

Ryan Woodard

Professor L. E. Knight

Women's Studies 201

12 September 2019

The fight for a better future through Feminism.

In "A transnational black feminist framework," Kia M. Q. Hall shows us that there are comparisons between black lives matter and modern-day feminism. Both movements have tolerated injustice for an eternity it seems, and it is mentioned by the cofounder of black lives matter, Alicia Garza, that it is everyone's job to put contrasting situations of injustice and build a foundation from there (32). This movement was not evoked for just African Americans, but in fact, it will help amend the inequality against queers, transgenders, lesbians, gays, or bisexuals, in other words for all people, which is why it correlates to modern day feminism (36). Towards the completion of the article, Hall provides the audience with more insight on transnational feminism and how to build a successful community with equal opportunities from there (37).

Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards are authors of "A day without feminism," which is an article about the conflicts that would arise if there was no one to fight for women's rights. In the article, the authors take the audience back to the 70's and gives a few examples of what a day without feminism would consist of (29). Those examples include if a baby were to be born

the child will be given their father's name, females cannot participate in varsity sports, it is against the law for a male to teach a grade lower than sixth grade (29). With the numerous examples of unequal women's rights that affected people in the past shows that we have taken the necessary steps forward to bring about little change in the society. However, there are far more things that men have access to or goals that men can reach, that women have not yet been able to accomplish. Which is why, there is a great deal of work to be done, "Explaining white privilege to a broke white person," was a unique article written by Gina Crosley-Corcoran. Gina discussed fundamental key terms which were intersectionality, citizenship, class, sexual orientation, sex, ability, and gender. All those terms were described because depending on each one of those terms, will determine how much privilege you have in this society. Gina discussed in the article, how she felt as though no one could be poorer than her, She expressed that her and her family had to cook ramen noodles in a coffee maker with water from the bathroom and use a random relative's mailing address in which she was responding to a feminist who called her privileged on the internet. She wrapped up her article by saying that we are all privileged in different ways whether it is your race or the fact that you are cisgender but it is up to us to determine if we will use our privilege for good or bad.

In the book "what is intersectionality and why do we need it," wrote by Ijeoma Oluo described how she was cyber bullied by speaking out on an issue about a male, by the name of R Kelly, not receiving jail time, though it was solid proof and even a video of him sexually abusing women (71). Ijeoma was told that she "hated black men," she was called a "high-yellow

bed wench who'd spread her legs for the white master," and "was on the side of the lynch mob (71)." This goes to show, in my opinion, how blind this society can be when it comes to sexual assault, rape, and abuse of women. Here it is you have a women of color speaking out against abuse (of any kind) towards black women, and yet she is called racist? It's clear that society is not prepared to have that discussion about issues within the black community regarding sexual abuse.

It has been many milestones that women have reached when it comes to women's rights. However, I do believe that we still have plenty of work ahead of us. In the articles mentioned I believe a similarity that they all share is that each of the authors dealt with some form of inequality. Women have been victims in this world for years and it is time to make a change. In today's world a woman, now, does not lag behind a man but statistically speaking there are still more men in higher positions and most of those men are white. Although, most of these articles are speaking on rights for women. Women's studies does not only focus on the justice of women, Women's studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that analyzes gender arrangements and how they influence our everyday lives and it is the belief in social, economic, and political equality amongst everyone.

Works Cited

Corcoran, Gina. "Explaining white privilege to a broke white person." *The good men project*, 18 August 2019,

<https://goodmenproject.com/ethics-values/explaining-white-privilege-to-a-broke-white-person-shesaid/>. Accessed 16 September 2019.