

Feminism in Gaming 2013

M: [Rachel Kronick](#), [Tanya D.](#), [Jacquelyn Gill](#), [Liz Henry](#), [Piglet](#)

2012 was a watershed year for discussion of misogyny in gaming, in many ways: Anita Sarkeesian's Kickstarter to examine misogyny in gaming, the backlash against it, and the counter-backlash; discussion of art direction in D&D Next; attacks on Felicia Day; the launch of the Gaming as Women blog; and other developments. What has happened so far in 2013? Is the amount of backlash more an indication that misogyny is getting worse, or that we're finally getting around to the painful but necessary conversations? How much progress have we made, and what still needs to be done?



QR code for this handout.

For anyone who doesn't get a paper copy of this handout, digital versions are available at

http://www.jiawen.net/feminism_gaming_handout.pdf,

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B68xXjVqQ1isbzA1bWZoZ3I2V0E/edit> and via the QR code to the right.

#1reasonwhy

Article about the Twitter hashtag for women describing misogyny in the gaming industry.

<http://kotaku.com/5963528/heres-a-devastating-account-of-the-crap-women-in-the-games-business-have-to-deal-with-in-2012>

"Are you suggesting a lady would use such underhanded tactics to win? Preposterous!"

A blatant display of sexism in tabletop gaming.

<http://forum.rpg.net/showthread.php?669515-NSFW-Images-thread-48-And-now-for-something-completely-different-the-larch&p=16376006#post16376006>

Border House

"The Border House is a blog for gamers. It's a blog for those who are feminist, queer, disabled, people of color, transgender, poor, gay, lesbian, and others who belong to marginalized groups, as well as allies."

<http://borderhouseblog.com/>

"The Board Games Women Make"

A good list of board games designed by women.

<http://www.metafilter.com/122956/The-Board-Games-Women-Make>

"Bob told me 'No bitches at the table'"

A disturbing example of misogyny in tabletop RPG circles.

<http://forum.rpg.net/showthread.php?327871-Necro-Bob-told-me-quot-No-bitches-at-the-table>

"Clicks on a Keyboard: Dungeons, Dragons, and Trans-Feminism"

How a trans woman grew in strength through gaming.

<http://www.autostraddle.com/clicks-on-a-keyboard-dungeons-dragons-and-trans-feminism-173368/>

"Clothes I'm forced to wear in the majority of MMORPGS"

Examples of the ridiculous and narrow clothing choices for women avatars in online games.

<http://repair-her-armor.tumblr.com/post/50474510652/clothes-im-forced-to-wear-in-the-majority-of-mmorpgs>

Clueful Gamers

LJ community started by Rachel.

<http://clueful-gamers.livejournal.com/>

Contessa

A free, online tabletop RPG convention where all the games and panels are run by women.

<http://www.contessaonline.com>

"Dear The Internet, This Is Why You Can't Have Anything Nice"

The backlash against people who dare to suggest misogyny exists in gaming. Discusses misogyny encountered by Anita Sarkeesian.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/internet/2012/06/dear-internet-why-you-cant-have-anything-nice>

Dreamhack's Female Clan Wars

DreamHack is the world's largest computer festival, held in Sweden.

<http://dreamhack.binarybeast.com/xGow31202280>

"The 'Fake Geek Girl' has got to go"

Randomredux & others via reblog. (The post has over 30K notes on it by now.)

<http://cypheroftyr.tumblr.com/post/35699367588/the-fake-geek-girl-has-got-to-go>

Original post at:

<http://randomredux.tumblr.com/post/35698623762/the-fake-geek-girl-has-got-to-go>

Fat, Ugly or Slutty

Creepy, disturbing, insulting, degrading and/or just plain rude messages sent to other online players, usually women.

<http://fatuglyorslutty.com>

Female Gamers

A Dutch website, primarily for electronic gaming.

<http://www.female-gamers.nl/news.php>

Feminist Gamer Bingo

Things said all-too-often about women video gamers.

<http://cypheroftyr.tumblr.com/post/50512051668/dragonreine-feministfatale-com-because-im-a>

The handout is available at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s0OLij9lBjSGtIgw40-y4004XmeESdU1RetSWlRjzYU/edit?usp=sharing>

Gaming as Women

A community blog about women and games, primarily tabletop.
<http://gamingaswomen.com>

And see especially the article "What WOTC Says to its Female Audience (and What We Hear)" as a response to the "Sexism in Fantasy" article:

<http://gamingaswomen.com/posts/2012/05/what-wotc-says-to-its-female-audience/>

"Gaming Made Me: Fallout 2"

"[A] stark personal tale of how videogame fantasy can inspire interest, provoke thought, and ultimately change how we see the world."

<http://www.rockpapershotgun.com/2012/11/23/gaming-made-me-fallout-2/>

Ill Doctrine

Jay Smooth's video blog of witty and insightful criticism.
<http://www.illdoctrine.com>

Jane McGonigal

Working to make games that help us become better people.

<http://janemcgonigal.com/>

And see also:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/29/fashion/jane-mcgonigal-designer-of-superbetter-moves-games-deeper-into-daily-life.html?pagewanted=all>

"Kickstarting Sexism with 'Kingdom Death'"

A board game raises money for horribly sexist miniatures. Save Vs. Sexism is also a very good series of articles about sexism in (primarily tabletop) gaming.

<http://bitchmagazine.org/post/save-vs-sexism-kickstarting-sexism>

"New RPG: Genesys searching for 'gamer chicks' to represent the nine female lead chars"

Using misogyny to market a new tabletop RPG.

<http://forum.rpg.net/showthread.php?631781-New-RPG-Genesys-searching-for-quot-game-r-chicks-quot-to-represent-the-nine-female-lea-d-chars>

"Norwescon 2013: Women in Gaming Communities"

Post about a Norwescon panel with a similar topic to today's.

<http://arsludi.lamemage.com/index.php/512/norwescon-2013-women-in-gaming-communities/>

RPGirl Zine Project

An anthology of essays by and about women role-playing gamers.

<http://rpgirl-zine.blogspot.com/>

PSDO's posts on Tumblr

Many great posts here:

Bayonetta v Dragon's Crown

<http://psdo.tumblr.com/post/50328904343>

Feminism in Gaming

Highlighting the problematic elements in Dragon's Crown and its hyper-sexualization

<http://psdo.tumblr.com/post/49861398912>

In Defense of Boobies

<http://psdo.tumblr.com/post/48974353399#notes>

Nerd and Male Privilege part 2

<http://psdo.tumblr.com/post/29203907634>

Sexism in Gaming - A response to Gabrielle

Toledano

<http://psdo.tumblr.com/post/40959786712#notes>

Anita Sarkeesian: Feminist Frequency, and Tropes vs. Women in Video Games

Anita Sarkeesian has been blogging and doing videos about feminism for several years, and had a tremendously successful Kickstarter to do a series of videos about feminism in gaming, which she has now started.

<http://feministfrequency.com>

"Sexism in Fantasy: Dragon's-Eye View"

A discussion of sexism in art direction for D&D Next.

<http://www.wizards.com/DnD/Article.aspx?x=dnd/4dreye/20120502#80025>

Special Guest Edition: The Hawkeye Initiative IRL!

A woman working at a video game company illustrates to her CEO how sexist he's been.

<http://thehawkeyeinitiative.com/post/50432219744/special-guest-edition-the-hawkeye-initiative-irl>

"We Resign from Sexism and Games Effective Immediately: Positive Steps Toward Gender Equality in Gaming Cultures"

How to reach gender equality and lessen sexism in video game development.

<http://flowtv.org/2013/04/we-resign-from-sexism-and-games-effective-immediately/>

"what do you think? how many girls actually play DD?"

Lovely example of the "women don't game, those that do must be fat, and/or are not 'real women'" attitude.

<http://www.gamefaqs.com/boards/684236-dragons-dogma-dark-arisen/66185701>

Women Fighters in Reasonable Armor

Boob armor and chainmail bikinis need not be the rule.

<http://womenfighters.tumblr.com/>

"Women in Gaming Communities"

A thread about women in tabletop gaming, specifically story games; response to the Norwescon post above.

<http://www.story-games.com/forums/discussion/18301/women-in-gaming-communities/p1>