

MY ATTEMPTS TOWARDS A MORE INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISM
BY KIMBERLY CAPRON GONZALEZ



I grew up in the feminist famine time between second wave and third wave feminism. I wasn't a Riot Grrrl in the early 90s, but I was a Punk Rock Girl.

The Miami punk scene was pretty small and I was mostly just happy to hang out at Churchill's and drink beer and date the guys that were in the bands. I lived in a disgusting punk-house where we had Wonder Bread nailed to the walls and the bathroom floor had fallen in (you had to walk to the pipes to get to the toilet). Miami, at the time and actually even now, is not a pop-culture center... we're kinda late adopters here; it takes a while for things to make their all way down here (We JUST got a place to get a decent Bahn Mi sandwich in 2017 and this is a major metro area!).

I actually discovered Riot Grrrl music in the mid to late 90s. It was the music that I liked first, and because Riot Grrrl as a "movement" had pretty much dissolved. I mean, we didn't have THE INTERNET for the first half of the 90s. Sometimes I wonder how we even survived. Seriously.

Anyway, if you read the lyrics, you realize that these bands were feminist as hell, and I liked it. I wasn't really an "active" feminist in the 90s, I never took any Women's Studies classes, but I did like the "Girl Positive" message -- I mean, of course.

It really wasn't until Trump was running for president that I started thinking about feminism seriously. The reality is that feminism wasn't in the forefront of my mind. That's the ugly truth. I didn't get angry enough until the threat level was code red. All of a sudden, with Hillary Clinton's loss to someone who is clearly unfit (and so many other unworthy-of-being-president-things) and the Women's March and all that stuff, feminism was everywhere and on my mind. I designed a few tee shirts. Made a few stickers. Sorry to say, but I am something of a "slacktivist." It's true.

I started to think that I wanted to do a Riot Grrrl Zine: 21st Century Edition, and check in on the state of RG twenty-five years after the fact. The more research I did into early third wave feminism (and second and first too), the more disappointed I felt with how exclusionary these movements were.

I was aware of the criticism that Riot Grrrl had received for being very white and very exclusionary to POC, and it's not that I didn't believe that, but it had been so long since I looked at this movement, that it had dimmed somewhat in my conscience. I was caught off-guard, and started checking-in on the state of my own feminism.

The term Intersectional Feminism has been around a while. Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term "intersectionality" in her 1989 essay, "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics.

Yes, I had heard of it. Yes, I agreed with it.

But I realized that just because I agreed with the idea, I wasn't really working to make my viewpoints and activism more inclusive. I was being totally intellectually lazy about the whole situation.

What started for me as a nostalgic review of a time and a movement, became a very personal, introspective journey to question where I stand as a feminist today. It made me think about and want to become better. A better feminist. A better person. A better ally. How can MY feminism be more intersectional?

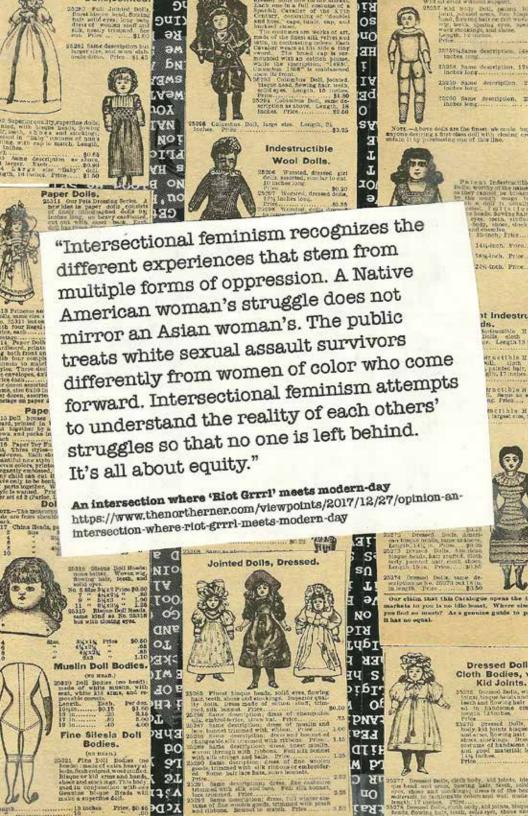
I am certainly no expert on intersectional feminism.

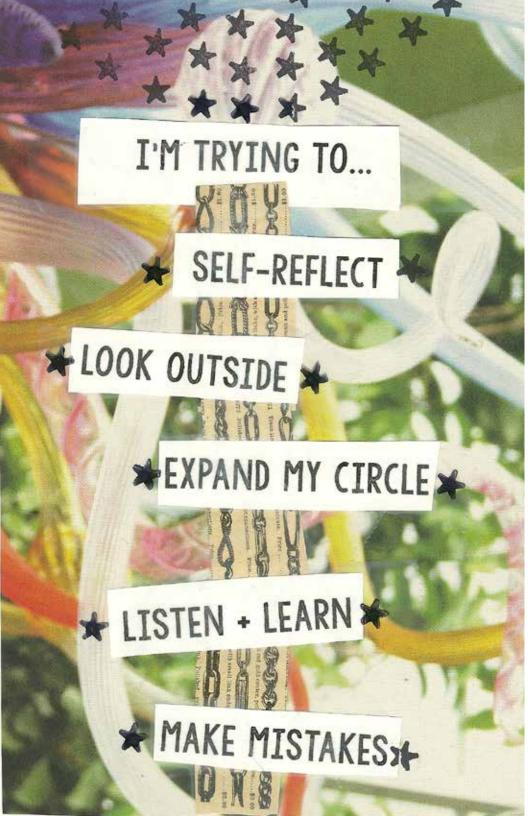
I'm not here to tell anyone what to do or how their activism should be. I'm writing this zine because I want to share my own thoughts and actions. Maybe someone will find this zine helpful, maybe not. But it has helped me to start a conversation.

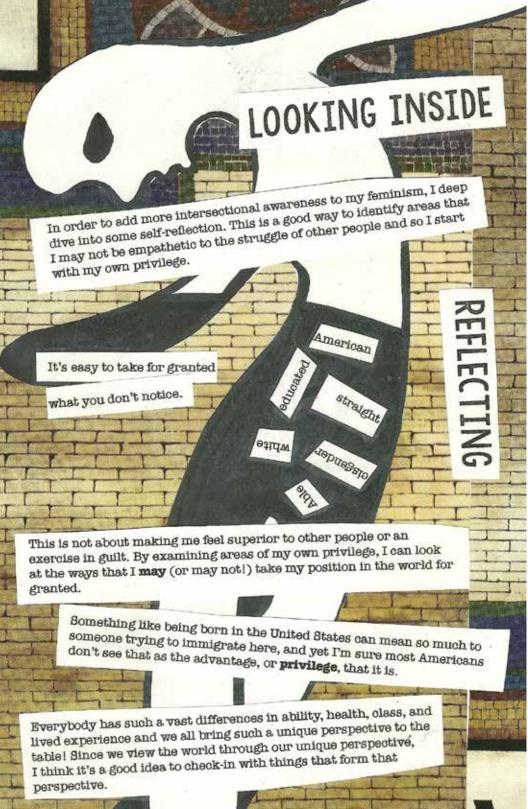
The aesthetics of Riot Grrrl still appear in my art. I still make Le Tigre tee shirts. I write zines. I listen to the music. One of the early Bikini Kill slogans (and the name of their first cassette demo in 1991) was "Revolution Girl Style Now!" Many a show commenced with Kathleen Hanna screaming these words as the band started their first song.

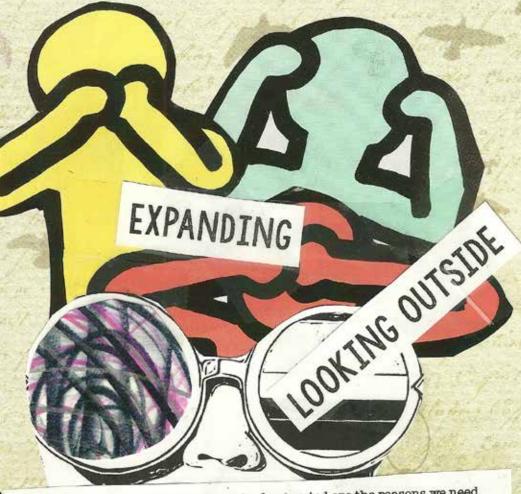
I'm changing that for the 21st century to something that reflects my growth into a more enlightened feminist.

REVOLUTION WOMAN STYLE NOW!









The things our privileges allow us to take for granted are the reasons we need intersectional analysis to do truly inclusive feminist work. Without it, it's easy to center feminism around either our own experiences or the experiences of those who are already the most privileged in society.

So make an effort to avoid centring feminism around yourself or people of privilege. Because society is more likely to listen to a White woman talk about racism than a person of color, for example, White feminists need to be mindful that they're not talking over or for people of color.

No matter what work you do or what your privileges are, take care to step back when things aren't about you, educate yourself on things that don't affect you, and pay attention when people speak to their experiences.

LILL WESSET HARMAN

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by Jarune Uwujaren and Jamie Utt, January 11, 2015 https://everydayfeminism.com/2015/01/why-our-feminism-must-be-intersectional One easy thing that I'm doing is more consciously curating my social media to include more diversity. Not surprisingly, people tend to surround themselves with others that have like-thinking. By following a wider group of people, I have learned so much. Sometimes I agree with them, sometimes I don't, but at least I'm not completely consuming content that comes from people with the same situation and mind-set as myself.

It's the easiest way for me to me to broaden my views on sections that I don't have in my life and listen to those voices that I may never otherwise hear.

Yes, it's true, the Internet can be a huge time-suck, too much time screen time, politics turns ugly, trolls abound, and it can be a tsunami of misinformation. But, there is just SO MUCH OUT THERE to learn and cool people to connect with!



opposing unilateral & colonial legislation & supporting A grassroots advocacy just elicky-elicki



INTERSECTIONAL TWITTER

Linda Sarsour

Palestinian-American-Muslim, born @lsarsour and raised Brooklyn, organizer, civil rights activist, National Co-Chair of @womensmarch

Intersectional Feminist

@Inter Feminist Intersectional Feminism is the ONLY feminsim. Pro-choice. Pro-rights.

Laverne Cox

Two time Emmy Nominated Actress @Lavernecox and Emmy winning producer. #TransIsBeautiful

Yara shahidi

@YaraShahidi We, too, are America

Jessica Valenti

@Jessica Valenti Feminist author, @GuardianUS columnist,

Keah Brown

@Keah Maria Brown is a freelance writer, journalist, and creator of #DisabledAndCute. She is a firm believer that it is important to hear from all communities, especially the disability community.

Alicia Garza

@aliciagarza Garza is the co-founder of the Black Lives Matter Movement

Denice Frohman

@denicefrohman Poet-Educator-Performer. @CantoMundoFellow. NuyoJewricanqueer.

The Real bell hooks

@bellhooks Author, Feminist, Teacher and Scholar-bell hooks.

Dolores Huerta

@DoloresHuerta President, Dolores Huerta Foundation; Co-founder, United Farm Workers

Jazz Jennings

@JazzJennings emerace who you are

rowane gay

@rgav

I write. I want a tiny baby elephant. If you clap, I clap back. Books .: Ayiti, Untamed State, Bad Feminist. Difficult Women, World of Wakanda 1-8, Hunger.

LISTEN + LEARN

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Up to recently, I had gotten kinda lazy about learning in a more cerebral way. I'm a teacher, so I'm always learning software (Adobe forever!!) and DIY stuff like how to make my own eyeliner remover (disaster) or getting sucked into Youtube tutorial videos (Like, I said, I love the Internet). I feel like I'm a lifelong learner -- hell, I AM a lifelong learner! But, with all the everyday life stuff, I got lazy about the hard, inquiry-type learning that requires critical thinking. I stopped asking contemplative questions. I stopped asking ANY questions.

*I'm asking questions. You know how kids ask tons of questions? Like that, but in my brain to myself and the Internet (and friends!).

Pm Reading. Obviously. But, I'm trying to read more slowly, digest the information more slowly and be more critical of it. (There is a reading list at the end of this zine; check some stuff out! Srsly, use the library, it rocks)

I'm getting involved with more diverse organizations and community groups. Right now I volunteer with Girls Rock Camp Miami -- an awesome organization! I'm making it a priority to seek out groups that support intersectional thinking and actually go do some work with them. (miamigirlsrockcamp.org)

I'm LISTENING to the experiences of others. Taking a step back, respecting their lived experience, and thinking about what they said. (This is really important. Pretty much always, I have learned, it's better to shut-up and think about something before I chime in with my opinion about something I really know nothing about.)

* One note about question asking: I'm asking these questions mostly to myself and then doing lots of research to figure out answers. I have noticed that people tend to "want the information for free" and ask A LOT of activists and others who are writing/blogging/tweeting about issues. Things can get kind of ugly because when these individuals say that "it's not THEIR responsibility to educate the general public", then the people asking get testy about it because "they are just trying to understand".

BUT, IT'S REALLY NOT THEIR JOB TO BE YOUR RESEARCH ASSISTANT.

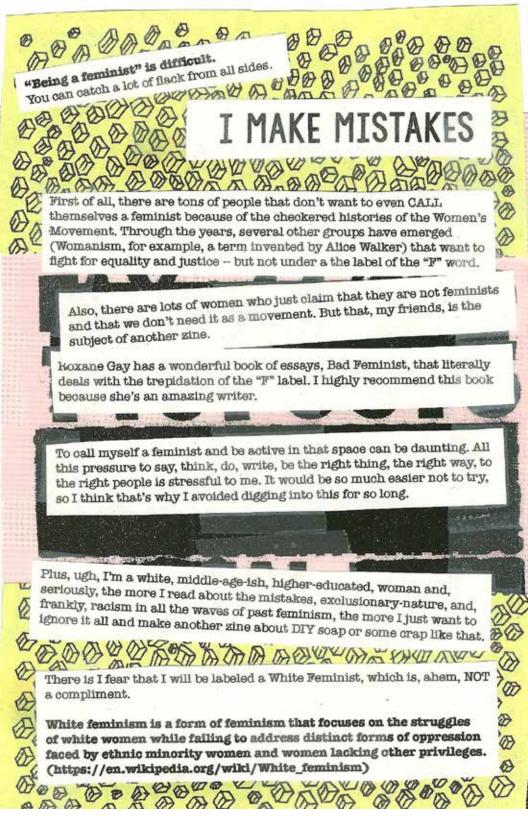
I get this because: I know Photoshop really well, and people always want me to teach them stuff, like because I know Photoshop it's my responsibility or something. Like, the only effort they need to put in is to ask the questions. But I've worked really hard on learning this program for a really long time. My brain is always like, "Go watch some tutorials online... put in some practice... use GOOGLE for the love that all that is good. Ugh!" That's why I know why they get annoyed.;)

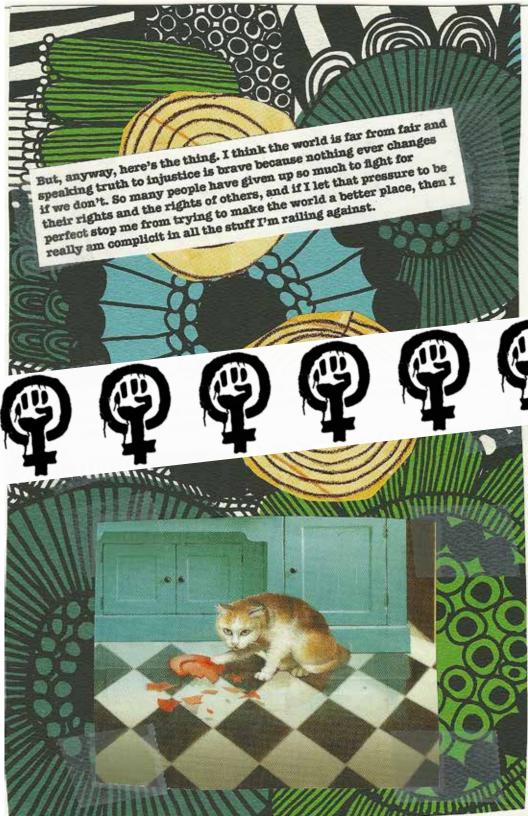
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B & Abut with a shorter hair. Using the brush produces a thin line, excellent for our

ne long-haired by

Sable







Hooks, Bell. Feminist Theory from Margin to Center. South End Press, 1984.

Cooper, Brittney C. Eloquent Rage: a Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower. St. Martin's Press, 2018.

Gay, Roxane. Bad Feminist: Essays. Olive Editions, 2017.

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Anchor Books, 1997.



