

Sex Work is Work

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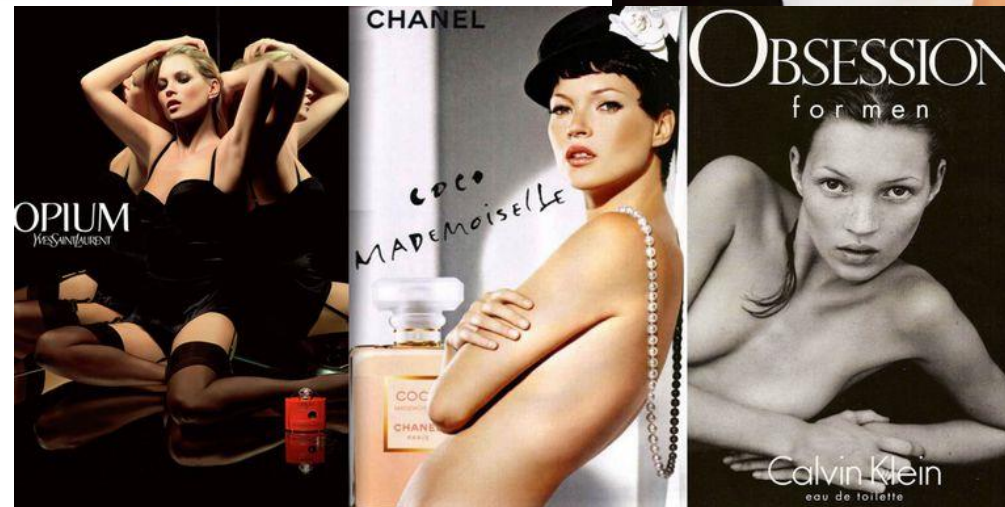
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Sexuality in society



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What's the difference?



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What is sex work?

- ▶ Sex work according to Ronald Witzer is, “sex work... refers to the individuals and organizations involved in sexual commerce, which includes prostitution, pornography, stripping, and erotic telephone or webcam enterprises” (Anderson, 2017).

History of sex work

- ▶ Sex work in religion
- ▶ Ancient Greece
 - ▶ Heterae/Courtesans
 - ▶ Street walkers
- ▶ Colonial America
 - ▶ Sex in trade for goods
- ▶ Victorian Era
 - ▶ “Necessary Evil”
 - ▶ Creation of red light districts
 - ▶ Sex workers-protector of the family unit
- ▶ Progressive Era
 - ▶ “Social Evil”
 - ▶ Regulationist V. Abolitionist



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Sex work today

- ▶ Criminalization in the U.S.
 - ▶ Effects
 - ▶ Who suffers?
- ▶ Organizations for Sex Workers
 - ▶ COYOTE
 - ▶ St. James Infirmary
- ▶ Legislation
 - ▶ FOSTA

Anomie and Sex work

- ▶ Innovation and sex work
 - ▶ Illegitimate means to obtain the American Dream
- ▶ Reasons for sex work
 - ▶ Means to an end
 - ▶ Financial Autonomy
 - ▶ Sexual freedom

Functionality of sex work

- ▶ Manifest Functions of Sex Work
 - ▶ Selling of sexuality
- ▶ Latent function
 - ▶ Lucrative employment opportunity
 - ▶ Sexual freedom
 - ▶ Sexual release
 - ▶ Health benefits
 - ▶ Means to an end
 - ▶ Intimacy

Alienation of sex workers

- ▶ Current structure sex workers must operate under
 - ▶ Workers do not own the means of production
 - ▶ Pornography, escort services, camming, stripping, and phone sex
 - ▶ How FOSTA hurts independent sex operators
 - ▶ Alienation from police protection
 - ▶ South Australia and SIN
- ▶ Capitalist securing power and expanding profits
 - ▶ Delegitimizing sex work as work

Conclusion

- ▶ Sex work remains the worlds oldest profession
- ▶ Lucrative option for women to obtain autonomy in their lives
- ▶ Need for education on sex work
- ▶ Benefits of decriminalizing sex work
- ▶ Creating a shift in the paradigm of sex work
 - ▶ Destigmatizing sexual labor

Thank you!

▶ Any questions?