

WEEK 2 RESPONSE MEMO TOPIC

In her famous speech given at Amherst in 1980, Audre Lorde said,

“The old patterns, no matter how cleverly rearranged to imitate progress, still condemn us to cosmetically altered repetitions of the same old exchanges, the same old guilt, hatred, recrimination, lamentation, and suspicion. For we have, built into all of us, old blueprints of expectation and response, old structures of oppression, and these must be altered at the same time as we alter the living conditions which are a result of those structures. For the master's tools will never dismantle the master's House.”

This week we discuss slavery past and present—from Black slavery in the Americas and Caribbean, to pre-colonial caste-based slavery in the South Asian subcontinent, to fears of “white slavery” during the turn of the 20th century. How do the different authors this week understand Age, Race, Class, and Sex, and how do they (if at all) understand intersections between categories of identity? (e.g. ‘old, Indian, poor, male’).

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21A.445J / WGS.272J Slavery and Human Trafficking in the 21st Century
Spring 2015

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