

SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

READING GUIDE #2

MISOGYNY AS STRUCTURAL PHENOMENON

WHEN doing the reading for this class, there are the two basic kinds of information you need to understand:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible position on an issue, rather than another.

READING

Manne, K. (2018a). Ameliorating misogyny. In *Down girl: The logic of misogyny* (pp. 55–77). Oxford University Press.

QUESTIONS

As you read, keep these questions in mind:

1. In the beginning of this chapter, Kate Manne picks up on a puzzle that had ended her previous chapter: “how do people manage to harbor or inspire others to form such personal-seeming grudges against women who remain personally unknown to them, on such manifestly thin bases?” (p. 56)

How are the actions of Elliot Rodger and Rush Limbaugh supposed to illustrate this puzzle?

2. What are the two parts of Manne’s proposed solution to this puzzle?
3. How does Manne justify her “shift in focus” (p. 59) from the point of view of accused misogynists to that of the victims and targets of misogyny?
4. What are the various elements of Manne’s “ameliorative, intersectional

proposal” (p. 62) concerning how we should understand misogyny?

5. How do misogynistic social environments, misogynistic action and behavior, and individual misogynists fit into this proposal? Which of these are the primary focus of misogyny and which are merely derivative?
6. According to this proposal, in what ways are we able identify misogyny?
7. How is it possible, according to Manne, for misogyny to exist without any individual misogynists?

To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.