

Towards a critique of the concept of 'rape culture'

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The purpose of this paper is to explore the historical emergence of the concept of 'rape culture' as part of a turn by fourth-wave feminism to a politics of interiority and private space, personal identity and personal pain. I want to create the argument for an alternative way of understanding the symbolic and sexual practices caught up in the term 'rape culture'. I am also interested in looking at what feminists should ask of the University both as an educational space, and as an employer, in relation to challenging sexist norms, and supporting victims of sexual violence'.