

Reproductive Justice: Sacred Activism in Two Dimensions

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REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE: SACRED ACTIVISM IN TWO DIMENSIONS

An investigation of the Reproductive Justice movement through the lens of Black intersectional feminism and Jungian Psychology

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ABSTRACT

This project explains the value of the Black feminist intersectional theoretical framework that the Reproductive Justice movement utilizes, and places this in conversation with Jungian depth psychology, which offers a powerful and complementary symbolic language with which to understand the deeper potentialities of this movement's response to reproductive biopolitics of control. Research included a close reading of texts in intersectional theory, reproductive justice, and feminist and racially conscious revisions of the analytical psychology of Carl G. Jung. I contend that the Reproductive Justice Movement, organizing from intersectional locations of the most marginalized, are aiding in the Jung's Individuation Process in the collective by confronting powerful complexes that have informed oppressive reproductive control. This secondary aspect of their organizing makes it a powerful sacred activism.

Definitions

Reproductive Justice- A critical theoretical framework promoted by activist women of color to more effectively describe how the intersection of gender, race, class, ability, nationality, and sexuality influence reproductive politics in the US to produce a complex matrix of reproductive oppression. {RJ} is based on discussions among activist women of color about sex, reproduction, and sexuality, originating with African American women in 1994.

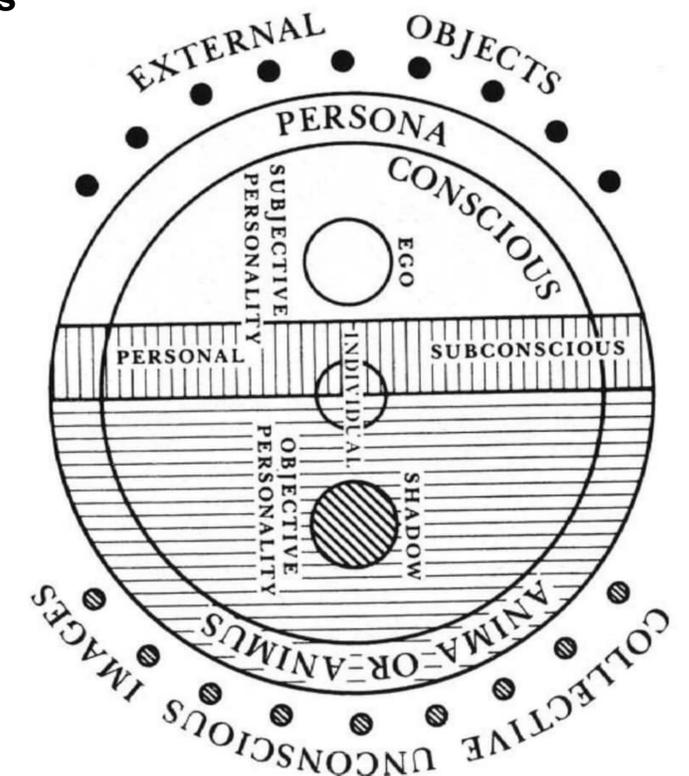
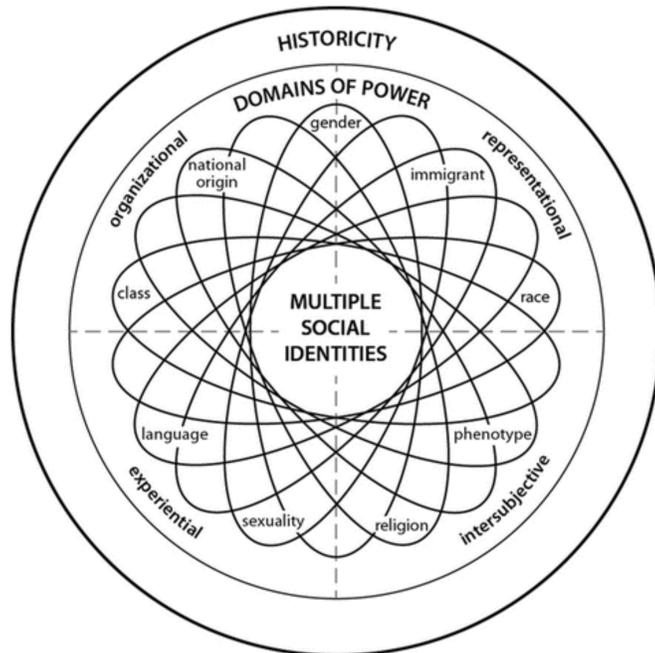
Intersectionality- Intersectionality is an analytical framework for understanding how aspects of a person's social and political identities combine to create different modes of discrimination and privilege. The term was coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989. Intersectionality identifies multiple factors of advantage and disadvantage.

Jung's Analytical Psychology- distinguished by a focus on the role of symbolic and spiritual experiences in human life, and rests on Jung's theory of archetypes and the existence of a deep psychic space or collective unconscious.

Individuation- Individuation is a process of transformation whereby the personal and collective unconscious are brought into consciousness to be assimilated into the whole personality. It is a completely natural process necessary for the integration of the psyche. Individuation has a holistic healing effect on the person, both mentally and physically.

Complexes- the vast majority of the personality is determined and influenced by unconscious processes. Complexes are common features of the psychic landscape, according to Jung's accounting of the psyche, and often become relevant in psychotherapy to examine and resolve, most especially in the journey toward individuation or wholeness. Without resolution, complexes continue to exert unconscious, maladaptive influence on our thoughts, feelings, and behavior and keep us from achieving psychological integration

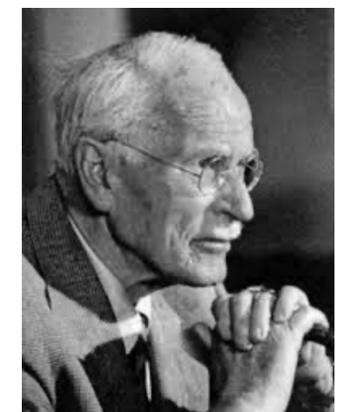
Sacred Activism- Sacred Activism is a transforming force of compassion-in-action that is born of a fusion of deep spiritual knowledge, courage, love, and passion, with wise radical action in the world.



Kimberlé Crenshaw



Loretta Ross



Carl Gustav Jung

References for Definitions

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