

Off the Hook: Escorting, Post-feminism and The Art of Conspicuous Consumption  
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This paper examines the intersection of Neoliberalism and Post-feminism as it relates to the commodification of the female body, with a specific focus on “high-end” escorting. It begins with an analysis of how neoliberalism and post-feminism overlap, which then lends the appropriate framework to lead into a critique of neoliberal culture. I posit that “success” under neoliberalism is measurable by financial independence through individuality, privatization and entrepreneurship. Focusing exclusively on women in major Western cities I will present a critical analysis concerning the commodification and consumption of the hyper-sexualized female body within the underground economy of escorting. This is accomplished by looking at individual narratives of women working as escorts, which elucidate the socio-cultural perceptions of sex, gender and choice as a result of neoliberal culture. Theories of sexual subjectification and consumption are central themes in this paper, as the relation between the commodification of bodies and material possessions will be used to illustrate forms of self-governing that are integral to neoliberal culture especially in a post-feminist society. Irrespective of the increased agency provided to women as a result of post-feminist ideology, it is ultimately still the by-product of neoliberal societal values that produce the economic conditions that give rise to escorting for women.