



**Dr. Jane Clare Jones**

Follow @janeclarejones

29.5K followers

17 Apr, 17 tweets, 4 min read



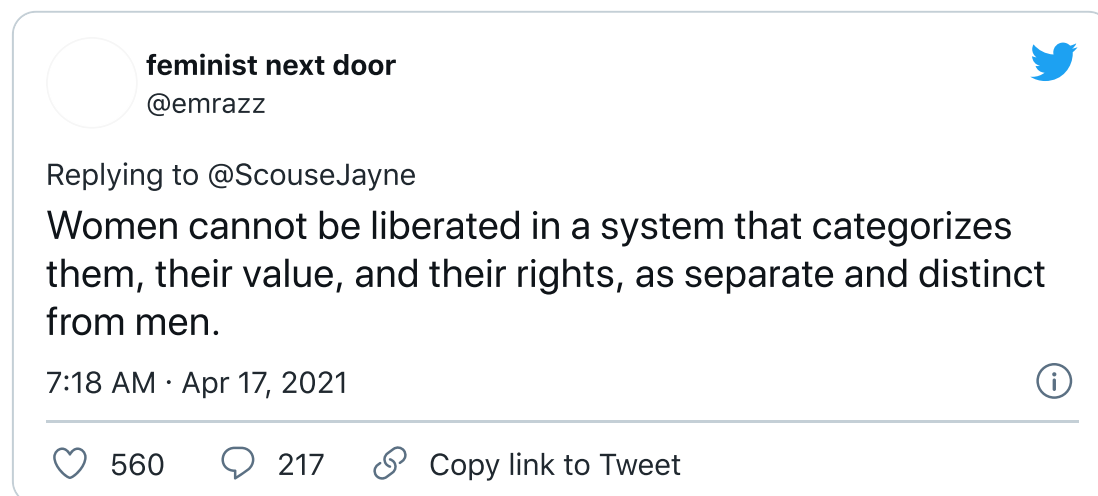
Bookmark

Save as PDF

+ My Authors

This is a perfect illustration of the conceptual mistake made by liberal/equality feminism, viz. the inability to think difference free from hierarchy of value.

If you think difference equals hierarchy, then you will think you must abolish difference to create equality,



with equality being conceptualised as 'sameness.'

Within this frame, the demand to abolish the recognition of the material and political specificity of women will be read as liberation, and the women objecting to that erasure will hence be positioned as 'conservative.'

What this forgets, of course, is that there is a whole tradition of 'difference feminism,' which springs from the thought originally articulated by Beauvoir, that is, that patriarchy functions by positing woman as 'other.'

Difference feminism would argue that our entire culture

is structured by ideas of the human which are based on men's thinking, experience, and systems of value, on what we would call the 'male default.'

A very useful, and concrete, illustration of this thought is given by Caroline Criado-Perez in 'Invisible Women,' which looks at

what happens when you design the world around the male default, and never bother to pay any attention to the specificity of women's lives, experience, or bodies.

Difference feminism therefore issues in a completely contrary thought to equality feminism. Equality feminism thinks

justice (understood flatly as equality qua sameness) will come about as the result of denying any difference between women and men. Difference feminism thinks that we already live in a culture which effectively denies the difference between women and men by structuring everything

around the male default. Difference feminism would hence argue that justice (understood not as equality, but as meeting the specificity of people's needs/'equity') requires recognising the differences, and structuring the world so that the specificity of different needs are met.

Follow Us on Twitter!

Tweet

Share

A good concrete illustration of this are issues that arise from women's reproductive role. If you treat women as men in the context of reproduction, and in relation to the workplace, you are being unjust, because the specificity of women's needs are *\*different.\**

Women therefore needs sex-based rights and protections around pregnancy and maternity. Indeed, in British law, they have them... (this is where I lapse into ranting about American feminists looking down their noses at British feminists over the trans issue when they haven't even

sorted out proper maternity rights for American women).

Which is all to say, thinking women's liberation as equality and sameness is massively inadequate and does not produce justice for women. It leaves the entire patriarchal structure intact, and allows for women's freedom only insofar as we can be accommodated by a world designed around the needs of men. Moreover, it allows for our liberation only insofar as we can be assimilated to a model of the human structured by men's assumptions, priorities and values. That is, in the final analysis, it grants women humanity only insofar as they are *\*like\** men.

Difference feminism, by contrast, demands that the entire structure of the male default and its values, assumptions and hierarchies is junked, and we start from the premise that there are *\*two types of humans.\** Two types of humans who are both *\*equally\** human, and who share many of the same characteristics, but who are also, in significant ways, different. This calls for attention to the specificity of women's material and political and lived experiences, and the rejection of the patriarchal denigration, erasure, and appropriation of those experiences.

What equality feminists never seem to understand, is that in demanding equality-as-sameness-as-being-like-men, what they are fundamentally doing is colluding with the patriarchal hierarchy of value that thinks men *\*are\** the default humans and woman is the other.

And it is the internalisation of this view, I think that fundamentally explains where women come down on the trans issue. It's what makes all the talk of 'reducing women to their biology' compelling to some women, because they are still basically operating inside a patriarchal frame that cannot conceive that *\*female people in all their material specificity are as human as men,\** and therefore thinks women's freedom will be won by renouncing their femaleness, and by abolishing women.

<Ends>

This is one of the things I was trying to get at here.

**A Note on ‘Smashing the Binary’**

“All western culture rests on the murder of the mother.” Luce Irigaray As many of us have observed recently, trans ideology – and its associated arguments and rhetoric – is what we might call a ‘sc...


<https://janeclarejones.com/2018/10/01/a-note-on-smashing-the-binary/>




 Tweet


 Share


 Email

 Keep Current with [Dr. Jane Clare Jones](#)



Stay in touch and get notified when new unrolls are available from this author!

 Add to "My Authors"

 Read all threads


 This Thread may be Removed Anytime!



Twitter may remove this content at anytime! Save it as PDF for later use!





 Save this thread as PDF


Try unrolling a thread yourself!



**Andrew Chen** @andrewchen · Dec 27

12/ One of the best things out of @ericries's Lean Startup is the concept of "vanity metrics" - unimportant, inflated metrics that don't have much to do with business value. But the effects of using them are different when you're a startup versus a big co.

 1  8  52 




**Andrew Chen** @andrewchen · Dec 27

13/ For big, established companies, focusing on vanity metrics is silly but not harmful. Everyone's thrown up a huge number to celebrate for an offsite. I get it. But for startups who are pre-product/market fit, it can lead down a path towards

1. Follow [@ThreadReaderApp](#) to mention us!
2. From a Twitter thread mention us with a keyword "unroll"
- [@threadreaderapp unroll](#)
- [Practice here](#) first or read more on our [help page](#)!

More from @janeclarejones



**Dr. Jane Clare Jones**  
[@janeclarejones](#)

3 May

The problem is, this language long ago was divested of any critique of material appropriation and became all about individualist recognition only. It's co-option isn't new. This is why we need to speak the language of class oppression, not identity.

To be clear, when I say 'class oppression,' I mean the three axes of material appropriation, i.e. socio-economic class, sex, and race. This is what intersectionality was supposed to capture, before it was folded into an individualist,

Read 13 tweets



**Dr. Jane Clare Jones**  
[@janeclarejones](#)


2 May

Are you fucking shitting me????

'We came along with our boundless narcissism, demanded that you erase all the words that refer to your bodies and your existence as a sex class, called everyone who agreed an evil terf bigot, made all the good handmaidens tie themselves in knots to avoid saying anything







'problematic,' took over all major feminist institutions, silenced any feminist academic who didn't repeat gender-wrong hellos, SUCKED UP EVERY LAST DROP OF AIR IN

Read 4 tweets



**Dr. Jane Clare Jones**  
[@janeclarejones](#)

21 Apr

7 June 1958 - 21 April 2016       



**Dr. Jane Clare Jones**  
[@janeclarejones](#)

19 Apr

Dear defensive feeling Americans, I really like cornbread, if that helps :)

means so much to me. It's the gender non-conformity and the beauty and the being cool af yes. But much more that that is the staggering, endless, orgasmic wave of music that just flowed out of him. The way he would throw

his head back on stage, like this, and just let it \*come\* through him like he was channeling the methuads. The

Read 8 tweets

shit.

So also, just for the record, my experiences of America. Aged 19, bought a white stationwagon in San Francisco, drove to NYC, via (probably not in precise order) Death Valley, LA, Joshua Tree, Grand Canyon, Phoenix, Utah, Colorado, Kansas (got a little drunk in the flat places)

Read 6 tweets



**Dr. Jane Clare Jones**  
[@janeclarejones](#)

18 Apr

We've reached a thousand pounds, and have a lawyer to speak to tomorrow! Thank you thank you. While we're here I just want to tell a little story about Blob, and how she has been essential to helping me survive lockdown. About this time last year, I hadn't seen or touched

another human being for about 6 weeks (I locked down at the beginning of March, when the number started to uptick)... over a few days I started to feel really weird, and then one morning I woke up and my whole body was shaking and I

Read 4 tweets



**Dr. Jane Clare Jones**  
[@janeclarejones](#)

18 Apr

Okay America, we need to have a word. To all my dear American followers who I love, most of whom understand what I am about to say, let me just say #NotAllAmericans. 1. You are one nation, with a specific history and culture. It may come as some surprise to you that other

nations have other histories and cultures, and that when you interpret people from other cultures through the lens of your own history, you make serious analytic mistakes. 2. You are an empire. The last 70 years of world history has been

Read 23 tweets



[Help](#) | [About](#) | [TOS](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Covid19 Threads](#)