

# Feminism

Ethan Cruz RWS 200

# What is Feminism?

- Historically, feminism has been viewed through the lense of the political movement, although its definitions vary by one's beliefs and upbringing.
- The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy notes that society has to recognize feminism as a system of beliefs and values rather than a political movement.
- ThoughtCo highlights the patriarchal foundation of most, if not all, societal structures.

# What is Feminism?

Although feminism may be rooted in the historical political movement, it is important to recognize that feminism is the general idea that women can be and do whatever they choose to do. It is also necessary to understand that the feminist goal is not to take men off of their pedestal, but to understand that men and women can equally participate in everyday routines that have since been set into a binary structure of society. Another element of feminism is sexuality: a natural element to the human experience which has been glorified through the male gaze, yet degraded when it comes to female sexuality.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbMTV6AGA9I&t=3s>

# The Female Gaze ~ Drew Afualo and Brittany Broski

If you are no stranger to the entertainment platform TikTok, you may be familiar with one Drew Afualo. Afualo is a feminist based creator who uses comedy to reach a further audience. She has since taken over every social media platform spreading information and her light. One platform in particular, YouTube, is where she uploads visual recordings of her podcast *The Comment Section* where she reviews comments on her videos and her guests' videos. Some comments are kind and try to spread positivity. However, the bulk of comments are degrading toward women, body types, different ways of life, etc. I personally enjoy this podcast and think others could benefit from the episodes because they take on pretty heavy topics and comments, but find a way to keep things light and offer a more enlightened way to approach the internet.

# The Female Gaze ~ Drew Afualo and Brittany Broski

In her episode with fellow TikTok star, Brittany Broski, titled “(Fe)Male Gazing” they discuss the perils of the male gaze and how the patriarchy has diminished any female ideology. The episode opens with them discussing self-view, and Brittany brings up a wonderful point, “Seeing yourself as a work of art and as this sort of divine energy [...] it’s true to a certain extent! We give life to the world!” They continue to discuss the male/female gazes and how men tend to “...cheapen the value [of feminism].” Which leads them to the male-centered idea of “Equal Rights Equal Fights.” Afualo then cracks a joke against misogynists, “If someone says, ‘Hey man I just kinda want you to treat me like a human.’ And your response is, ‘THEN I SHOULD BE ABLE TO PUNCH YOU IN THE FACE.’ [...] You need help! Like, you shouldn’t hit anyone.” This episode perfectly illustrates the extreme ferocity that erupts in the male community when it comes to the simple notion of equal rights.



# Anti-Feminism ~ Drew Afualo and Michaela Okland

In another episode of *The Comment Section*, Drew converses with Harvard graduate Dr. Michaela Okland. They discuss the general theme of videos that tend to contradict ideals that the (male) creator constantly preaches. The review a TikTok where the man in the video says that women have nothing to offer other than a “used vagina” and disrespectful mouth. In the same TikTok the man in question shares his thoughts on men chasing women and that it should be the other way around. However, throughout history it is typically observed that men do most of the chasing. Drew comments on the man’s ideas stating, “You set the table, I’m just sitting here eating.” and Dr. Okland asks, “If men are chasing women ,how is that our fault?” She then states, “You have an unused penis and you’re taking it out on the ‘has sex’ community.”



# Anti-Feminism ~ Drew Afualo and Michaela Okland

Later, they review their last TikTok where two men explain why feminism is “bad” for the nuclear family. The two men say that it’s ok for women to sleep around but it does more harm than good for women because it makes it harder for them to find a man, and Dr. Oakland jumps in to ask what the two in the video understand feminism to be. “They think that [feminism] is one thing, but the true definition of feminism is that women can be anything. Women can be a stay at home mom if they want, they can also be the breadwinner.” Then she moves on to say that the nuclear family is something that has been sold through advertisements, but that it is not “an innate biological way that we have to have a structure.”

So many folks talk about how they're being "forced to accept" things that go against their beliefs.

You're not being forced to accept them.

If you have a problem with people of color, with gay marriage, with trans people, with immigrants, with women of any race, etc. then you're still welcome to feel however you want to feel about those people. You're just not allowed to make their lives harder because of your feelings. You're not allowed to turn their daily lives into a battle ground.

No one is forcing you to "accept" a single thing. You're just not being allowed to terrorize people.



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the\_healing\_knitter Thiiiiis.

Yeah.

Yeah, this.

#intolerance #norespect #takeahike  
#haters #equalityforall #blm #lgbtq  
#womensrights #respectothers  
#standupforwhatsright #lovewins  
#wisewords #acceptance

6d



upnorthyarns So much this

6d 1 like Reply



clairbear226 YES. Sharing!

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“My mom explained that it wouldn’t be right for a woman to be president; it’s not a role they were meant to have. The reasons behind her answer were likely informed by her upbringing, and definitely by her conservative Christian beliefs. In her world, men were intended to be heads of household, leaders of the family, of industry, and of the country. My mom viewed her role to be raising children and managing the household. Looking back, I’m not angry at her answer, but I do feel saddened by it. I’m sad for the girl who heard that answer—it shocked and it hurt. Even though I had been raised with those ideas for 9 years, it was this moment that made it suddenly real how limited my life could be, because I was female.”

– Heather Renfro

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#breakingdownpatriarchy  
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#intersectionalfeminism  
#womensrights #girlpower #politics

3d



**missy.tyler** So sad it was her mom that potentially limited her thoughts about herself 🥺



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# Indoctrination into a Binary Society

Although this doesn't quite hail toward feminism, it can help others try to engage in a more nuanced thought process. As soon as we are born we are put into a binary gender system that seems to favor men and force women into a life of servitude. This "life of servitude" may not be as extreme as it used to be, but there are still a multitude of inhibitors that keep women from achieving true greatness. Living and learning in a binary society that favors strength and power greatly impacts the way the scientifically weaker and smaller can make their way up in the world. Media from accounts like @the\_healing\_knitter and @bdownthepatriarchy are an integral facet to the movement as they offer clear and concise information that challenge fixed minds.

# Importance in the Media

It is important to apply feminist theory to everyday media to further normalize feminist ideals. More young girls need to see that they have options and can do whatever they see fit. When the media begins to shed light on feminist issues and inspires young children, those children go on to inspire others. Feminist media representation will lead to more young women joining in the understanding that they are their own person, with their own ideals, emotions, strengths, and weaknesses. Not only will this affect young women but it will also teach young boys to display the respect that women deserve, otherwise the men deserve no such decency.

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