READING ANALYSES WEEK 5

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HIST 2480-01: Gender Sexuality and History in Film

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The readings from this week reflect that of the portrayal of black woman in media and film and the ways in which black woman themselves view their own portrayal. Black people in America have an extensive history of being oppressed and marginalized. Upon the creation of film and modern technologies these ideological views were carried into and, in a way, highlighted these oppressions and marginalization’s. I think that the overarching theme carried throughout the readings, however, was not in the ideological view of oppression and marginalization but in the moving forward. In the re-writing of stigma and stereotypes and how we can portray black woman as strong, inspirational and independent of those views.

“Moving Beyond Pain” by Hooks, B., a critical look at Beyoncé’s Lemonade, shone a light on the important movement of re-writing black woman in film and media. Beyoncé took a creative approach and showcased a multitude of varying black woman, dancers and actors, of all ages and sizes. Although the context with which Lemonade is indevoured may be controversial in the way it is portrayed with a victim lead and a cheating boyfriend scenario it creates a place for black woman to unite. Re-writing the story of black woman in film and media in our world is not as simple as a Beyoncé hit – although inspiring to many and controversial to some – Hooks, B. brings up an important point about change. Hooks, B. says that change is nothing unless two parts of a whole come together for the same cause. That is, “if change is not mutual then black female emotional hurt can be voiced, but the reality of men inflicting pain will still continue.”1 I think that this concept not only relays to black female emotional hurt but in re-writing any oppression, marginalization, stigma or stereotype. We all must come together to re-write any past wrong doing. Men and women alike.

I think this material is crucial for me, as an Indigenous student, who is white in color but has experienced a different type of oppression to relay a positive notion for change. Although change takes time and hard work one must use their voice to bring people together rather then separating them. Knowledge is the key and your voice is the wheel which begins the movement.

**Bibliography**

Hooks, B., “Moving Beyond Pain,” Last modified May 9, 2016,

http://www.bellhooksinstitute.com/blog/2016/5/9/moving-beyond-pain