

Annotated Bibliography

Berri, Allyson. "Antipornography Feminism: An Antithesis to Intersectionality: Her Campus." *HerCampus.com*, 29 Sept. 2020

Berri's article argues that anti-pornography feminism is a movement undertaken largely by white heterosexual women and is a movement that lacks intersectional consideration. Berri looks to the history of anti-pornography feminism, citing it as compromising minority feminist interests "in lieu of waging a ruthless war against sexual obscenity and objectification" (Berri). Activists under the guise of racial progressivism depict black women as racial and sexual "other" (Nash) and perpetuates the invisibility of heterosexuality within feminist discourse.

Ciclitira, Karen. "Pornography, Women and Feminism: Between Pleasure and Politics." *Sexualities*, vol. 7, no. 3, Aug. 2004, pp. 281–301

The article summarizes findings from a qualitative research study on women's perspectives of pornography within the context of conflicting feminist positions of the pornography industry. Interviews of women in the UK were conducted and they were asked their view of pornography. Feminism is not directly asked in the interviews however interviewees routinely brought it up stating that values of feminism have shaped an anti-porn stance in their perspectives.

Davey, Claire G. "Bad Girls, Dirty Bodies: Sex, Performance and Safe Femininity." *Sexualities*, Mar. 2022.

Davey's article is a brief review of the book *Bad Girls, Dirty Bodies* by Dr Gemma Commane in which sex work is used as a challenge to heterosexual patriarchal foundations when performed by those who do not fit the traditional beauty standards of the male gaze and is thereby an act of empowerment and authenticity in feminism. A key theme is how Commane's interviewees use "biography and alternative embodied knowledge as a form of activism in shaping socio-political discourses regarding femininity and women's sexualities" (Davey.)

"Does the Porn Industry Really Care about Empowering Women?" *Fight the New Drug*, Feb. 2021, 18

This article criticizes claims that the porn industry is actively working to empower women and that the increase in women using porn sites themselves is not evidence of a post #MeToo empowerment movement. Popular searches include thinly veiled buzz words for violence, underage and nonconsensual videos in which these acts are either scripted or actually nonconsensual. Women are typically the victims in these videos and do not in any way benefit from these videos or trends. The industry "significantly fuels and capitalizes on the problem of gender inequality."

Donevan, Meghan (2021) "'In This Industry, You're No Longer Human': An Exploratory Study of Women's Experiences in Pornography Production in Sweden," *Dignity: A Journal of Analysis of Exploitation and Violence*: Vol. 6: Iss. 3, Article 1

Donevan's study is a dive into the experiences of women within the pornography industry, looking especially at the entrance, coercion, violence and methods of exiting within it. Nine women with experience in porn were interviewed from Sweden in which they identified "young age, financial insecurity, earlier exposure to sexualized violence, and poor mental health" as typical reasons and

backgrounds for porn workers (Donevan). Once inside, manipulation and coercion maintains the cycle and barriers of online footprint and lack of perceived alternatives inhibit workers from leaving.

Griffith, James, et al. "Why Become A Porn Star?" *Researchgate.net*, International Journal of Sexual Health, July 2012.

Griffith and colleagues conducted a study in which they asked 176 women who worked as porn stars what prompted them to get into the industry, what they like about it, and what they dislike. Based on this data they were able to determine that the number one reason for going into porn is financially based, and it is also the number one thing workers like about it. The liked of the industry by the women are listed in descending order: money, people, sex, freedom/ independence, attention, fun, creative expression, personal growth, and rebellion (Griffith). Dislikes include: people, STD risk, exploitation, work conditions, social stigma, drugs, politics, discomfort, and outside relationships (Griffith).

Macleod, PJ. "How Feminists Pick Porn: Troubling the Link between 'Authenticity' and Production Ethics." *Sexualities*, vol. 24, no. 4, June 2021, pp. 673–693

The study by Macleod was conducted by gathering a group of proclaimed feminist and asking them about how they interacted with the pornography themselves. The research was done more within in the spirit of "sex-positive" feminism, and focused on how women interact with pornography while recognizing the industry for its exploitative properties. Women in the study cite purposefully looking for "ethical" porn, keeping with the theory of 'conscious consumption' (Macleod, 2020b), whereby consumers avoid behavior and material that they consider very unethical.

Merrickin, Kim. "Racism & Pornography." *REST*, REST, 23 Nov. 2021

Merrickin's blog post takes an intersectional approach to the issue of exploitation in pornography, emphasizing that the porn industry relies and perpetuates harmful racial stereotypes so that women of color are exploited on all bases: gender, race, age, ect. Racism within the industry is not accidental, it is produced because of high demand for content that plays on race, producing much more violent/aggressive content among WOC sex workers than white women (Merrickin.) At the same time, these same stereotypes that dehumanize Black and brown bodies uphold eurocentric white beauty standards and purity culture (Gardner.)

Noelle, Nica. "Sex Work Can Be Empowering, but the Sex Industry Isn't." *HuffPost*, HuffPost, 15 May 2015

In this short article Noelle, who has herself had experience within the adult film industry, makes the argument that while the sex work itself may be empowering and liberating for women and contribute to the feminist movement, the actual porn industry as a market is not. There is a difference between feeling empowered and actually being empowered in terms of actual gain, which is usually where the disconnect comes from. "A woman cannot gain power through sex work any more than she can set herself free by being an accountant. If she's not cut out for the job, or if she's doing it for the wrong reasons, it will never, ever empower her" (Noelle.)

"2021 Year in Review." – *Pornhub Insights*

Pornhub is one of the most popular pornography websites on the Internet and its yearly statistic review that it publishes proves this. Viewers from hundreds of countries, millions of streams and searches. Looking explicitly at its demographic's page for 2021, the proportion of female visitors increased by 5%. This amounts to a proportion of 35% of women who visit the site. The only country in which the number of female visitors is higher than male visitors is in the Philippines.