



WORKS

Black feminism says that sexism and misogyny gender identity, class depression and racism are inextricably linked in a mutually constitutive web of (to quote Patricia Hill Collins) “interlocking systems of oppression” and within this tradition of course Kimberlé Crenshaw’s intersectionality, which builds off of the Combahee River Collective’s “simultaneity of oppressions” and even 19th century Black feminist works like that of Anna Juliet Cooper.

Black Feminism too seeks to ground political understandings and anti capitalist critiques in embodied knowledges and in lived experiences and also present a non-essentialized and non-biologized critique of Black women hoods identity and position within history. A useful historical revisionism that highlights racial capitalism’s critical subjugation and Black nationalism’s exclusion of black Women, it presents a response to the racist exclusion of Black Women from Women’s issues.

Issues around safety, deservingness, agency, autonomy and class oppression. In understanding black womens unique subjugation by the state means understanding race & gendered labour extraction within capitalism most incisively the ways black feminism is a mentality for understanding how the anti-black settler state is a illegitimate construction, unlike what Jacobin and their class fetishizing ilk of all sectarian stripes might tell you, intersectionality does not undermine marxism.

What does it mean to understand black women’s subjugation it means to understand the ways in which black women’s labour was central to the development of the capitalist state and the american slaveocracy. Sarah Hale’s book No Mercy Here outlined the myriad ways in which gendered anti-blackness forms the construction of the Jim Crow system. This paved the way for the contemporary systems of mass incarceration, school to prison pipelining that we see today.

Hale’s book makes direct comparison between the hyper-imprisonability of black women’s gender deviance and the redeemability of white femininity and the ways in which these constructs were made oppositional and ratified through judicial sentencing that enforced black womens rejection.

Black women were thought to be as strong as men and were frequently used for all kinds of labour, whereas white women were only employed in fields for particularly bad behaviour. Where black men were 1.4 times more likely than white men to be arrested, black women were 6.4 times more likely than white women to get arrested. It became evident that white womens normativity is made more and more concrete through the triple labour the domestic, industrial and sexual (euphemistically called ‘social reproductive’ labour) as black women became play things for prison guards and male approximate punishment.

