

MacKinnon and Langton's Egalitarian Argument

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Abstract

Famous anti-pornography feminists, Catharine MacKinnon and Rae Langton argue that people do not have a right to pornography because pornography subordinates women and silences them by restricting their ability to act in protest against it. Langton emphasizes the act of creating porn. She asserts that pornography not only leads to subordination—it is itself an act of subordination. Therefore, pornography destroys political liberty and equality and should not be allowed. In what follows, I will examine how MacKinnon and Langton attempt to establish that the creation of porn and in so doing denies women equality. I will argue that MacKinnon and Langton fail to show how pornography destroys women's political equality.

Key Words: John Langshaw Austin, Ronald Dworkin, Catharine MacKinnon, Rae Langton, illocutionary subordinating