The Jezebel Stereotype: A Reading List

The Jezebel stereotype portrays Black women as sexually promiscuous. The stereotype leads to a societal belief that Black women need various forms of social control including restricted access to reproductive care. Historically, the stereotype helped to justify a wide range of abuses against Black bodies including rape and lynching. The stereotype lives on in modern form in hiphop caricatures of Black women as the “hoe” or “golddigger.” Black feminists across a wide range of academic disciplines have discussed the Jezebel stereotype and the ways it affects Black women.

This list features suggested reading for those interested in the Jezebel stereotype, a fundamental figure in the study of Black women and sexuality. Most of the articles and books on this list come from academics, particularly in the social sciences. Blogs come from news source as well as Black women bloggers who discuss Black feminism. Finally, the list ends with a few pop culture references including videos, songs, and films that highlight how the Jezebel stereotype affects Black women in everyday life.

This reading list benefits first and foremost undergraduate students or early career graduate students interested in using a Black feminist lens in their research. If this reading list benefits you or if you have any suggestions, be sure to let me know at blackfeminisms.com/contact.

Books


Blogs, Videos, and Pop Culture References

- Black Women in the Media: Mammy, Jezebel, or Angry - Taylor Gordon <http://atlantablackstar.com/2013/03/04/black-women-in-the-media-mammy-jezebel-or-angry/>.


- Black women’s sexuality has always been overpoliced <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/sep/15/black-womens-sexuality-overpoliced-daniele-watts-handcuffed>.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQ7Xmvwcto0


- Jezebel Stereotype - Britney Abrahams <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMklCc8rUJU>

- 3 Black Female Stereotypes that Need to Die | Decoded | MTV News<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQO7XoANYb8&feature=youtu.be>


### Articles


Clark, Meredith D. 2014. “To Tweet Our Own Cause: A Mixed-Methods Study Of The Online Phenomenon “black Twitter.” University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.


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Gray, Kishonna L. 2014. *Race, Gender, and Deviance on Xbox Live*.


Lewis, Sydney Fonteyn. 2012. “‘Everything I Know about Being Femme I Learned from Sula’ or Toward a Black Femme-Inist Criticism.” *Trans-Scripts* 2:100–125.


Noble, Safiya Umoja. 2012. “Searching For Black Girls: Old Traditions In New Media.”


Sheets, Crystal Faye. 2012. “State Injustice: Trapping Black Women As ‘sex Offenders’ For Prostitution In ‘the Big Easy.’”


Identity of Black Young Women.” *Sex Roles* 64(7–8):530–42.


