



The Monthly Rag

Brought to You by the Feminist & Gender Studies Student Advisory Council and Edited by Kadesha Caradine (FGS '15)



Actress Jennifer Lawrence

The Real Problem with Celebrity Nudes By Ivy Wappler (Student, First-Year)

Nude photos that **Jennifer Lawrence** took of herself, along with nudes of Kristen Dunst, Kate Upton, and Mary Elizabeth Winstead, were recently stolen and distributed on Reddit and other social media sites. It is not clear if the photos were stolen through hacking or if the perpetrator(s) breached the celebrities' iCloud. My question is this: Frankly, who cares? How the pictures were stolen doesn't matter, as long as we can focus on the severity of the crime and the victimization of these women. Feminists, in particular, have suffered a painful reminder that the battles their predecessors have fought in the name of women's humanity and respect for women's bodies are still in full force.

For example, **Perez Hilton** posted the photos but shortly removed them after receiving backlash from his followers. In a video he posted, he states, "I view this as a good opportunity to learn from and grow from, and to make some changes going forward" (Isaac). Unfortunately, his realization—that facilitating the invasion of these women's personal lives is unethical—has not been widespread. More specifically, many Twitter users have been calling Jennifer Lawrence stupid for taking the photos in the first place and/or accusing her of enjoying the media attention. These Twitter users, like many others, are under the belief that "women's bodies, particularly famous women's bodies, are [...] public domain, ripe for consumption whenever the fancy strikes" (Grace). Hence, the fight against the objectification of women's bodies that feminists and non-feminists alike have been working on for decades is being challenged by these tweets.

Radical feminists have made an effort to eradicate **pornography** and **misogyny** in media, but have not succeeded outright. Take the Hillary Nutcracker toy, for example: a crude toy produced in reaction to how ridiculous some men thought it was that a woman was running for president (Lorber 133). There has been progress, however, and icons like Madonna, by owning her sexuality, are an example of that (Lorber 175). Sadly, the opinions online lately are a perfect example of how misogyny still thrives. Although Hilary Clinton is more than justified to run for office and Jennifer Lawrence has every right to take whatever kind of picture she wants on her own smartphone, people still find ways to condemn these women.

This condemnation is connected to the guilt and shame women have historically been made to feel about their **bodies**. Because of this, Hélene Cixous encourages women to write and express themselves:

Will not only "realize" the decensored relation of woman to her sexuality, to her womanly being, giving her access to her native strength; it will give her back her goods, her pleasures, her organs, her immense bodily territories which have been kept under seal; it will tear her away from superegoized structure in which she has always occupied the place reserved for the guilty. (178)

Considering the recent situation along with Cixous' and other feminists' ideas in mind leads me to believe that Jennifer Lawrence was doing a commendable thing by taking the photos in the first place and not hiding her own body from whomever she might have shared the photos with. Every woman has rights to do with her body what she pleases. The fact that the photos were stolen and that so many people accessed them is the issue.

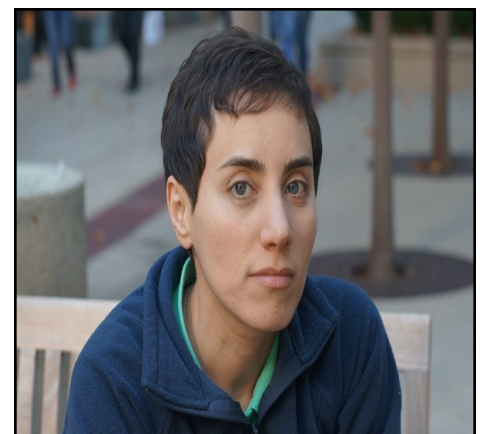
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Maryam Mirzakhani Wins the Fields Medal in Mathematics By Barbara Whitten (Faculty, Physics)

For the first time in almost eighty years, a woman has received the **Fields Medal in Mathematics**. **Maryam Mirzakhani** became the first woman, and the first Iranian to receive the Fields Medal. Sometimes called the "mathematician's Nobel Prize," the Fields Medal is the highest honor in mathematics, awarded every four years by the International Mathematical Union. Past winners include string theorist Edward Witten and Andrew Weil, who proved Fermat's Last Theorem. By long tradition, it is only awarded to a mathematician under 40.

Mirzakhani, who was born in Iran and currently teaches at Stanford, works on hyperbolic spaces (curly spaces shaped like a lettuce leaf—see the picture to the right). She was awarded the Fields Medal for "her outstanding contributions to the dynamics and geometry of Riemann surfaces and their moduli spaces." Her example is an inspiration to young women everywhere, especially in the male-dominated field of mathematics.



This block on *The Monthly Rag* online: Upcoming events hosted/sponsored by the Feminist and Gender Studies Program and the Feminist Collective (FemCo), Information about the Just Us talk show, and "poetry comics" drawn by Jessy Randall (Tutt Library Curator/Archivist)! Scan the QRC code for more! Also, if you would like to submit to the **Block 2 Monthly Rag**, please email Editor Kadesha Caradine at Kadesha.Caradine@coloradocollege.edu by **Friday, October 3 at 5 pm!**

