



WST 398: Race & Sex Work

Tu/Th 2:30-3:50 PM
Professor Cristina Khan

From the onset of the U.S. American “sex wars,” feminist discourses on sex work often deploy an analytical lens that is solely related to gender and sexuality in social and structural analyses of power within the field. In this class, we will explore how participants’ experiences in various forms of sex work

(and scholarly interpretation of them), are shaped by racism, white normativity, and colonialism. We will begin by examining the question of what constitutes sex work and uncover how different definitions of what effectively “counts” as sex work enable and produce a hierarchical moral system that pathologizes participants who are marginalized on the bases of race, gender identity, ability, and class distinctly from more privileged participants. Central frameworks to be explored include transnational feminism, intersectionality, racialized sexualities, and the “rescue industry.”