

01/24/2021

## NOTES to REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE SEMINAR #2 SACRED SEXUALITY

### LEARNING GOALS:

- Link sexual “health,” “rights/choice”, and “justice” to the reproductive justice movement theologically, ethically, and politically.
- Link sexual violence to the reproductive justice movement.
- Explore the intersection of gender and sexuality and reproductive justice.

### OPENING SONG:

“Pynk” - Janelle Monae

- Link to watch the music video/listen to the song on YouTube:  
[https://youtu.be/PaYvIVR\\_BEc](https://youtu.be/PaYvIVR_BEc)
- Link to read the lyrics: <https://genius.com/Janelle-monae-pynk-lyrics>

### OPENING READING:

Section of “Body Blessing” by Lisa Bovee-Kemper

*You are blessed with the gift of sexuality. May you always remember that you are a beloved child of god. Your body is sacred and belongs to you alone. May you live into the full expression of your identity as a human being, embracing your true sexual and gender identity. The gift of sexuality brings with it many rewards as well as great responsibility. May you always retain power over your own being, striving toward mutually fulfilling and just relationships.*

### HOUSEKEEPING:

- Review of ground rules
- Personal sharing is not required or expected.
  - But if someone does share, “Vegas rules”--what is shared in the seminar, stays within the seminar.
  - We are not recording video of seminars. Sage deletes the Otter.ai transcript after the session is over.
- We will not be using “progressive stack” in small breakout groups, but we will be using it in the larger discussion because of the number of people registered for the class.
- We recommend using a tablet or laptop to participate, not a phone, if possible. Screen size/app features are more limited when participating by phone.
- This session, we will use “quickie introductions” and “micro breaks” throughout the session.

- The discussion today will feel short/rushed. These topics deserve much more time. Please expect that this is just the beginning of a conversation (or, for some with past experience with RJ, a continuation of a conversation).

## MICRO-INTRODUCTIONS

- Invitation to share your name, where you are, and your favorite plant.

POLL: “i

86% of resp

**Sage posts Elizabeth moderates** Poll (2 minutes)

I read the three handouts in preparation for this session: Gender Diversity, Sacred Sexuality, Sexual Violence

Yes No

Gender Diversity (25 min): -- **Evan**

*Briefly* summarize key concepts of the handout. No more than 1 minute. Ask participants to hold any questions or comments for breakout session.

We will facilitate virtual breakout groups to discuss questions, and then come back to the larger group to share thoughts and ideas together.

Breakout session facilitators copy questions into breakout chat once everyone is arrived in breakout room.

- What jumps out at you from this reading?
- Is there a concept that you identify with?
- What concepts are new ideas for you?

Small group selects one key takeaway or concept to share with larger group.

BREAK 5 minutes

Micro introduction--ask people to stack in chat: name, location, favorite plant

Sexual Health, Sexual Rights, Sexual Justice (25 min) -- **Sarah**

Summarize key concepts of the handout. No more than 1 minute. Ask participants to hold any questions or comments for breakout session.

We will facilitate virtual breakout groups to discuss questions, and then come back to the larger group to share thoughts and ideas together.

Breakout session facilitators copy questions into breakout chat once everyone is arrived in breakout room.

- What were the messages you heard about sexuality and reproduction as you grew up? How were the messages different? How were the messages similar?
- What similarities and differences do you see in your views between these two topics now?
- What are one or two things that you learned in the course so far? How has that information changed your perspective on reproductive justice and sexual justice?
- Why is a positive affirmation of human sexuality a “justice issue”? Is it important to your personal faith or ethics to recognize sexuality as an intrinsic part of the human experience?

### **Elizabeth** Micro introduction?

#### Sexual Violence and Reproductive Justice (25 min): Sarah

Summarize key concepts of the handout. No more than 1 minute. Ask participants to hold any questions or comments for breakout session.

Breakout groups to discuss questions, followed by coming back together to share.

Breakout session facilitators copy questions into breakout chat once everyone is arrived in breakout room.

- What is sexual violence?
- How is sexual violence experienced (statistically) between different minority groups or marginalized communities?
- How does sexual violence shape reproductive rights/justice?
  - Abortion “only in case of rape” (laws)
  - Public opinion polls (how many people in the US believe in abortion “only in the case of rape”)?
  - People who are vulnerable to sexual violence are also less likely to be able to access reproductive care (including prenatal care, abortion, etc) -- insert statistics
  - Reproductive coercion as a form of sexual violence
- Discussion questions:
  - Explore your values, thoughts and beliefs about the connection between sexual violence and reproductive justice
  - What are your reactions to this information?

- What kind of messaging do you remember receiving about sexual violence and reproductive justice?
- Have your beliefs changed over time?

Debrief and Closing (10 min): Sage

- Ask participants to share with the group one new idea that struck them during the session. Use stack in chat if you would like to say something
- Read “It Matters What We Believe” and extinguish the chalice.

“It Matters What We Believe” by Sophia Lyon Fahs Sarah reads “call”; **Sage** reads “response”

Call: Some beliefs are like walled gardens. They encourage exclusiveness, and the feeling of being especially privileged.

Response: *Other beliefs are expansive and lead the way into wider and deeper sympathies.*

Some beliefs are like shadows, clouding children's days and fears of unknown calamities.

*Other beliefs are like sunshine, blessing children with the warmth of happiness.*

Some beliefs are divisive, separating saved from unsaved, friends from enemies.

*Other beliefs are bonds in a world community, where sincere differences beautify the pattern.*

Some beliefs are like blinders, shutting off the power to choose one's own direction.

*Other beliefs are like gateways opening wide vistas for exploration.*

Some beliefs weaken a person's selfhood. They blight the growth of resourcefulness.

*Other beliefs nurture self-confidence and enrich the feeling of personal worth.*

Some beliefs are rigid, like the body of death, impotent in a changing world.

*Other beliefs are pliable, like the young sapling, ever growing with the upward thrust of life.*

Survey [not poll!] -for overall mid-seminar session evaluation

1. post link to Google form poll in chat. Class Evaluation.xlsx (first worksheet) **Sage** facilitate, **Evan** put link in chat
  - a. Link: <https://forms.gle/vhh8xfSnByxqpq3N7>

2. We need your feedback to let us know how it is going. Please complete now after session, OR look for link in email announcing next week's session.

For Next Session:

- We will email:
  - links to survey
  - today's class minutes
  - readings/homework for the next class