

# A STUDY ON HIP-HOP FEMINISM PLACED IN THE CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPE OF THE SINGAPORE HIP-HOP DANCE SCENE.

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## BACKGROUND

Hip-hop started out as a mean of self-expression for marginalised voices in America that consists of four elements - DJ, breaking, rap, and graffiti. Music television (MTV) catapulted Hip-hop internationally. However, the lucrateness of highly sexual and misogynistic imagery in lyrics and music videos posed a misunderstanding of its culture. Thus, Hip-hop Feminism defined in this research is **the movement that aims to end sexism by acknowledging and responding to the unfair representation of genders and races**

## RESEARCH QUESTION

How is Hip-hop feminism practised in the Singapore Hip-hop dance scene of today?



### INTRODUCTION

Singapore's multiculturalism has allowed Hip-hop to be assimilated easily, however, the lack of education on its culture and the awareness of gender biases normalises this problematic Hip-hop music that is played locally. Thus, Hip-hop Feminism defined in the study adopted a combination of feminist ideologies from both the US and Singapore.

As Hip-hop dance is interrelated with rap music, the dance styles changes from one social context to another hence making it an ideal medium to uncover practises of Hip-hop Feminism in Singapore.

### THEORETICAL CONCEPT

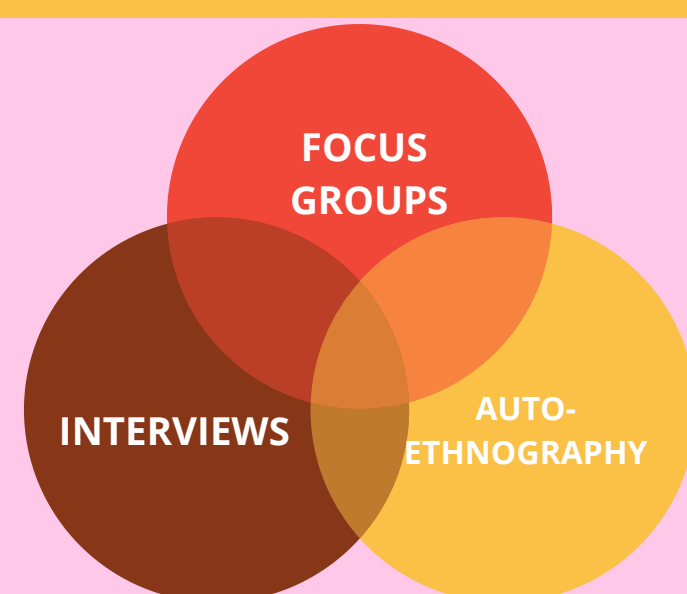
Concept of Embodiment by Sheets-Johnstone (2015)

- Having a body (A body as a matter)
- Being a body (A body with thoughts and conscience)



### METHODOLOGY

Interlocutors: Active Hip-hop dancers from the ages 18 to 40 year olds.



### KEY FINDINGS

Through cross-tabulation analysis and cross-referencing, these are the three key findings.



Active initiatives by the Hip-hop community to create a more inclusive scene

Conscious and intentional choice of music and stylistic movements adopted based on different dance settings (showcase, battles etc.)

Dance educators providing a safe learning environment for both females and males in dance classes.

### BENEFITS OF FINDINGS

Serve as a guide for future Hip-hop events and the long term impacts it would have on the dance scene.

Education on the ever-changing Hip-hop culture prepares future Hip-hop dancers to be progressive and well-informed dancers.

These practices of inclusivity can be an inspiration/motivation for other communities of Hip-hop.

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