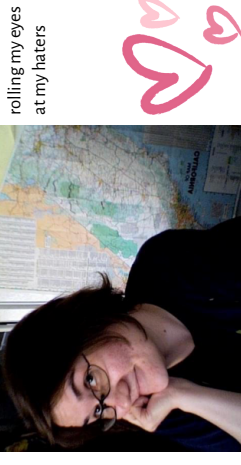


Zine made with care by Julie Setele
(July 2024, Buffalo, NY)



Donate to the National Network of
Abortion Funds (NNAF) at
<https://abortionfunds.org/donate/>

Support for abortion funds has waned
since immediately after the *Dobbs*
decision in 2022. Abortion funds need
your help more than ever!



I entered a PhD program intending
to study abortion politics. I decided
to study anti-abortion folks, but got
burnt tf out doing that -- and then
discovered I was unexpectedly
pregnant. **For me, the abortion
decision was a clear and firm one.**
I didn't know if I wanted kids ever,
but certainly not then. Looking
back, I thank my younger self for not
tying me to my then-partner.



My Abortion Journey

Later in college, I lived in Ireland,
where abortion was illegal*** and I
marched in the streets about it.
I came home fired up about abortion
rights and completed an honors
thesis on whether abortion
knowledge (like, of the actual facts)
was related to abortion beliefs (it is,
at least a little!). I got a short-term
job with NARAL Pro-Choice America
in Cleveland, and then a longer-term
job as a Patient Advocate at Preterm,
a feminist abortion clinic.

***Ireland legalized abortion in May 2018 by
constitutional referendum

**I first learned about abortion
when I was in the 1st grade.**
It was 1988, and George H. W. Bush
and Michael Dukakis were vying
for the presidency. My school held
a mock election and my 6-year-old
self voted for Dukakis, childishly
yet ageistly choosing him because
he looked younger than his
opponent.
Later that night, while on a walk to
the local park, my parents taught
me that Dukakis was a Democrat,
and that Democrats kill babies. I
learned the lesson that I had made
not just a wrong choice, but a
horrific one.

*How can I support women's rights
but not support a woman's
right to control her own body?*
I couldn't make sense of it, so I
methodically and pragmatically
changed my beliefs.

I would never have an abortion, I
said, but I support the right to
choose.**



**Non-binary people and
trans men have
abortions, too. I now use
gender-neutral
language to talk about
abortion.

**Choice-based rhetoric
is limited. AF.
Loretta Ross taught me:
Reproductive justice is
the way.



Looking stylish in a fruit romper with my koolaid-stained mouth



I could never give
birth and then give
up the baby.
My parents did foster care when I
was little, taking in newborns and
babies mostly. I would
(temporarily) name the girls and
my brother would name the boys.
I mourned them when we had to
give them back. **I was but a child
myself.** But I knew then that

While my dad had taught me to
obey, **my mom taught me to
question everything.**
And eventually I did.

Away at college, I finally
embraced the feminism that had
been stirring in me since I was a
tot. The next year, taking intro
women's studies, I wrote in my
journal about my struggle to
reconcile my ever-expanding
feminism with my parents' beliefs
- or what I'd thought of as *my*
beliefs - about abortion.

Reproductive Justice

Reproductive justice is a social movement rooted in Black feminism. SisterSong defines it as **“the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.”**

The term “reproductive justice” was coined in 1994 by Women of African Descent for Reproductive Justice, and applies a human rights framework to the issue of reproductive health.

Earlier movements focused more narrowly on legal issues related to abortion rights or reproductive rights. These movements tended to center middle-class white women and emphasize “choice,” with limited economic, racial, or cultural analysis into how individual choices are constrained by societal factors.

By contrast, reproductive justice is interested in the full spectrum of reproductive experiences and recognizes the role of inequalities in shaping options.

Why I Made This Zine

I made this zine as an example for the students in my Social Justice Through Zines class. It is a **perzine** that engages in **scholarly personal narrative writing**, as discussed by Robert J. Nash. Also informing this zine

is my training as a **feminist** sociologist, who values **reflexivity**. Reflexivity refers to the process of critically examining one’s positionality (social identities) in relation to the topic one is studying.

Recommended Reading

Liberating Abortion (2024) Sherman & Mahone
You or Someone You Love (2023) Matthews
New Handbook for a Post-Roe America (2021) Marty
The Movement for Reproductive Justice (2020) Zavella
Choice Words (2020) Finch
Reproductive Justice (2017) Ross & Solinger

References

Nash, R. J. (2004). *Liberating scholarly writing: The power of personal narrative*. Teachers College Press.
SisterSong. (n.d.). “About us.”
<https://www.sistersong.net/about-x2>
Sweet, P. L. (2020). “Who knows?: Reflexivity in feminist standpoint theory and Bourdieu.” *Gender & Society*, 34(6), 922-950. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26967176>

This zine addendum was made with care by Julie Setele (August 2025, Buffalo, NY)

Read more zines at juliesetele.com

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