

EYP Rise Up T.O. reads... *The Feminist Killjoy Handbook*

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"Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it's self-preservation. And that is an act of political warfare" (p. 41).

The truth has nothing to fear.

"...power often works through reversal; those who are more represented in the public domain tend to represent themselves as more censored" (p. 25).

There is a hidden maintenance of the patriarchy in our spaces we think its not there because it is a femme profession, and why would women uplift a system that oppresses them?

"survival can be a feminist project, a queer project, a trans project, a crip project. For some of us, to survive the world we need to transform it. But we still have to survive the world we're trying to transform" (p. 48).

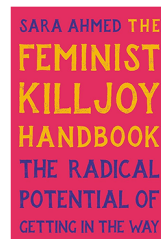
Survival is not just continuing to be alive, but continuing to live as a killjoy in the fullest sense. If we are alive but cannot be our full killjoy selves, are we truly living?

"Rolling eyes = Feminist pedagogy" (p. 44)

"I think of the joy truth as a core truth, a truth from which So much else follows. If you expose a problem, you pose a problem. If you pose a problem, you become the problem" (p. 17).

When hard topics or conversations do come up with children and families, how are we going to meet them?

"Some people assert their right to occupy space by becoming more and more offensive toward others" (p. 25).



Being the killjoy when happiness is expected.

"when you challenge sexism, sexism is the reaction to what you challenge. That loop is the life of the killjoy; we know it well" (p. 66).

What do we lose when we choose to snap a bond? What do we gain? What might happen if we made bonds more carefully in the first place?

The AECEO Community of Care, EYP Toronto, has launched their second Reconceptualizing Early Childhood Education (RECE) Reading Group. Over the next six months, we will be reading together and exploring *The Feminist Killjoy Handbook: The Radical Potential of Getting in the Way* by Sara Ahmed (2023). The included image shares quotations, questions, and musings from participants. Thus far in our meetings, we have been discussing whether we identify as killjoys, and if we do, how this might intersect with our roles as child care workers. Among many other inquiries, we have been wondering: What might happen if I am a killjoy? What might happen if I am not?

In her work, Ahmed (2023) describes the killjoy in many ways, giving poignant examples and reference points. In essence, a killjoy is someone who acknowledges society as being racist, classist, and patriarchal, and who is willing to visibly stand up against injustice. To be a killjoy is to ruin the mood, cause a rift, snap a bond, have an outburst, roll your eyes, cause unhappiness, be oversensitive, shout, and survive. This way of being can be isolating and exhausting. Through her work, Ahmed (2023) offers feminist killjoys' guidance and support to navigate through this experience.

Participants from across Ontario are invited to our monthly discussion group. If you would like to join us, please email eyriseupto@gmail.com to express your interest. The Reconceptualizing Early Childhood Education (RECE) Reading Group will be discussing this book until September 2024.

Reference

Ahmed, S. (2023). *The feminist killjoy handbook: The radical potential of getting in the way*. Seal Press.