Feminist Theory Colloquium
Professor Tina Campt
Spring 2014

Final Assignment: “Theory-Praxis Paper”

This year’s colloquium has attempted to link the work of feminist theorists of the body to activist engagements in a number of different sites of engagement. These sites include:

- the African Women's Rights and Resilience Conference,
- first hand accounts of African women's sexual empowerment,
- sex worker testimonies,
- a UN discussion on women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, and
- an intergenerational conversation between Gloria Steinem, Abigail Disney and Leymah Gbowee.

In each site we have explored the tensions and debates that define both feminist movements and feminist theorizing more broadly.

Assignment:

Compose a paper that theorizes some of these tensions using the work of two theorists discussed in Part 1 of class to illuminates what you see as the most important stakes and investments of feminist activists involved in this debate.

Step 1: Begin by identifying a topic or theme of tension/debate from one of our sites of engagement.

Step 2: Provide a detailed description and discussion of what you see as the underlying problematic it presents and the key questions it poses using direct references from the source (discussion, transcript, recording, etc) from which you are drawing it.

Step 3: Identify at least two key theorists whose work offers a framework for analyzing this.

Step 4: Develop an argument that unpacks this problematic and make a case for what insights are gained by using the feminist theories you have chosen to engage it.

Theory-Praxis papers are due on May 9th and should be submitted by 5pm to Andrea Crowe (amc2341@columbia.edu).