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Tracing Feminisms in Brazil: An Analysis of Gender and Race in Academic Discourses and Online Activism

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Women's movements and feminisms in Brazil have taken various shapes along the years, contributing significantly to socio-political actions that favor gender justice. Despite the significant contributions of feminist scholarship and activism to establishment of state feminism in the country, which demonstrates the merging of theory and praxis, very little is known about Brazilian feminisms in the United States. The invisibility of Brazilian feminisms within feminist scholarship in the United States justifies the need of further research on the topic. The conceptualizations of feminisms in the United States are often complicated by the identity politics that categorize certain political actions as feminist while dismissing others. These complexities are expanded to global south feminisms, demonstrating the need of critical perspectives within any investigation of feminisms outside the United States. This research will use postcolonial, postmodern and critical race feminist theories as a framework to examine scholarly texts and online feminist activism through a content analysis methodology. Through a cross-cultural analysis, this thesis will also investigate the types of theories and works that are imported by Brazilian feminisms, with the objective of identifying practices within feminisms that might either challenge or emulate the social, economic, and geo-political order that divides the world into global north and south.