

Haraway Bookshelf/ Carrier Bag Theory and Practice

1. Ergo-feminism
c. Joy James: Captive Maternals

24.04.22
West Den Haag (Online)
<http://westdenhaag.nl/Harawiki/>

Capitalism is inherently racist

- Imperialism the highest form of Capitalism (Lenin)
- Neo-colonialism the highest form of Imperialism (Nkrumah)
 - Capitalism as a racist/white supremacist system and strategy = must distinguish (Fanon/Wynter/Davis)
 - Must expand and defend territorial gains: colonial in essence, territory is not merely physical, but also psychic and cultural
- Unlike Davis, James emphasizes the remaining captivity even in nominally liberated societies
 - Conventional theory restricts maternal captives to reproductive labor. Yet, the maternals constantly move or flee beyond constrictions. Their praxes mix political desire, emotional intelligence, and experiential knowledge. From the Latin “breeding female animal” and “mater” or mother, a “matrix” of origins can repurpose black female captivity; the mythologized American founding fathers gestated a revolution out of black captivity to create an imperial democracy.

James: Black Matrix / Womb Theory

- Reproductive labour at the base of all reproductive labour
 - The most subjectivated, site of the most fundamental extraction of capital
 - The black matrix as a fulcrum can leverage against the Western womb

James: Captive Maternal

“I'm totally fascinated by the notion of an ungendered phenomenon whose generative powers have been stolen by the state. But this is the persona that, if you call them at 2:00 in the morning because you're just crying on the floor in your bathroom, they will come over and get you. Like, this is a captive maternal that allows your nervous system to function and for you to show up in these wretched schools that denigrate you and don't give you a real education or these jobs where you're laboring in these, like, factories where you get damaged or poisoned. But here's our bind. We keep our communities functioning because we love them. We will not abandon them, even when they turn on us, because we love them, and the state uses that labor to stabilize itself. Because we keep our communities from going crazy, just like they kept us from going crazy. And that labor is expropriated by the state.” - from Joy James: The Architects of Abolitionism

<https://youtu.be/z9rvRsWKDx0?t=6172>

James: Captive Maternals

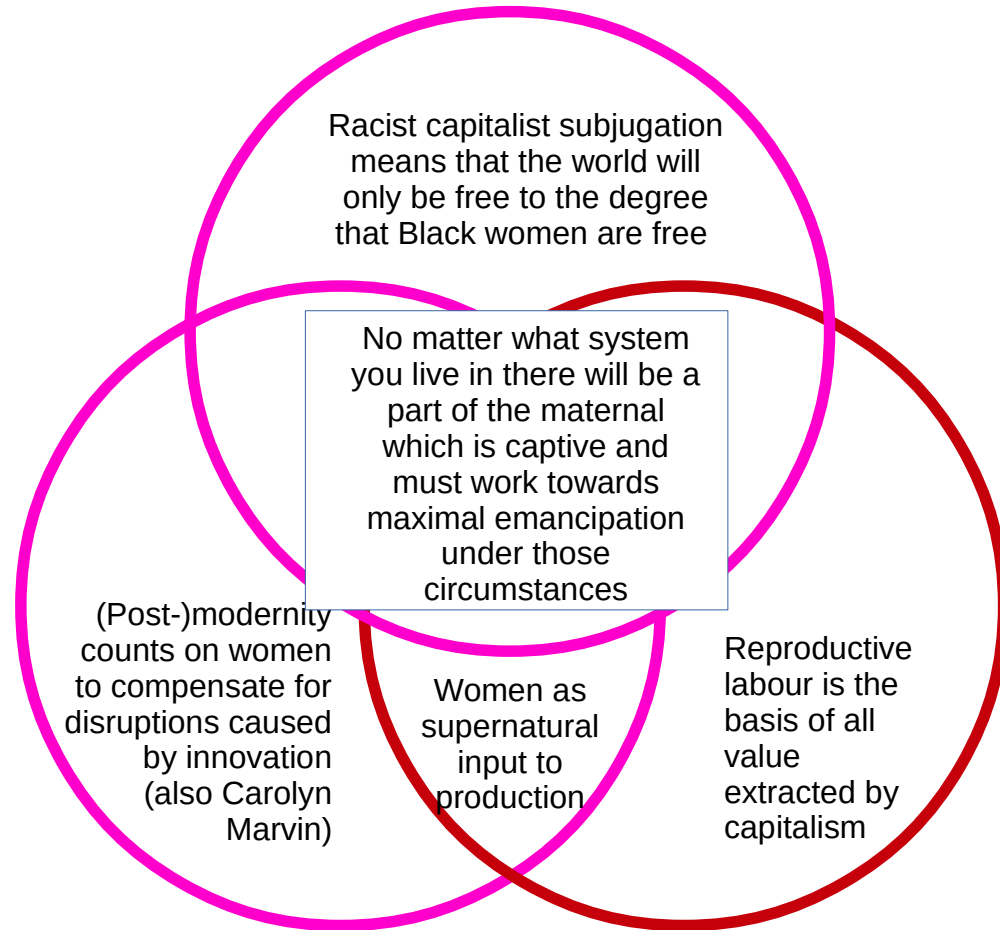
vs. Western Womb Theory / Abstraction

The captive maternal was born not in nature but in ectogenesis, in an artificial environment of imperial and racial capital, femicide, and forced breeding. The violence of Western womb theory is tied in part to its manufacturing of the artificial and the predatory.

If the *raison d'être* for the captive maternal is to seek her own survival and pleasure in freedom and the flourishing of family, kin, and community, then the “mammy,” resilient citizen, and revolutionary all have escaped the confinement of Aristotle’s deliberative faculties that sought to rival nature by creating an ectogenetic womb

- from Political Trauma, 346 THE BLOOMSBURY HANDBOOK OF 21ST-CENTURY FEMINIST THEORY

Schwartz-Cohen ⇔ Federici ⇔ James



Intensification of capitalist exploitation preys on social reproduction and forces it to reorganize/ compensate for each innovation of extraction. This new compensation strategy is subsequently subject to extraction

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CET

14:00-14:30 introduction

14:30-15:30 reading

15:30-16:00 discussion

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