Love, Sex, and the Vital Research Group

Connie Uliasz

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Some Complicating Factors

- Vitality and its many forms
- Are we “wired” to be excited by innovation?
- Pressure to perform has deep social context - how can we really know that it’s consensual?
- Power differences among participants
- Prevalence of sexually-based traumas: sexual molestation of children, sexual harassment in academia, etc.
- Sexual harassment cases are extremely painful for everyone

The Care and Feeding of the Moral Imagination

- Moral Imagination: the difference between human and non-human animals
- The need for a highly developed moral imagination
- Complexity of the issues cannot be overstated
- First, do no harm

The Case of the Consensual Relationship

- New, single, faculty member is attracted to graduate student in same department.

or

- Faculty member ends consensual affair with student who thought relationship would be permanent.

How can we minimize the damage?

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