

Intersectionality among queer blacks

Apiyo Brändle-Amolo talks with Eddie Ramirez (17.04.2020)



Hi it's me Apiyo Yvonne Brändle-Amolo. Today I wanna talk about intersectionality. When I came to Switzerland, I realized that people read me as a black woman. Now having my Identity being read as a black woman having my race been put before my gender, really really affected me. Let's talk about that. That's intersectionality. I'm going to talk about that today with a very special guest. A dear friend of mine, who knows this topic, he can talk and swing drive deep into it with me. I hope he does that. Rolling Eddie, some of you may know him as Eddie Ramirez.

Apiyo: What is intersectionality?

Eddie: Intersectionality is a way of looking how different forms of oppression come together and affect each other, they don't usually cancel each other out. But they reinforce each other.

Apiyo: So you mean different forms of oppression if I am a woman, I am black, I am muslim, and maybe like you I am otherwise able, would this be intersectionality?

Eddie: Right it's like when you have to deal with multiple forms of discrimination, at the same time, like the example you gave, if you are a Muslim black woman you have to deal with Islamophobia, Misogynoir, (antiblackness + sexism). All of these play together at times. I, myself am black, disable and Queer.

Apiyo: Okay wow this is really heavy. I don't know how you deal with all of this. And is this by choice that you are Queer because Eddie isn't it enough just that you are black and disabled? I mean why would you want to add another problem to this?

Eddie: That's actually why it took me so long. Like I only came out a few years ago.

Apiyo: Ohh, okay.

Eddie: And that's one of the things, like our society tell us. Like you can only be one thing at a time. And when we are born into the world God or whoever higher power or whatever doesn't scale what affects us so we end up being ourselves and sometimes that means being Queer and disabled and black at the same time.

Apiyo: oh wow okay

Apiyo: So when you say you are Queer? What do you identify as? Because when I look at you I read you as a black man? Is this the right way to read you?

Eddie: Ummm so I am non binary which means I don't identify either as a man or a woman.

Apiyo: Okay

Eddie: Umm I. For me I like to call it the gender cloud. Neither one fits but I am somewhere in there. I don't know exactly where and I kind of like the ambiguity. I have learnt about gender but then after meeting other black people is when I realised that look, ohh am not alone in this. Actually like this is not just a white peoples thing.

Apiyo: mmmhh -

That isn't really so coz actually if you look back into our history, we even have priests who are non binary intersexual and all that stuff. There is also a history in Africa, it's not a white peoples thing.

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