

pornography is seen as an extreme form of violence against women. But there are also those who see recreational – and commercial – sex as [liberating] for women.

When challenged by a fellow feminist, Chapkis was “forced to take a position on sex, pornography and s/m.”

“As feminists,” Chapkis said, “we often thought that sex had been so brutal for some women. Sex was seen as dangerous.”

“There is a vision of sex that is about long term

“The queerer I became, the more I could indentify with the **politicized whore.**”

intimacy. We are trying to protect that which is threatened by things like prostitution,” said Chapkis presenting the arguments of feminist who are opposed to prostitution and pornography.

The material for Chapkis’s *Live Sex Acts* is derived from comparative research conducted in northern California communities such as Santa Cruz and San Francisco, and the Netherlands, primarily in Amsterdam. From 1986 to 1995, Chapkis met, interviewed,

and worked with numerous sex workers along with others concerned with the practice of commercial sex.

There is a complicated relationship between sex workers and researchers, Chapkis said describing her research. The popular impression is that researchers use their (sex worker’s) stories, get Ph.Ds, and write books about them. In some way, Chapkis admits that this is true, but insists that researchers only get a version of the truth from these women who may feel like they have to glorify their profession.

Chapkis is confident she was successful

in shedding some light on these women’s lives.

“The queerer I became, the more I could indentify with the politicized whore, said Chapkis. “I knew what it was like to be singled out by stigma.”

Chapkis admits to not having a monopoly on the truth and warns that other feminists on either sides of the debate make themselves stupid thinking that they do.

“We all want sexual safety for women,” said Chapkis, “[but] we also want expansive opportunity for women so they do not

have to resort to prostitution.”

Nina Hartley, a porn star and a feminist working for better working conditions in the porn industry, was one of the women interviewed by Chapkis.

Hartley does not like the fact that some women in the [pornography] business are only 19 or 20, or not what she considers to be “together” enough for the work, but she knows that “a woman has got to do, what a woman has got to do,” as many women must resort to this business to make ends meet.

Hartley has surprising views on pornography and prostitution.

“When I first got into this business, I had lots of value judgements about some of

these women: they smoke, they drank, they didn’t wear their seatbelts, they didn’t eat their vegetables, and they didn’t finish school,” said Hartley.

Despite her work, she said she did not really feel like a ‘bad girl’.

“I don’t even do porn out of a need to rebel,” said Hartley

At heart, Hartley sees herself as a ‘good girl’ who wants to make the world a better place for everybody. “I want to end hunger, no more war, no more rape. I pay my taxes,

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