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Intersections and interventions: Making visible the invisible violence of power

2019

VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDE

In this Equity Studies in Education lecture, Dr. Yasmin Jiwani focuses on the role of the mainstream media in making visible, hyper-visible and invisible the violence of power. Through intersectional frames of analysis of specific spectacular cases of violence, Dr. Jiwani interrogates how frames make certain bodies legible by situating them in a matrix of meaning that rationalizes certain kinds of responses and valuations of worthiness and grievability. Dr. Jiwani ends with an examination of various tactical interventions as pedagogies of hope in countering and talking back to the violence(s) of power.

keywords: intersectionality, violence, anti-violence, power, media, hegemony, Reena Virk, war on terror, murdered Indigenous women and girls, racism, patriarchy

Discussion questions

- 1) What does intersectionality mean to you? How does it manifest in your life? Dr. Jiwani mentions the Muslim ban, the returning ISIS brides, the Missing and Murdered Women as examples of intersections that have drawn attention. Can you think of other examples?
- 2) In what ways do media shape our daily lives and our understanding of power?
- 3) When does difference “matter” and “not matter”?
- 4) How does the media portrayal of the missing and murdered women as the story of individual women in the wrong place at the wrong time



(or the story of an individual dim-witted serial killer) contribute to masking the structural violence in these women's lives?

5) How do tactics of resistance contribute to grievability?

Further reading

Intersectionality Research Hub: www.intersectionalityhub.ca

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