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Recommended Resources on the Intersection of Pornography and Domestic & Sexual Violence

Books:

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND SEX RINGS

Wolbert, Burgess Ann. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books 1984.

This book is about the sexual exploitation of children by adults. The purpose of this book is to report on the findings of a project researching the use of children in pornography and to describe programs and techniques responding to child pornography. It is intended for people whose work brings them into contact with either victims or perpetrators of sex crimes against children; it is intended for people such as mental health and child protective professionals, criminal justice personnel, educators, clergy, and law enforcement agents.

DEFENDING PORNOGRAPHY: FREE SPEECH, SEX AND THE FIGHT FOR WOMENS RIGHTS

Strossen, Nadine. New York: NY: New York University Press, 1995.

This book documents battles that the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other activists have fought over and over in defending freedom for sexually oriented expression, and also for the advocates of women's rights, reproductive freedom, and lesbian and gay rights who are the disproportionate targets of efforts to suppress such expression.

GETTING OFF: PORNOGRAPHY AND THE END OF MASCULINITY

Jensen, Robert. South End Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2007.

In our culture, porn makes the man. So argues Robert Jensen in *Getting Off: Pornography and the End of Masculinity*. Jensen's treatise begins with a simple demand: "Be a man." It ends with a defiant response: "I chose to struggle to be a human being." The journey from masculinity to humanity is found in the candid and intelligent exploration of porn's devastating role in defining masculinity. *Getting Off* seamlessly blends personal anecdotes from Jensen's years as a feminist anti-pornography activist with scholarly research. In his trademark conversational style, he shows how mainstream pornography reinforces social definitions of manhood and influences men's attitudes about women and how to treat them. Pornography is a thriving multi-billion-dollar industry; it drives the direction of emerging media technology. Pornography also makes for complicated politics. These days, anti-porn arguments are assumed to be "anti-sex" and thus a critical debate is silenced. This book breaks that silence. Alarming and thought-provoking, *Getting Off* asks tough, but crucial, questions about pornography, sex, manhood, and the way toward genuine social justice.

NOT FOR SALE: FEMINISTS RESISTING PROSTITUTION AND PORNOGRAPHY

Stark, Christine & Whisnant, Rebecca. Spinifex Press Pty Ltd, 2004.

As prostitution and pornography increasingly saturate our lives and our communities, they are also becoming normalized and accepted as harmless entertainment for men as legitimate, even liberating, forms of work for women. *Not for Sale* bring the feminist movement against prostitution and pornography into the 21st century, showing how these industries cause grievous harm to those within them while undermining the possibilities of gender justice, human equality, and truly diverse and joyful sexual relationships. The essays collected here connect feminist perspectives on the sex industry with radical critiques of racism, poverty, militarism, and unbridled corporate capitalism, and show how the harms of prostitution and pornography are amplified by contemporary technologies of mass communication. Bringing together research, testimony, and theory by more than thirty writers and activists from different countries and generations, including a number of courageous industry survivors, *Not for Sale* is both a vital contribution to ongoing debates and a call to action and resistance.

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PORNIFIED: HOW PORNOGRAPHY IS TRANSFORMING OUR LIVES, OUR RELATIONSHIPS, AND OUR FAMILIES

Paul, Pamela. Times Books, New York, New York, 2005.

Welcome to Pornified America. Pornography, once the taboo vice that no one dared mention, has become part of our daily lives - affordable, accessible, anonymous, and, increasingly, acceptable. The all-pornography, all-the-time mentality is everywhere -- on the covers of mainstream men's magazines; in the promotion of music, movie, and television celebrities; and in the advice columns of women's magazines. The Internet is bursting with hardcore pornography, just a mouse-click away; cable and pay-per-view channels teem with porn; and "adult superstores" reel in customers off the interstate. The days of Playboy magazine wrapped in plain brown paper seem quaint. Most striking, pornography has become a big part of the personal lives of many Americans. In *Pornified*, Pamela Paul argues that as porn has become more pervasive it has changed our marriages and families as well as our children's understanding of sex and sexuality. She presents eye-opening portraits of Americans in the age of porn.

THE MACHO PARADOX: WHY SOME MEN HURT WOMEN AND HOW ALL MEN CAN HELP

Katz, Jackson. Sourcebook Inc., Naperville, Illinois, 2006

Katz is cofounder of the Mentors in Violence Prevention Program (MVP), and his focus is on prevention—his intended audience is not violent men who need help changing their ways, but all men, who, he says, have a role to play in preventing male violence against women. His basic assertion is that rape, battering, sexual abuse and harassment are so widespread that they must be viewed as a social problem rooted in our culture, not as the problem of troubled individuals. He urges men to directly confront the misogynistic attitudes and behavior of their peers. Some men may find Katz's advice occasionally baffling: he is full of directions about what not to do (such as paternalistic actions that deprive women of their autonomy). He wants to bring men into the larger discussion of pornography (which, he points out, has been dominated by women) and get them to look at its impact on themselves. Katz also presents eye-opening exercises and discussions from the MVP model that engender productive discussion among participants—usually high school or college students.

PORNOGRAPHY AND SILENCE: CULTURE'S REVENGE AGAINST NATURE

Griffin, Susan. Harper & Row, Publishers, New York, New York, 1981.

For Susan Griffin, pornography is a crucial expression of modern culture and a severe contradiction of the best natural instincts of men and women. She takes us through the texts of pornographic books, the plots and images of X-rated movies, and the pages of innumerable magazines to build an argument that grows steadily in originality and power. *Pornography and Silence* becomes, in the range and depth of its thinking, a profound book about modern society and its often twisted values - a book that can change the way we look at the world and the relation between men and women.

PORNOGRAPHY AND THE SEX CRISIS

Cole, Susan. Amanita Enterprises, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 1989.

Susan G. Cole's convincing radical voice cuts through the righteous moralism and the liberal abstractions that have dominated the pornography debate. *Pornography and the Sex Crisis* is original and challenging. It deals with the lived reality of pornography and takes on the hard questions - what is pornography? What are its effects? What is it doing to sexuality itself? What can we do about it? Cole's answers are persuasive. This book is disturbing enough to set out a new social/sexual agenda for us all.

PORNOGRAPHY: THE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF INEQUALITY

Dines, Gail; Jensen, Robert and Russo, Ann. Routledge, New York, New York, 1998.

No other issue has divided the feminist movement in the past two decades quite like pornography. By providing the first book to engage in an empirical investigation of the pornography industry itself, the authors--each grounded in the radical feminist anti-pornography movement--move beyond the rhetorical bomb-tossing of an often polarized debate. The authors engage in a systematic examination of the politics, production, content, and consumption of contemporary mass-market heterosexual pornography, thereby contributing to a fuller understanding of pornography's role in the cultural construction of gender, racial and sexual identities, and relations. They begin with an overview of the social and political history of the feminist anti-pornography movement and the debate over pornography within feminism. Then they address the various rhetorical dodges--definitional, legal, and causal--used to distort the fact that institutionalized pornography helps maintain the sexual and social oppression of women within a patriarchal system. Exploring the beginnings of the commercial pornography industry, the book focuses in part on the history of Playboy magazine. It also analyzes the content of contemporary mass-market videos. Dines, Jensen, and Russo argue that the sexual ideology of patriarchy eroticizes domination and submission, with pornography playing a significant role in how these values are mediated and normalized in American society. They discuss the effects of pornography on the lives of those who use it and those against whom it is used. In so doing, the authors hope to contribute to creating a world in which sex is not a site of oppression but of liberation.

THE PORN TRAP: THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO OVERCOMING PROBLEMS CAUSED BY PORNOGRAPHY

Marltz, Wendy and Larry Marltz. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2008.

The Porn Trap is the first book to take a comprehensive look at porn addiction and other devastating consequences of porn use, addressing the full range of problems that impact everyone from recreational "dabblers" to compulsive addicts, and the people who care about them. In this groundbreaking book, sex and relationship therapists Wendy and Larry Maltz take on this important subject with wisdom, authority, and compassion. They shed new light on the power of pornography—revealing why it's so easy to develop a serious problem with porn and often hard to break free from its clutches. Without judgment or blame, the Maltzes outline the destructive effects of porn use, and offer a commonsense, practical approach for healing supported by innovative exercises, checklists, and suggestions.

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT: WOMEN ON PORNOGRAPHY

Lederer, Laura. William Morrow and Company, Inc., New York, New York, 1980.

Pornography is a \$4 billion industry in the United States, and its influence has been growing. Its themes, images, and vocabulary have invaded art, advertising, and the media. And a President's commission has declared it "harmless". Women are sharply challenging that conclusion. Pornography is not about sex any longer, if it ever was. It is about violence and subjugation. It incites violence by showing men hurting women and getting away with it, and slanders women by depicting them enjoying and deserving abuse. Take Back the Night is a readable, through-provoking collection of articles, interviews, research, and rousing calls to action by women who are leaders in the struggle to stop violence against women.

MAKING VIOLENCE SEXY: FEMINIST VIEWS ON PORNOGRAPHY

Diana E. H. Russell. Teachers College Press, New York, New York, 1993.

Making Violence Sexy is a collection of feminist articles, including testimonies by survivors of pornography, that together make a convincing case for the view that pornography (as distinct from erotica) causes harm to women, including acts of violence.

PORNOGRAPHY: MEN POSSESSING WOMEN

Dworkin, Andrea. Perigee Books, New York, New York, 1981. PN.D993p

This is a book about the meaning of pornography and the system of power in which pornography exists. Its particular theme is the power of men in pornography.

THE PROSTITUTION OF SEXUALITY: THE GLOBAL EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN

Barry, Kathleen. New York University Press, New York, New York, 1995.

In The Prostitution of Sexuality, Kathleen Barry assesses how far we have come in the fifteen years since the publication of Female Sexual Slavery, and more importantly, how far we have still to go. Shifting her focus from the sexuality of prostitution to the prostitution of sexuality, Barry exposes exploitation, from teenage sexuality and marriage to the flourishing Asian "sex tour" industry, emphasizing the worldwide role of the expanding multi-billion dollar pornography industry. Breaking new ground, Barry convincingly argues for the need to integrate the struggle against sexual exploitation in prostitution into broader feminist struggles and to place it, as one of several connected issues, at the forefront of the feminist agenda.

TOWARD A FEMINIST THEORY OF THE STATE

MacKinnon, Catharine A.. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1989

Toward a Feminist Theory of the State presents Catharine MacKinnon's powerful analysis of politics, sexuality, and the law from the perspective of women. Using the debate over Marxism and feminism as a point of departure, MacKinnon develops a theory of gender centered on sexual subordination and applies it to the state. The result is an informed and compelling critique of inequality and a transformative vision of a direction for social change.

DANGEROUS RELATIONSHIPS: PORNOGRAPHY, MISOGYNY, AND RAPE

Russell, Diana H.. Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, California, 1998.

Diana E. H. Russell, well-known for her pioneer research on the prevalence of rape and child sexual abuse, the reality of wife rape, the trauma of incestuous abuse, and the misogynist killing of women (femicide), breaks new ground once again in her analysis of pornography and its relationship with misogyny and rape. In this unflinching and uncompromising volume, Diana E. H. Russell examines the relationships between pornography, misogyny, and rape. As the title implies, Russell contends that these relationships are in fact dangerous to women. Dangerous Relationships begins by dealing with the vexing and thorny issue of defining pornography and considers the various types of pornographic materials that are commonly available. Russell turns to the notion that hatred of women is a predominate aspect of pornography and that racist undercurrents are often exploited in visual pornography of all types. She examines the conception of pornography as a cause of rape and provides a rich body of statistical evidence supporting the

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relationship. *Dangerous Relationships* argues forcefully that pornography indeed has victims and is a call to arms against the misogyny it engenders. Because pornography is increasingly accessible through the Internet, CD ROMs, digital cameras, and new technology, *Dangerous Relationships* will be important to scholars in the fields of violence against women, child abuse, interpersonal violence, deviant psychology, sociology, and criminal justice.

TRANSFORMING A RAPE CULTURE

Buchwald, Emilie, Fletcher, Pamela and Roth, Martha. Milkweed Editions, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1993.

Originally published in hardcover in 1993, *Transforming a Rape Culture* has provided a new understanding of sexual violence and its origins in this culture. This groundbreaking work seeks nothing less than fundamental cultural change: the transformation of basic attitudes about power, gender, race, and sexuality. The diverse contributors to this acclaimed book are activists, opinion leaders, theologians, policymakers, educators, and authors of both genders. Tackling controversial issues, including pornography and the intersection of race and rape, this book is a much needed step toward elimination the sources of rape and the rape culture.

VIDEOS:

THE PRICE OF PLEASURE: PORNOGRAPHY, SEXUALITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

MEA. Northampton, MA: Media Education Foundation, 2008. 56 mins.

This eye-opening and disturbing film tackles the complexity behind this seeming paradox, placing the voices of critics, producers, and performers alongside the observations of men and women as they candidly discuss the role pornography has played in shaping their sexual imaginations and relationships. An ideal tool for initiating classroom discussion about this notoriously difficult subject. DVD contains two version: an unexpurgated version (including explicit "hardcore" pornographic images) and a special "blurred" version edited for the classroom. Viewer discretion advised: contains violence, nudity, and sexual imagery.

TEENS HOOKED ON PORN

BBC Active. Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities and Sciences, 2007. 57 mins.

Whether they live in America, Britain, or elsewhere, most teenage boys have been exposed to some form of pornography. But the Internet has radically escalated that exposure—to the point at which many adolescents are addicted. This program follows the stories of teenage porn addicts as they struggle with the issues that drive their behavior—although not all are open to soul-searching. Darryl, age 17, doesn't think he has a problem, but 16-year-old Malcolm has recognized his addiction and has begun seeing a therapist. Colin, age 14 and a devout Christian, needs help too but is unsure about approaching his pastor. All of their stories are tied together by issues of anger, aggression, and inhibition, and raise questions about the role of parents.

A DRUG CALLED PORNOGRAPHY: UNDERSTANDING THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF PORNOGRAPHY

United Broadcast Group, 2000.

A video that explores the question of whether pornography is simply a form of entertainment or has negative side effects to its use. It takes a detailed look at the negative effects of pornography: addiction, sex -miseducation, desensitization, conditioning and acting out. With the deluge of pornography there is an immediate need for education about how pornography harms users and those around them. No pornographic images are shown in this video.

VOICES FROM THE UNDERGROUND: SURVIVORS OF PROSTITUTION SPEAK OUT

Shot on home video camera, this film exposes the reality of prostitution and pornography in the U.S. and Canada primarily through interviews with women used in systematic prostitution. The video features testimony, political analysis, art, activism, and poetry from five survivor/activists against prostitution along with music by Consolidated.

WEB RESOURCES:

Robert Jensen: <http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~rjensen/index.html/>

Gail Dines: <http://users.rcn.com/gaildines/>

Against Pornography: <https://www.againstpornography.org/>

Activist blog: <http://antipornographyactivist.blogspot.com/>

Stop Porn Culture: <http://stoppornculture.org>