Erica Meiners

Challenging US carceral feminism: Reclaiming safety in the Trump era

This talk examines the roles feminism plays to build up, and also to resist, a racialized prison regime in the US. With a focused attention on this political moment in the US, this talk will outline the role of carceral feminism, or neoliberal and “whitestream” tactics engaged by some feminist movements, that augment and naturalize surveillance, criminalization, and imprisonment.

Erica Meiners is author of several books including Right to be Hostile: Schools, Prisons and the Making of Public Enemies (2009), For the Children? Protecting Innocence in a Carceral State (University of Minnesota 2016) and articles in wide range academic journals, magazines, blogs and anthologies including Meridians, Social Justice, Women’s Studies Quarterly, Feminist Formations, Captive Genders, and No More Potlucks. She is Bernard J. Brommel Distinguished Research Professor at Northeastern Illinois University, a public urban open access university and she teaches classes in justice studies, education, and gender and sexuality studies. She is the recipient of numerous awards and grants including a 2016 Soros Fellowship Award, 2011-2012 fellowship at the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, a 2009-2010 fellowship as the Lillian Robinson Scholar at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute in Montreal, and other recognition from the Illinois Humanities Council, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, US Department of Education. 1998 Erica co-founded and still teaches at an alternative high school for people exiting prisons and jails and also works with the national organization Critical Resistance. Currently, Erica is writing and organizing around reducing our nation’s reliance on criminalization to end sexual violence.