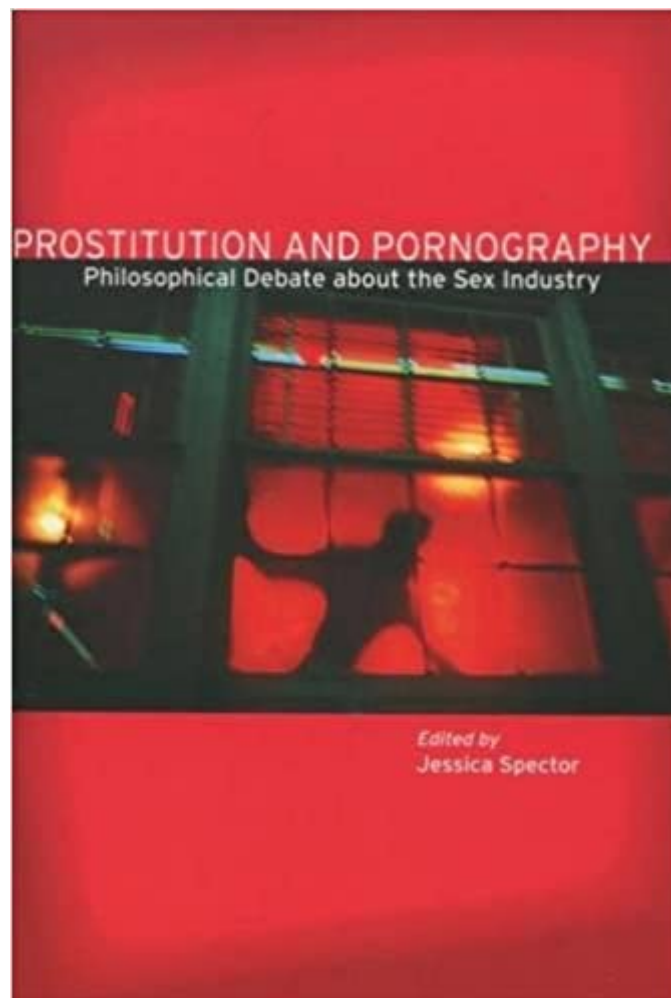




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Prostitution And Pornography: Philosophical Debate About The Sex Industry



Synopsis

Prostitution and Pornography examines debates about the sex industry and the adequacy of the liberal response to critiques of the sex industry. The anthology focuses particularly on the very different ways prostitution and pornography are treated. Unlike other books that deal with the sex industry, this volume brings together academics and industry veterans and survivors to discuss the ways prostitution, pornography, and other forms of commercial sex are treated, and to ask questions about the role that ideas about the self, personal identity, and freedom play in our attitudes about the sex industry.

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Customer Reviews

"Jessica Spector has compiled the most challenging and thorough volume yet on philosophic themes surrounding the vexed questions of pornography and prostitution. Focusing on the very different ways in which we regard •and discipline• prostitution and pornography, the book raises fundamental questions about important ethical questions as well as questions of freedom, social responsibility, and self-identity. This will be a seminal work in the field." (Drew A. Hyland)"As its title suggests, this is a collection of essays about two of the main arms of the sex industry: prostitution and pornography. It would be an excellent text for an advanced undergraduate or graduate class on the issue, as well as for anyone interested in probing the issues that sex work poses in the debate between radical feminists, who question both the autonomy of the choice of prostitution and the expression value of pornography, and the liberal feminists, who tend to defend prostitution as a viable economic choice for women and champion pornography for its expression value and

promotion of diversity of lifestyles." (Philosophy in Review/Comptes Rendus Philosophiques)"This unique, valuable collection offers various perspectives within the liberal feminist discussions of pornography and prostitution." (CHOICE)

Prostitution and Pornography examines debates about the sex industry and the adequacy of the liberal response to critiques of the sex industry. The anthology focuses particularly on the very different ways prostitution and pornography are treated. Unlike other books that deal with the sex industry, this volume brings together academics and industry veterans and survivors to discuss the ways prostitution, pornography, and other forms of commercial sex are treated, and to ask questions about the role that ideas about the self, personal identity, and freedom play in our attitudes about the sex industry.

I think that this should be used as a textbook if it isn't already. I think it was fair, balanced and her insight is spot on. I'd like to thank her for not only talking with sex workers, but even more learning how to listen to what they were saying. As seen in this book.

Usually when I source a book on prostitution and ethics, one perspective (libertarian or prohibition) is taken and no other. Not so with Spector's collection. She brings many voices to the table: former prostitutes; prostitute activists both for and against de-criminalization; feminist attorneys; feminist scholars; and some a combination. What I found most intriguing was the lay-out of the book's essays. She gives space to the liberal activist for decriminalization and follows with essays to consider how liberalism goes to far in its pursuit for alteration of systemic categories. As a former prostitute now at Harvard Divinity School, incongruity must be examined not as contradictions but as new comprehensions overlooked. The essay by Tracy Quan on the renaming of the prostitute as 'sex worker' is a must read for anyone exploring the tensions between identity and political correctness. That Ms Spector began the list of essays with powerful testimony of prostitutes themselves, had the effect for me as a reader, of being mindful of their (our) suffering while attending to the essays of the high-brow scholars - the real voices were a backdrop for the overlay of intellectual interpretation - misconceptions were often glaring. I believe Ms Spector's goal of presenting the multiplicity of issues was achieved. All voice are heard.

This book contains a fabulous set of essays about some of the most important Feminist topics of my generation.

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