

# Interrupting Patterns of White Feminism

---

White Noise Collective  
Zara Zimbardo and Nicole Wires

SURJ National Political Education call -- April 18, 2017

# Agenda

- 20 min. Introduction, framing & presentation on:
  - Feminist Solidarity & Exclusion
  - Recurring Narratives of White Women
- 5 min. Surfacing Questions
- 10 min. Presentation: How These Patterns Show Up Today
- 10 min. Breakout Discussions
- 10 min. Sharing Reflections
- 5 min. Closing: Resources & Legacies of Resistance

# What is the White Noise Collective?

We explore how internalized white privilege and gender oppression intersect, and investigate ways this can show up, or limit the potential of, white anti-racism work.

We ground ourselves in the big questions of:

- What have been the role(s) of white women in upholding the system of white supremacist patriarchy?
- How can white women disrupt this system?

# Intersectionality

The concept and reality that it is not enough to take on one system of oppression without acknowledging other forms of oppression that interlock and fuel one another.



Kimberlé Crenshaw



Patricia Hill Collins



# Feminist Solidarity and Exclusion

---



# WOMEN'S MARCH

- ON WASHINGTON -



# First-wave Feminism



# Second-wave Feminism





Does history need to keep repeating itself?



**Rania Khalek**

@RaniaKhalek



 Follow

**#SolidarityIsForWhiteWomen** when convos about gender pay gap ignore that white women earn higher wages than black, Latino and Native men.

 Reply  Retweet  Favorite  More

**842**  
RETWEETS

**393**  
FAVORITES



10:27 AM - 12 Aug 13

# We All Can Do It!

soirart.tumblr

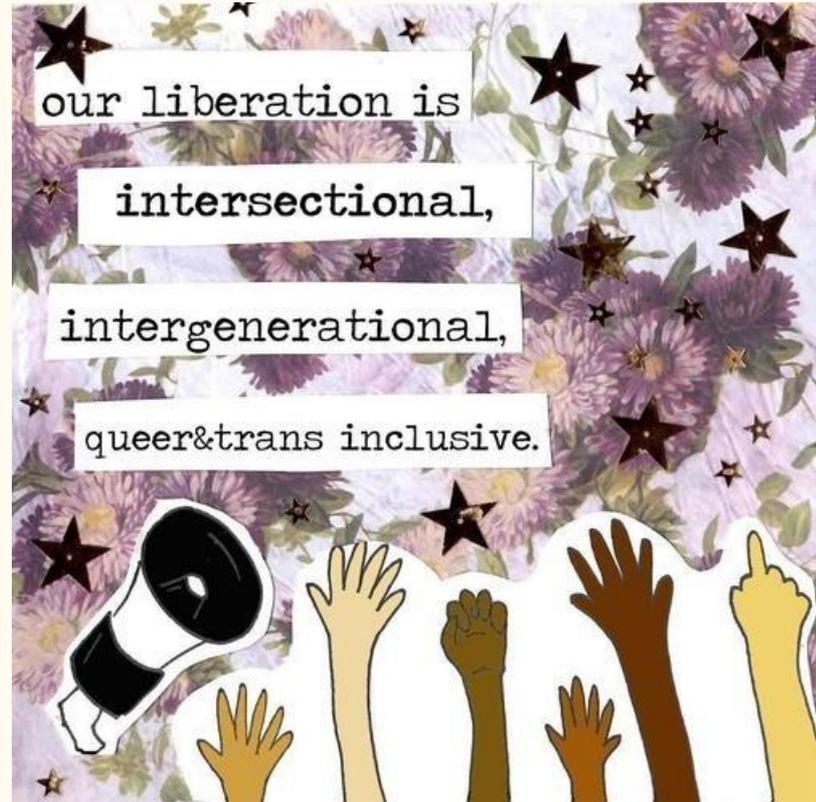


our liberation is

intersectional,

intergenerational,

queer&trans inclusive.

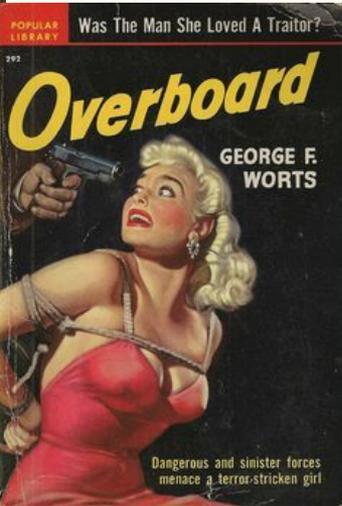


# Narratives Then and Now

---

# Captivity Narratives



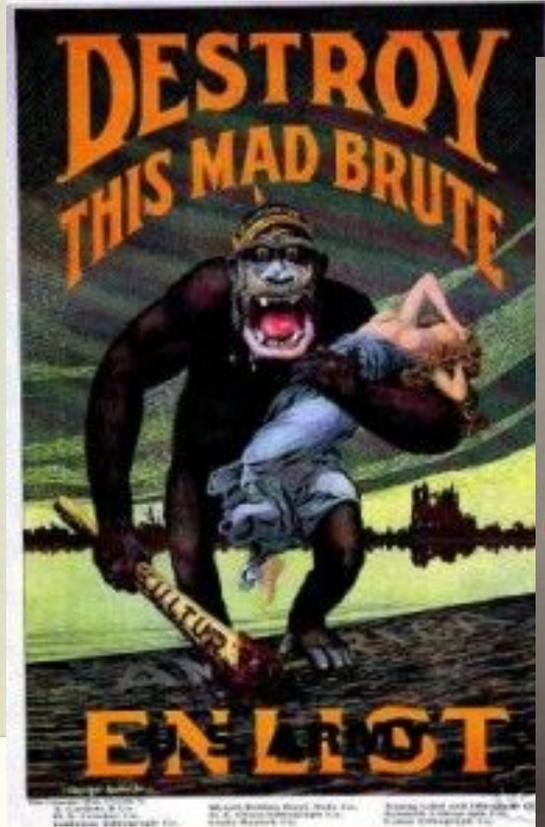


Virtuous Victim Narrative

Bruce CABOT Fay WRAY Robert ARMSTRONG



regia: M. COOPER e E. SCHOEDSACK



**VOGUE** APR

**Perfect Fit**  
DRESSING FOR EVERY SHAPE FROM SIZE 0 TO 16

Plus **87** Swimsuits to Flatter Every Figure

**You Are (Not) What You Eat**  
Debunking Diet Myths

**NO-EXERCISE DIET**  
What Happens When You Quit the Gym

**SHAPE ISSUE**  
Secrets of the Best Bodies  
GISELE & LeBRON  
+ the World's Top Models and Star Athletes

**THE POWER OF AN HOUR**  
How Fast Can You Get Fit?

0 000000 000000

# Tulsa Race Riots - 1921



## ***Nab Negro for Attacking Girl In an Elevator***

A negro delivery boy who gave his name to the police as "Diamond Trick" but who has been identified as



**EMMETT LOUIS TILL**

28 · AUG · 1955 MONEY, MS

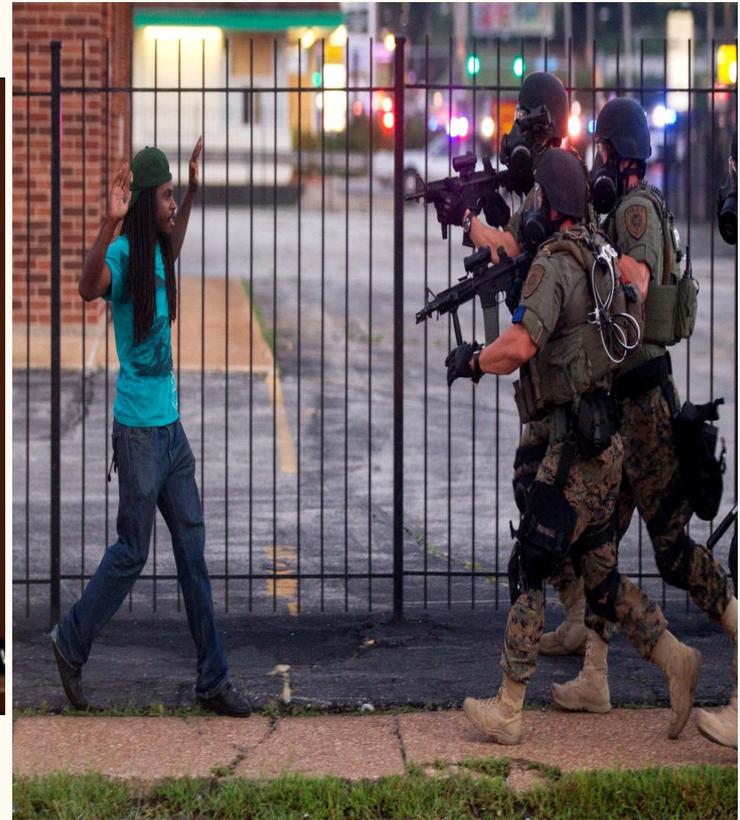


Fun-loving Emmett Till of Chicago was on summer vacation with relatives when he apparently whistled at a white woman.

Two white men kidnapped, beat and shot Till, 14, and threw him in the Tallahatchie River. Though his killers were acquitted, Till's brutalized face, photographed in his casket, helped launch the civil rights movement.



# State Violence





# Lynch: Military lied

Despite U.S. reports, she never fired a shot

BY ERIN MCCLAM  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pr. Jessica Lynch said Tuesday she is disturbed that the military seemed to overdramatize her rescue by U.S. troops and spread false stories that she went down shooting in an Iraqi ambush.

"That wasn't me. I wasn't about to take credit for something I didn't do," she told The Associated Press. "I'm not that person."

The 20-year-old former Army supply clerk — twig-thin and weary, one crutch close at hand — described her ordeal in a Veterans Day interview seven months after the rescue made her a national hero.

Reports circulated by the U.S. military early in the war said Lynch waged a fierce gunbattle with Iraqi fighters who ambushed her 507th Maintenance Company on March 23 at Nasiriyah. She has since said her rifle jammed, and she did not get off a shot.

And Lynch's new book points out that, despite the "tension and drama" of the military videotape showing gun-toting U.S. soldiers rushing into an Iraqi hospital to rescue her, the hospital staff never resisted, and even offered the troops a key.

"It disturbed me," Lynch said. "I knew that it wasn't the truth."

Still, the ex-prisoner of war from rural West Virginia took pains to say that she does not care why the military may have exaggerated her story, and that she considers the soldiers who rescued her April 1 to be heroes.

"No matter what it was, the point is that they got in there, they rescued me, and they took me home safe," she said.

Lynch, who has fair skin and fine blond hair that falls to her shoulders, physically recoils when she recounts her time in the hospital, a time when



Jessica Lynch says she is "disturbed" by military reports that falsely stated she went down shooting in an Iraqi ambush and dramatized her rescue.

SEE LYNCH, PAGE 8



How do these  
patterns inhabit  
consciousness,  
behavior,  
relationships?

---

# The desire to save...



# Looking away from privilege...



**PULL YOURSELF UP BY YOUR BOOTSTRAPS**

**THE TRUTH ABOUT WHITE PRIVILEGE**  
Talking Points does not believe in white privilege.

FOX NEWS .com

Talking Points Commentary

the O'Reilly FACTOR



# White Fragility and White Women's Tears...



A desire to be seen as good...



Hold each other responsible



But don't throw each other under the bus



# Cultural Appropriation



# Discussion Prompts

- What thoughts, feelings, and sensations come up as you listened to this presentation?
- Which, if any, of the historical narratives or interpersonal patterns do you identify with or recognize in your paid or unpaid work for racial justice?
- What opportunities do you identify for undermining or transforming these patterns and narratives in your life and work?

## **A Letter to White Southern Women from Anne Braden:**

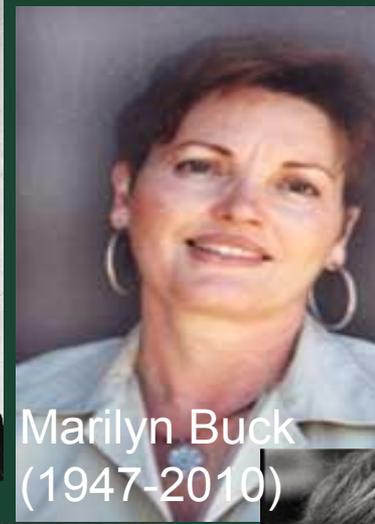
“I believe that no White woman reared in the South – or perhaps anywhere in this racist country – can find freedom as a woman until she deals in her own consciousness with the question of race. We grow up little girls – absorbing a hundred stereotypes about ourselves and our role in life, our secondary position, our destiny to be a helpmate to a man or men. But we also grow up White – absorbing the stereotypes of race, the picture of ourselves as somehow privileged because of the color of our skin. The two mythologies become intertwined, and there is no way to free ourselves from one without dealing with the other.”



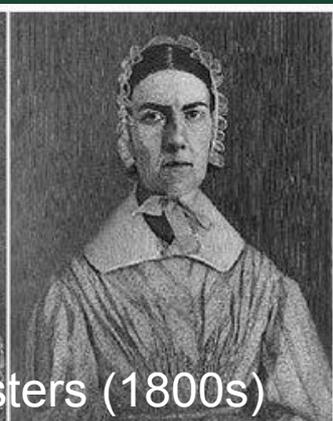
Lillian Eugenia Smith  
(1897-1966)



Peggy Terry



Marilyn Buck  
(1947-2010)



The Grimké Sisters (1800s)



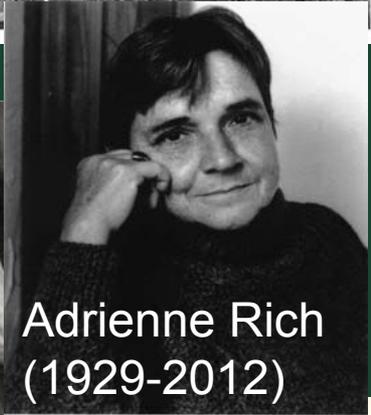
Ricky Sherover-Marcuse  
(1938-1988)



Virginia Foster Durr  
(1903-1999)



Anne Braden  
(1924 -2006)



Adrienne Rich  
(1929-2012)



Jessie Daniel Ames



Mab Segrest



Frances E. Kendall