READING ANALYSES WEEK 9

Rebecca Wiltzen

HIST 2480-01: Gender Sexuality and History in Film

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This weeks reading delve into the world of pornography and whether it is a mark of feminist liberation or inhibition. Karen Ciclitira from her work “Pornography, Women and Feminism: Between Pleasure and Politics” holds a strong liberation standpoint explaining pornography as a way with which a, “goal of achieving sexual freedom” to be possible.[[1]](#footnote-1) Gail Dines in “White Man's Burden: Gonzo Pornography and the Construction of Black Masculinity” takes on the opposite viewpoint of that of Ciclitira and openly portrays her radical feminist standpoint by explaining, “The body that is celebrated as uncontrolled in [interracial pornography] is the very same body that needs to be controlled and disciplined in the real world.”[[2]](#footnote-2) Thomas Johansson and Nils Hammeren in the third reading, “Hegemonic Masculinity and Pornography: Young people’s attitudes toward and relations to pornography” take on a contemporary view encapsulating both negative and positive view points in the argument of pornography.[[3]](#footnote-3) All in all, I think all three readings cover a main theme of varying perspectives of pornography and that is far from black and white in understanding.

I think another theme of the readings is that pornography is no longer a taboo subject and that people are openly discussing it. I think maybe what contributes to the argument is that fact that some people still hold pornography with a negative connotation thus feeding into the pornography debate. I think it’s important for me to be in biased in this discussion because all the readings this week carry important point. I do see validity in both the negative and positive viewpoints of pornography and I think its this understanding and openness that I need to bring into my own life and into my research as well.

**Bibliography**

Ciclitira, K., “Pornography, Women and Feminism: Between Pleasure and Politics,” *Sexualities*,

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Dines, G., “White Man's Burden: Gonzo Pornography and the Construction of Black

Masculinity,” *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism,* 18, 1 (2006): 283-297.

Johansson, T. and Hammeren, N., “Hegemonic Masculinity and Pornography: Young people’s

attitudes toward and relations to pornography,” *The Journal of Men’s Studies,* 15, 1 (Winter

2007): 57-70.

1. Karen Ciclitira, “Pornography, Women and Feminism: Between Pleasure and Politics,” *Sexualities*, 7, 3 (2004): 298. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Gail Dines, “White Man's Burden: Gonzo Pornography and the Construction of Black Masculinity,” *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism,* 18, 1 (2006): 297 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Thomas Johansson and Nils Hammeren, “Hegemonic Masculinity and Pornography: Young people’s attitudes toward and relations to pornography,” *The Journal of Men’s Studies,* 15, 1 (Winter 2007): 57-70 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)