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New pub in [@Gender_Journal](#): “Patriarchal pits: the gendered experiences of female concert photographers.” It’s hard to condense an entire paper into a thread but I’ll hit some highlights. Here’s a link to some free e-copies or DM me:



[1/9]



Best quote from one interviewee to sum it all up:

“I refuse to believe that photography is a male dominated field, but I guess I just see the male opinion and the male presence kind of taking up space in a lot of places”
[2/9]

It’s not new knowledge that women are harassed, female photographers are harassed, or women in the music industry are harassed. But these interviews help us to outline it and structure how it plays out so we can start to dismantle these practices. [3/9]

Three specific gendered challenges emerged from the in-depth interviews: patriarchal language, movement in space, identification/reaction [4/9]

Patriarchal language: Men are talked about as “one of the guys” while women are “moms in the pit.” [5/9]

“[some photographers] don’t want this *‘Mom’* coming in the pit and getting in their way.”

“wow, they just let *anybody with a camera* in the pit.”

Movement in space: Aside from the direct harassment of being pushed around or pushed up against in the crowded photo pit, there’s sometimes benevolent sexism (acting positive toward women but still stereotypically) like asking if they need help with their settings. [6/9]

“I’ve had male photographers *hit on me*, or come to me and *touch me* ... pushing up against me in a sexual way while shooting and think they can get away with it. I have experienced *men sexually objectifying women on stage* in my presence and thinking it was okay. And I’ve seen women bend to that gendered expectation.”

Identification: Women entering the pit often feel they aren't taken as seriously as men as concert photographers and have to prove themselves through mimicking aggressive masculinity. [7/9]

"I'm usually the only female at a show, and it's a *bunch of guys and they're there with their big ol' equipment* and I feel like ... I have to be a little more aggressive ... It's a whole mentality thing ... In my head, I automatically think '*Oh man, I guess I have to prove something*,' which is a terrible thing, but in my head, it's what I feel at first. I don't think that sense goes away."

Some attribute this to how photographers can just generally be assholes. [8/9]

"I think it's not so much a male/female thing as it is that *photographers are assholes*. I really think that photographers are just assholes. And I think that somebody could maybe attribute that to being female if they're sensitive about it."

Behind the scenes: this project started when an interviewee for another project told me she was getting out of concert photography despite how much she loved it because it wasn't worth the harassment [9/9]

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