

# Feminism, Family and the Politics of Austerity



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"If I had a hammer...  
I'd **SMASH** Patriarchy"

I FOUND  
IT!



# Do we still need feminism?

"I'm at university and constantly get guys on nights out grabbing my breasts."

"Have had fingers put up my dress or skirt in a nightclub, had the lewdest comments which I will not repeat on here and have been grabbed and pushed. I have been told by a variety of people – all men – that if I go to a nightclub that's what I should expect because if you go to a nightclub 'you're asking for it' and 'that's what you're there for.'"



## Everyday Sexism

"I am studying engineering at university and there is Facebook group for everyone in the year. A guy just posted: 'Why are all the birds in engineering ugly? I just want my pipe sucked,' on which another guy commented: 'Wait, there's girls on our course?'"

"The other day in class at university, I was sitting as the only girl in a group of 20-year-old guys, and they started making jokes about how they were going to rape girls after their night out later on ... I was really angry, but felt like they wouldn't listen to me if I said something about it ... or tell me to lighten up."

"Cycling up to university on my bike, I pass two men who yell 'Do you do gangbangs?' at me."

# Feminism and the Family



❧ ‘Occupation: housewife’

❧ ‘I went through issue after issue of the major women’s magazines... without finding a single heroine who had a career, a commitment to any work, art, profession, or mission in the world other than ‘Occupation: housewife’. Only one in a hundred heroines had a job; even the young unmarried heroines no longer worked except at snaring a husband’ (B. Friedan, 1963)

❧ Is marriage equal now?

❧ ‘... women who want to craft egalitarian partnerships with men need to strategically deploy a variety of discourses and engage in a raft of different practices to manage the situational contexts that constitute their lives’ (V. Elizabeth, 2004)

# Family in the Age of Austerity: The Housewife of the State



- ❧ Privatisation of care in the neo-liberal state
- ❧ The expansion of marriage and the demise of the welfare state
- ❧ Feminist theory becomes even more relevant than it was in the 1960s despite the demise of the housewife model



*Mommy,  
when I grow up  
I want to help smash  
the white racist,  
homophobic,  
patriarchal,  
bullshit paradigm  
too!*

