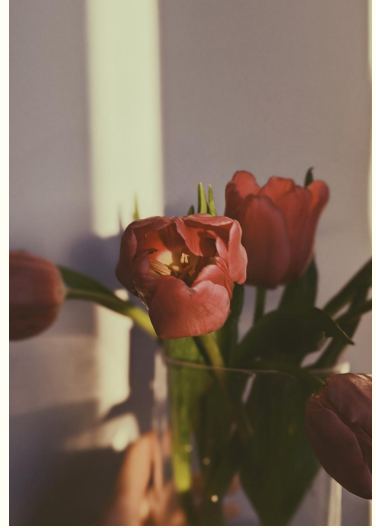


*FUTURE
OF FEMINISM
& DISABILITIES*



Rebecca Ruhnke

Overview on How Disabilities are Impacted Through Feminism

What is Feminist Disability Studies: "scrutinizes how people with a wide range of physical, mental, and emotional differences are collectively imagined as defective and excluded from an equal place in the social order" - Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, *Feminist Disability Studies*

Activism then & now:

Protests [see image]

- Voting
- Social Media
- Writers and Public Speakers



Photograph of Activist Rosa May Billinghurst, 1908

Stereotypes & Treatment

Women & AFAB

- Too 'emotional'
- Too 'talkative'
- Menstruation & Pregnancy are often blamed for any behavior
- Too 'bossy'
- Must remain feminine
- Must remain desirable
- Must be polite
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[Intersectionality]

- Too 'crazy'
- Too 'incapable'
- Too 'weak'
- Often misdiagnosed
- More likely to get assaulted or harassed

Those With Disabilities

- Too 'stupid'
- Too 'needy'
- Deserve pity
- Cannot be productive in life
- In constant pain
- Must all look and talk the same way
- 'Brave' to be who they are

How Women with ADHD are Misdiagnosed

Hyperactivity is mistaken as the stereotype that girls 'talk too much.'

Mood swings is mistaken as the stereotype that women are 'too emotional' or 'on their period.'

Inability to focus may stem from the stereotype that girls are 'daydreamers'

"Moreover, to attend to the meaning of women's experiences of ADHD within a sociopolitical and cultural context is critical to prevent a sole reduction of women's experience to a priori categories of normality and abnormality."

"...a majority of children in original DSM field trials were young European American boys (Lahey et al., 1994). Because of the narrow scope and lack of gender specificity, girls and adult women are often at a disadvantage and may be misdiagnosed (Taylor & Keltner, 2002)."

How Can We Fix This?

"Talking about disability disability access and related issues should not just be the sole responsibility of disability advocates and ambassadors or disability charities. The disability community needs to be better supported by business leaders and those who can help to amplify the voices and issues of the world's largest minority." - Lisa Cox (Disability Activist & Author)

Psychiatrists, therapists, doctors, and nurses of any kind should be educated on and look out for signs of:

- how those with disabilities are more likely to be assaulted (even by fellow coworkers)
- How those who are feminine presenting are more likely to be misdiagnosed do to stereotypes
- Should know how intersectionality affects treatment and diagnosis
- How to properly identify and handle a disability

Laws should be put in place that protect individuals from being dismissed or abused by any system (especially healthcare)



Continued

"However, she was perturbed by the ableism that persisted "even among feminists," citing, for example, an occasion when she was called a "looney" by "women defining themselves as feminists and living in a space defined as women's space.""

Check up on fellow feminists to find out if they are prioritizing the needs of those with disabilities as well

GO OUT AND VOTE!

Find out if your local politicians value disability awareness



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