

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 hip-hop 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

Beauboeuf-Lafontant, Tamara. 2009. *Behind the Mask of the Strong Black Woman: Voice and the Embodiment of a Costly Performance*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Collins, Patricia Hill. 2000. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge.

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- Pragmatism Of Black Women*. London: Taylor & Francis.
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- Tate, Shirley Anne. 2015. *Black Women's Bodies and The Nation: Race, Gender and Culture*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Vera, Hernan and Joe R. Feagin, eds. 2007. *Handbook of the Sociology of Racial and Ethnic Relations*. New York: Springer.

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/>>
- Jezebels, Welfare Queens — And Now, Criminally Bad Black Moms - Julianne Hing <<http://www.colorlines.com/articles/jezebels-welfare-queens-and-now-criminally-bad-black-moms>>
- From Mammy To Jezebel: The Portrayal Of Black Women In American Cinema <<https://blackthen.com/from-mammy-to-jezebel-the-portrayal-of-black-women-in-american-cinema/>>
- Black women's sexuality has always been overpoliced <<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/sep/15/black-womens-sexuality-overpoliced-daniele-watts-handcuffed>>
- Black Media Stereotypes: Jezebel - The Hypersexualized Black woman <<https://>>

www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQ7Xmvwcto0>

- The Mickaelene Thomas Online Gallery - <<http://mickalenethomas.com/gallery.html>>
- Beyoncé as Jezebel: When Does Oppression Resemble Liberation? <<http://www.thesociologicalcinema.com/videos/beyonce-as-jezebel-when-does-oppression-resemble-liberation>>
- 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>>
- Beyond Mammy, Jezebel, & Sapphire: Reclaiming Images Of Black Women <<http://www.lsu.edu/chse/news/BeyondMammy.pdf>>

Articles

Abdalla, Fardosa. 2014. "Resistance of Female Stereotypes in The Bluest Eye – Destroying Images of Black Womanhood and Motherhood." Sodertorn University.

Baker, Christina N. 2005. "Images of Women's Sexuality in Advertisements: A Content Analysis of Black- and White-Oriented Women's and Men's Magazines." *Sex Roles* 52(1-2):13-27. Retrieved (<http://link.springer.com/10.1007/s11199-005-1190-y>).

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