they can pass a law adding additional seats to the Supreme Court. If Biden is president, he could then quickly fill those seats (with the consent of the Senate) and give the Court a Democratic majority.

It’s a risky play. At the height of his popularity, President Franklin Roosevelt proposed expanding the size of the Supreme Court to 15 in order to neutralize five reactionary justices who frequently undercut the New Deal. It did not end well for him. Many historians cite the court-packing plan as the event that shattered Roosevelt’s political coalition and left him unable to pass liberal bills through Congress.

But these are very different times. In 1937, when Roosevelt proposed packing the Court, every one of the Court’s nine justices could claim that they got there fair and square. No one was on the Supreme Court because one political party invented a fake rule, applied it harshly to a president they loathed, and then immediately scrapped that rule when it was inconvenient.

Trump’s two previous Supreme Court appointees, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, also share a dubious distinction. They are the only members of the Supreme Court in history to be nominated by a president who lost the

popular vote and confirmed by a bloc of senators who represent less than half of the country. If Trump fills the Ginsburg seat, fully one-third of the Court will be controlled by judges with no democratic legitimacy.



President Trump greets Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch as Justice Brett Kavanaugh looks on ahead of the State of the Union address on February 4.

Democrats may also be able to use just the threat of court-packing as leverage.

Biden, congressional Democrats, and Democratic candidates for Congress could all pledge that they will pack the Court if Republicans confirm a Ginsburg replacement. That might be enough to convince four Republican senators to hold off on confirming a new justice.

As it stands now, even if Biden fills the seat, Republicans would still control a majority of the Supreme Court. They have a lot to lose if Democrats successfully pack the Court.

No one should feel confident in this option. It is overwhelmingly likely that Republicans will confirm a loyal Republican judge to fill Ginsburg's seat, and that they will do so swiftly. But Democrats still have one tool left in their chest.

And if they don't use it, well, Trumpism is likely to dominate the Supreme Court for decades or more.

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Why Are Men Still Explaining Things to Women?

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Mansplaining illuminates a much deeper problem than the bore of patronizing monologues. “Entitled” author Kate Manne unpacks the phenomenon.

“Would you please please please please please stop talking.”

— *The girl, from “Hills Like White Elephants” (1927) by Ernest Hemingway*

In Her Words is available as a newsletter. Sign up here to get it delivered to your inbox.

It's common. It's cringeworthy. And it's been documented, some might argue, since at least the 17th century. It happens on Twitter. It happens at work and at Thanksgiving dinners. In bathrooms and in classrooms. Famous men do it. Uncles do it. Politicians, colleagues, bad dates, bureaucrats and neighbors do it. (Some of you may do it, ironically, in response to reading this.) Yes, we're talking about mansplaining.

The portmanteau describes the act of a man's unsolicited explaining, generally to a woman, something he thinks he knows more about than she does — occasionally at anesthetizing length — whether he knows anything or not.

The apt articulation of this phenomenon began with Rebecca Solnit's 2008 essay, “Men Explain Things to Me,” which describes a conversation with a man at a party whose “eyes were fixed on the fuzzy far horizon of his own authority.” After he discovers that Ms. Solnit’s latest book was about the British photographer Eadweard Muybridge, he cuts her off, to pontificate, relentlessly, on a “very important” Muybridge book he thinks she should read.

Turns out, it was *her* book. And he hadn’t read it.

By Ms. Solnit’s telling, it took three or four interjections by her friend to get through to the mansplainer that Ms. Solnit was indeed the author, before he finally heard it. Tellingly, it also took time for Ms. Solnit to recognize the book he was referring to was in fact her own: “So caught up was I in my assigned role as ingénue that I was perfectly willing to entertain the possibility that another book on the same subject had come out simultaneously and I’d somehow missed it.”

“Mansplain,” a word that reaches far beyond the borders of the United States, was inspired by that essay. Today, an ever-evolving list of international iterations exist. In German, it’s “herrklären.” In French, “mecspliquer.” Italians

have “maschiegazione.” There’s a Spanish version of mansplain, and there’s a word for it in Russian, Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi, Mandarin, Ukrainian, Japanese and dozens of other languages.

Mansplaining illuminates a much deeper problem than the bore of patronizing monologues. As Ms. Solnit notes, it “crushes young women into silence” by telling them “that this is not their world.” She adds, “It trains us in self-doubt and self-limitation just as it exercises men’s unsupported overconfidence.” More than a decade on, why is men’s interruption of women to explain things — often things they know less about than the women to whom they’re explaining — still so common?

Kate Manne, an associate professor of philosophy at Cornell University, explores the issue in a chapter of her new book, “Entitled: How Male Privilege Hurts Women.” On a recent call from her home in upstate New York, where she lives with her husband, their 8-month-old and a corgi, she unpacked the problem.

How did we arrive at the idea that men are the authorities of knowledge?

Mansplaining may be recently named, but it’s most likely a phenomenon as old as time. Inherent in patriarchy is men’s entitlement to all valuable human goods: things like love, care, adoration, sex, power — and knowledge. When it comes to knowledge, especially of a prestigious sort, the idea that men have a prior claim to it is as venerable as the patriarchy itself. Sometimes it’s connected to the idea that women are incapable of being authority figures. In “Politics,” for example, Aristotle wrote: “The slave is wholly lacking the deliberative element; the female has it but it lacks authority.”

We know from the classic “John vs. Jennifer” study at Yale that both men and women hold biases that women are less competent. Is this an essential part of mansplaining?

Absolutely. Part of what’s going on is the presumption that a woman will be less knowledgeable, less competent and somehow in need of a man to explain things to her.

That doesn’t explain the fact that mansplaining often also involves men’s resistance to evidence that the woman is more knowledgeable on the subject than he is, and sometimes, the anger when that turns out to be the case.

Why do some men mansplain even when they know of a woman's qualifications?

I connect it to the sense of entitlement of certain privileged men to be the expert, the knower in the exchange. Whereas, paradigmatically, the expert woman is the ingénue, in need of his injection of information, as Rebecca Solnit put it.

You say “privileged men,” but men who are less privileged, aside from their maleness, also mansplain.

While it tends to be worse with men who are more privileged, there's a powerful gender dynamic where he's often been socialized to feel like he's the authority.

Girls, on the other hand, are socialized to be pleasing and polite, to not embarrass men ...

Absolutely, there's a very strong sense in women that she should provide a pleasant audience to him, one that doesn't interrupt him. Correcting someone is an inherently hierarchical act. It's saying “You're wrong; I'm right.” Jumping in when he's mistaken or less expert is inverting the gender hierarchy. Even though a woman is perfectly entitled to intervene, it's perceived by men who feel entitled to a smooth exchange as socially abrupt, rude and even a form of violence. Because it disrupts the status quo and overturns his position as the default authority in the exchange.

Does interruption go hand in hand with mansplaining?

Yes. It's linked to the sense of entitlement to be the knower and the one who issues explanations. That sense of epistemic entitlement makes it very natural to speak over others, and to hold the floor for longer than is proper. It also makes men more willing to assume the floor. A 2004 study of Harvard law students found that men were 50 percent more likely to offer at least one comment in class, and nearly 150 percent more likely to volunteer to speak three times or more.

What's an example of mansplaining in culture?

In Ernest Hemingway's short story “Hills Like White Elephants,” a man and his pregnant girlfriend sit at a bar, waiting for a train. He tries to convince her that having an abortion is “perfectly simple.” As well as making no space in the

conversation for her own reservations, desires and plans, he keeps repeating himself. Finally, the woman has enough: “Would you please please please please please please stop talking.” As a reader, it’s hard not to echo her sentiments.

“Himpathy” is the idea that we feel sorry for men even when they’ve behaved abhorrently. How do himpathy and mansplaining go together?

Himpathy is what I think of as the excessive or undue sympathy given to men over their female victims in cases of misogynistic behavior, like sexual assault. Himpathy and mansplaining interact by making us feel sorry for men we would otherwise sharply correct. We feel preemptively sorry for him if he would feel humiliated, or even chastened, by being corrected. And it makes us feel guilty, or even ashamed, for thinking of it.

To avoid being a mansplainer, what should a man ask himself?

Is she interested? Did she express some desire to have this information imparted to her? Do I know this? Is she more expert than I am? Might she be asking a merely rhetorical question?

Maybe look at her face?

[Laughs] Yes, read the room. If other people are registering profound discomfort, that might be a sign that you’ve made a misstep in the dialogue.

Mary Katharine Tramontana *is a writer based in Berlin, covering culture and sexual politics.*

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