

TRIGGER WARNING!

RACISM IN P*RN

**HOW THE PORN INDUSTRY PROFITS
FROM BLATANTLY RACIST PORTRAYALS
OF BLACK PEOPLE**

BY CAROLYN M. WEST, PH.D.

**A GLOBAL MOVEMENT OF FIGHTERS
©FIGHT THE NEW DRUG**

RACISM IN PORN

AS A PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR, WHO HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES, I NEVER ASPIRED TO BE A PORNOGRAPHY RESEARCHER AND I NEVER EXPECTED TO PRODUCE SOMETHING LIKE MY DOCUMENTARY, "LET ME TELL YA'LL 'BOUT BLACK CHICKS: IMAGES OF BLACK WOMEN IN PORNOGRAPHY."

CAROLYN M. WEST, PH.D.

RACISM IN PORN

I BECAME INSPIRED TO DO THIS WORK AFTER REVIEWING THE VISUAL IMAGES ON MORE THAN 4,000 FRONT AND BACK COVERS OF PORNOGRAPHIC DVDS FEATURING BLACK WOMEN PERFORMERS THAT HAD BEEN PRODUCED IN THE PAST 20 YEARS.

HERE'S WHAT I HAVE LEARNED ALONG THE WAY AND WHY I THINK YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT RACISM IN PORN.

CAROLYN M. WEST, PH.D.

RACISM IN PORN

AS CRITICAL CONSUMERS OF MEDIA, WE HAVE BEGUN TO CRITIQUE RACISM IN JUST ABOUT EVERY MEDIA FORMAT—MOVIES, X (TWITTER) AND FACEBOOK FEEDS, AND EVEN CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING.

CAROLYN M. WEST, PH.D.

RACISM IN PORN

YET, IN OUR SAME CULTURE, THE PORN INDUSTRY APPEARS TO GET A FREE PASS TO PROMOTE HORRIFICALLY RACIST AND ABUSIVE CONTENT IN THE NAME OF SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT TO ANYONE WITH INTERNET ACCESS, EVEN CHILDREN.

CAROLYN M. WEST, PH.D.

RACISM IN PORN

IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG TO STUMBLE UPON ANY NUMBER OF RACIST TITLES THAT PROMOTE OFFENSIVE AND UNWARRANTED RACIAL STEREOTYPES ABOUT BLACK WOMEN.

BLACK WOMEN MOST OFTEN PLAY THE ROLE OF PROSTITUTES IN VIDEOS ENTITLED "EBONY SEX WORKERS" AND "BLACK GIRLS WORKING THE STREETS."

CAROLYN M. WEST, PH.D.

RACISM IN PORN

SO PORN SEXUALIZES EVERYONE, BUT THE COMBINATION OF RACISM, SEXISM, AND OFTEN CLASSISM, SINCE BLACK WOMEN ARE OFTEN SHOWN IN DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES, LEAVES BLACK WOMEN BOTH SEXUALIZED AND DEHUMANIZED IN DIFFERENT WAYS THAN OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS.

CAROLYN M. WEST, PH.D.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carolyn M. West, Ph.D. is a Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Washington where she teaches courses on Human Sexuality, Family Violence, and Sex Crimes and Sexual Violence. She is nationally recognized for her scholarship on gender-based violence in the lives of African American women, specializing in domestic violence, sexual assault, and sexual harassment. She can be reached at DrCarolynWest.com.

MORE WITH CAROLYN M. WEST, PH.D.



FULL ARTICLE

This is How the Porn Industry Profits from Blatantly Racist Portrayals of Black People

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PODCAST

Dr. Carolyn West: Psychology Professor, Filmmaker, Author, Speaker, & Domestic Violence Expert

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