



Feminist Theory 101

first, second, third, fourth wave of feminism

denotes different mainstream ideas of feminism as they've shifted over the last 100+ years; later waves incorporate perspectives beyond white, straight, cis women

reproductive justice

“the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities” (SisterSong); rooted in Black feminism

masculinity

learned, culturally specific characteristics and behaviors that are associated with men, boys, and male-assigned bodies

misogynoir

the combination of anti-Black racism and misogyny that Black women face; coined by Moya Bailey in 2013

intersectionality

a feminist theory focused on the “interlocking oppressions” of racism, sexism, and other -isms; coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1981

misogyny

prejudice and systems of power aligned against women, girls, and femininity; a form of sexism

transmisogyny

intersection of transphobia and misogyny, experienced by trans women and transfeminine people; coined by Julia Serano in 2007



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transnational feminism

abolitionist/anti-carceral feminism

queer & trans feminism

feminism

indigenous/decolonial

feminisms

a wide range of social movements that believe in social, economic, and political equality of all people, regardless of sex, gender, or sexuality



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indigenous/decolonial

sex

certain physiological attributes and the social meanings we attach to them; e.g., female, male, intersex

gender

the social expectations & norms assigned to sex categories; includes gender roles, gender expression, and gender identity; e.g., woman, genderqueer, agender, transgender, non-binary man, genderfluid, etc.

sexuality

a person's identity in relation to emotional/romantic attraction, physical attraction, and associated physiological processes; e.g., pansexual, asexual, bisexual, heterosexual, homosexual, etc.

gaze theory

how film sets up viewers to identify with a male point-of-view (Laura Mulvey); expanded to include white, hetero, US and other gazes, which marginalized folks defy via *resistant reading*

heteronormativity

social norms that define heterosexuality as default and associated values and goals, like marriage, children, and stereotypical gender roles as desirable.

homonormativity

social norms that define values and characteristics associated with traditional heterosexuality, like marriage and children, as desirable in queer relationships.

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