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This annual prize recognizes outstanding written work done by an undergraduate student on topics related to women, gender, and feminism. Recipients of the Barbara Roberts Memorial Award receive a certificate and a cash award of \$250.00.

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Date: 31 April 2011

Title: Fucking media: sex worker representation and resistance in digital culture

Course: English 491: Directed Studies in Literature

Professor: Dr. Mark A. McCutcheon

Note: This essay is currently being reviewed for publication. After it is published a link to its citation will be provided.

Abstract:

This essay examines the roles of reproduction and critique in our interactions with images of sex workers in new media. If we understand new media representations of sex workers as reproductions of sex worker bodies, occupied by dominant and oppositional discourses on sex workers' social positions, and ourselves as agents acting on and through the texts we read, we can apply a critical methodology of 'fucking' the production and reproduction of hegemonic narratives to begin to rewrite images of sex workers and reclaim autonomous subjectivities. Definitions are provided for "sex work," "post-industrial capitalism," and "fucking," and a variety of new media narratives about sex work and sex workers, including police websites, news articles, Youtube videos, and pornography -- are surveyed to develop a description of dominant discourse about sex work ("getting fucked") and to propose a resistant alternative ("fucking").