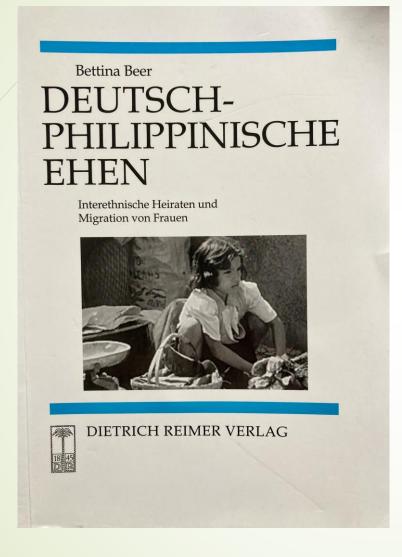
Overcoming the Perpetrator-Victim Narrative

Bettina Beer, University of Lucerne



- Empirical research in Hamburg and the Visayas (1993-1995)
- Participant observation, focus on case studies
- Lively exchange with people connected to the Philippines in Hamburg and the Philippines till today

(1996)

Media and language

Die Geschichte einer Filipina

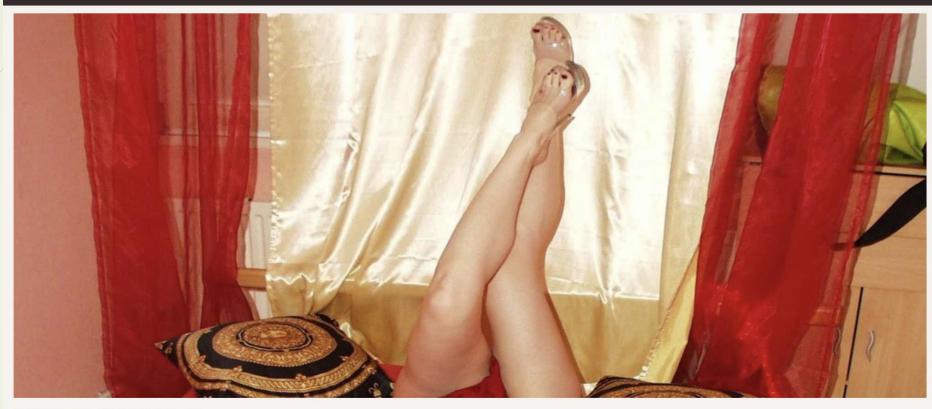
Moderne Sklaverei – mitten in Deutschland



Alina wollte als Haushaltshilfe arbeiten – und wurde versklavt. @ picture alliance / dpa / Jan-Philipp Strobe

Highly sexualised discourses

- "Trade" in women/girls ("Frauen-/Mädchenhandel")
- Modern "slavery"
- "Sex slaves"
- Emphasis on "childlike" characteristics
- Pictures with sexualised content



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FRAUENHANDEL

What remains the same?

- Well-meaning attempts "to help"
- Unintended consequences
- Economic interests to make money ("sex sells")
- Self-victimization (strategic essentialism)
- Heteronormativity, ethnic/gender stereotypes & sexualisation remain firmly established in our society

Consequences of ethnography

- E-mails, letters and contact with couples
- Invert the victim-perpetrator discourse?
- Little public/academic interest in undermining supposedly clear distinctions between "good" and "bad"



Mai Ling: Let's Stick Together

Changes in Social Science Theory

- 1. Emphasis on agency
- 2. Critique of essentialism (description of strategic essentialism)
- 3. Radical Critique of the Culture Concept
- 4. Loosening up of binary definitions of gender, ethnicity and class

Today I would do a more radical and much better job (I hope)!

Why continue to do research in a "minefield"?

