

GWS 100AC

Women and the Frontier

March 29, 2016

- Attendance Quiz: Be a crossroads.
- Settler colonists need a “right” to the land. This can’t be done unless the land is rendered empty.
- This logic of elimination happens through genocide, cultural genocide (sometimes not purposefully), rendering native cultures and peoples as existing only in the past, and cultural/demographic assimilation.
- Story told about national parks: native people *used* to live in this place. Now this is part of “America’s best idea”.
- The land that became the U.S. was never empty, but very full of history and multiple cultures.
- The frontier wilderness that was imagined as empty is also translated as a space where people do not live.
 - Wilderness Act: place where man only *visits*.
 - Gendered as a space where we do not make it ‘home’.
 - Thoreau: wilderness is a place he can set off to. It’s not the domestic.
 - To have an adventure is to get away from the domestic space and the smothering effects of the mother.
- In *Homelands*, the empty wilderness we imagine has always been home to somebody. Women have done the work of making this place livable (e.g. building adobe homes).
- Mary Louise Pratt’s *contact zone* vs Gloria Anzaldúa’s *borderlands*
 - Borderlands made it possible for folks to look at identities instead of just a location on the map.
 - “Native Americans did not have Snapchat.” –BB Barnes. Hard to find records/stories from another perspective.
- BB Barnes does not like Sheryl Sandberg.

- Is saying when we're at the table, we need to lean in. +1
- For most of the women employed in this country, they'd lose their jobs if they leaned in. –BB Barnes (SHOTS FIRED)
- The stories being told in *Homelands* are being told by relics (trying to get away from stories told by colonizers). There is STUFF!
- Gender is always conditioned by ideas of race, class, and sexuality.
- 1970s: feminist scholars and historians began to interrupt the paradigm that men were agents of history. They bring in the women.
- The project was to go in and see if we can reclaim some stories left out. What was most visible were stories of white women (they had money and kept diaries).
- Jacobs: the inclusion of white women in this stories have reinforced settler colonialism narratives.
- The focus on the hardships of women on the frontier have further confirmed a sense of ownership on the part of white settlers to the lands of North American and Australia.
- White women were colonists.
- BB Barnes: Brought in stories on women in the frontier this late in the semester intentionally!
- Think about in which women are a constructed category in each time and place we are reading about.
- Intimacies of Empire:

It was not only in the halls of governance or on fields of battle, but also in the most intimate spaces of homes, schools, and missions where colonialisms' power and hierarchies were constituted and reproduced. gender and the intimate figured in the workings of colonialism in several ways...
- In this week's quiz, give an example of how gender and the intimate is making settler colonialism work. See *White Mother to a Dark Race* pp. 10-11.

- Instead of telling a tale of Spanish conquest, Brookes goes very in-depth. Women and children in New Mexico became seem as items of social and economical value. Women were also historical agents that could exploit their captivity.
- Borderland communities were changed by these relationships of captivity. Captivity was still traumatic, however.