

## Feminism, Queer Theory, and the Politics of Representation

This list attempts to trace a series of culturally situated conversations about feminism, queer theory, and queer-of-color critique concerning the politics of representation. Spanning the late 1980s to the present, some of these conversations are simultaneous; others are outgrowths of—or challenges to—feminist and queer interventions made at earlier moments. Although these critical texts are grappling with a number of epistemological questions, one stands out for me: how can feminists ethically represent gender or sexuality in relation to race, ethnicity, and nation, or vice versa? Alongside responses to that question, I have included a number of canonical feminist texts that implicitly fail to grapple with issues of race, ethnicity, and/or nationality when making arguments about women's rights. To what extent has canonical feminism risked replicating white Western femininity as a universal standard for articulation around the world? What -isms (sexisms, racisms, etc.), Western prejudices, and universalizing impulses continue to characterize queer theory in the contemporary moment? And how have feminist and queer theorists from outside of the West or within the margins of Western academia endeavored to decenter a hegemonic politics of representing gender and sexuality in their local contexts? In order to contextualize these theories, I have framed the list with a few culturally situated and contemporaneous works of fiction. As a feminist and queer scholar of postcolonial literature, I hope to strengthen my understanding of the ways in which questions of representation concerning alterity, epistemological violence, hegemony, positionality, and universality resonate within and across cultures of academic criticism.

### Primary Sources

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2. (1987) Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
3. (1990) Lauretta Ngcobo, *And They Didn't Die*
4. (1990) Jamaica Kincaid, *Lucy*

### Critical Theory

1. (1952/1967) Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks* (selections)
2. (1975) Gayle Rubin, "The Traffic in Women"
3. (1977/1978) Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1*
4. (1980) Adrienne Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and the Lesbian Existence"
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11. (1988) Gayatri Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?"
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13. (1989) Helene Cixous, "The Laugh of the Medusa"
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22. (1995) Mark Gevisser & Edwin Cameron (eds.), *Defiant Desire* (selections)
23. (1997) Cathy J. Cohen, "Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens"
24. (2003) Roderick Ferguson, "Queer of Color Critique, Historical Materialism, and Canonical Sociology" in *Aberrations in Black*
25. (2003) Chandra Talpade Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes"
26. (2003) Martin Manalansan, *Global Divas* (selections)
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28. (2005) Tom Boellstorff, *The Gay Archipelago* (selections)
29. (2005) J. Jack Halberstam, *In a Queer Time and Place* (selections)
30. (2005) Flora Veit-Wild & Dirk Naguschewski (eds.), *Body, Sexuality, and Gender* (selections)
31. (2007) Neville Hoad, *African Intimacies* (selections)
32. (2007) Jasbir Puar, *Terrorist Assemblages* (selections)
33. (2007) Joseph Massad, *Desiring Arabs*
34. (2008) Shu-Meh Shih, "Comparative Racialization: An Introduction"
35. (2009) José Esteban Muñoz, *Cruising Utopia* (selections)
36. (2011) Desiree Lewis, "Representing African Sexualities" in *African Sexualities: A Reader*
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