



gwaMIT's internal Board reflection on intersectional feminism and white feminism: Reading list for Summer 2020

As part of gwaMIT's commitments to Black Lives Matter and Black graduate womxn at MIT, the Board will participate in an annual mandatory reading and discussion group on both intersectional feminism and white feminism. Following the reading period, the Board will have a reflective discussion on how gwaMIT can be a more inclusive organization.

Each Board member was asked to propose some materials for the reading period that spoke to them on these topics. Thank you very much to everyone who contributed! Each submission was unique and thoughtful, and we strongly encourage everyone to look at all the submissions. However, in order to ensure that everyone can engage deeply with the same material in the next two weeks, we have selected a few of the submissions for the mandatory reading. (The remaining proposed materials are included at the end of this document as a resource collection for those who have the time and interest to continue their reading.)

While you read and watch the following materials, please consider the following general questions:

- What is something you have learned that has moved you deeply? Has anything resonated strongly with you? Has anything changed your mind or altered your perceptions?
- Has any of the material generated further questions for you? These topics are complex and nuanced, so it's okay to feel uncertain.
- Kimberlé Crenshaw wrote that "Intersectionality is not additive. It's fundamentally reconstitutive." How does this theme appear again and again in the following materials?
- What are some ways in which you personally would like to see gwaMIT become more inclusive across its many missions (professional development, community building, outreach, advocacy, etc.)? What kinds of intersectional initiatives overlap with your passions?

Required reading list

1. Complementary articles:
 - o ["When Feminism Is White Supremacy in Heels"](#)

- Author: Rachel Cargle
 - Estimated time to read: 8 minutes
- “Challenging Imperial Feminism”
 - Authors: Valerie Amos and Pratibha Parmar
 - Link (sign in to MIT to access):
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3874364?seq=>
 - Estimated time to read: 25 minutes
- [“Until Black Women Are Free, None of Us Will Be Free”](#)
 - Author: Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor
 - Estimated time to read: 20 minutes
- [“What Does ‘Hood Feminism’ Mean for a Pandemic?”](#)
 - Karen Grigsby Gates’ interview of Hood Feminism author Mikki Kendall
 - Estimated time to read the condensed interview: 5 minutes
- To consider: How has white feminism, especially as practiced by self-described white liberal feminists, been used to dismiss and oppress womxn of color broadly and Black womxn in particular? What are the principles of Black feminism, and how are they different from mainstream white feminism? In what ways is it especially important to consider the intersections of race, gender, and class in a world shaped by COVID-19?

2. Complementary articles:

- [“‘Model Minority’ Myth Again Used As A Racial Wedge Between Asians And Blacks”](#)
 - Author: Kat Chow
- [“Feminism And Race: Just Who Counts As A ‘Woman Of Color’?”](#)
 - Author: Lindsey Yoo
- Total estimated time to read: 15 minutes
- To consider: How do systems of white supremacy, history, and geopolitics interactively result in different kinds of oppression for different racial groups? How can we build solidarity between womxn across racial and ethnic groups?

3. Complementary materials:

- [“A Conversation With Native Americans on Race”](#)
 - From the New York Times, directed by Michèle Stephenson and Brian Young
 - Estimated time to watch: 7 minutes
- [“In Indian Country, a Crisis of Missing Women. And a New One When They’re Found.”](#)
 - Author: Jack Healy
 - Estimated time to read: 10 minutes
- To consider: How are Indigenous people and womxn in particular erased by political and economic forces in the United States?

4. Episode clip from "The Bold Type" TV show (on Hulu)
 - Season 2, Episode 2: ["Kat Edison's Bio"](#)
 - Estimated time to watch: 2 minutes

Optional supplementary materials

1. ["Sisterhood is Scarce"](#)
 - Harvard Business Review Women at Work podcast episode featuring Professors Stella M. Nkomo and Ella L.J. Bell Smith
2. ["Domestic Violence Across Race and Ethnicity Implications for Social Work Practice and Policy"](#)
 - Authors: Susan Grossman and Marta Lundy
 - Abstract: "Domestic violence occurs across all ethnic and racial groups, profoundly affecting women, who are most frequently the victims. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that by 2050, 50% of the population will be minorities. To contribute to the growing literature on race and domestic violence, this article uses data derived from domestic violence programs in a large Midwestern state between 1990 and 1995 to focus on the experiences of victims who sought services and examine how they vary by race and ethnicity. The limitations as well as practice and policy implications of the findings are discussed."
3. [White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack](#)
 - Author: Peggy McIntosh
4. [The Trouble with White Feminism: Whiteness, Digital Feminism and the Intersectional Internet](#)
 - Author: Jessie Daniels
5. [Concerned, meet terrified: Intersectional feminism and the Women's March](#)
 - Authors: Sierra Brewer and Lauren Dundes
6. [Black Feminist Thought in the Matrix of Domination](#)
 - Author: Patricia Hill Collins
7. ["I'm a Jew of color. I won't be quiet about anti-Semitism."](#)
 - Author: Soraya Nadia McDonald