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Misogyny, Misandry and Homophobia in Russian and American rap music

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**Introduction**

Rap music became popular in the 1970s in the USA as a method of expression used by African American youth. It attempted to give the voice to the voiceless and make the unprivileged speak. People who had been marginalized because of their color for many decades finally had the opportunity to reveal their emotions and feelings to the world. A couple of decades later rap turned into a flourishing industry that was not necessarily focused on the struggles of the people of color but started to be perceived as a culture. All of a sudden rap music started resembling a tree with many branches, such as gangsta rap, ghetto house, freestyle rap, mumble rap and many more. The industry started creating idols, stars, established a new outlook on “coolness” and decided what the most profitable song themes were. This paper will look at how Russian and American gangsta rap affects and shapes Russian and American listeners’ attitude towards the opposite gender and members of the LGBTQA+ community. Gangsta rap is famous for promoting misogyny, sexism and hypermasculinity but there are not many articles written about the effects of such songs on the listeners. The existing articles contradict each other because some of the writers like Johnson, Jackson,et al (1995) after conducting a series of experiments have come to the conclusion that “exposure to violent rap videos has been related to higher acceptance of violence, including violence against women by African American adolescent males”, whereas a study conducted by Harvey (1999) where he interviewed 100 African American teenage males from Chicago suggested that “rap music did not have a major effect on attitudes towards women, male-female relationships, and manhood. An overwhelming majority of the sample rejected rap music’s negative messages and viewed it as a form of an entertainment”. Therefore, it is hard to come to a single conclusion and stop debating about the negative effects of rap on its listeners. The main reason behind comparing Russian rap to American rap is that it might be interesting to see the similarities and the differences between these two industries. American rap is full of stereotypes directed at black women while these stereotypes are absent from Russian rap. The paper will look deeper at possible negative effects of gangsta rap, such as making men hate women of color and in case with Russian rap women in general or showcasing aggressive behavior towards the opposite gender. The paper will also take a look at how female singers respond to misogyny and will attempt to explore how women try to fix their reputation with the help of misandry. The last part of the paper will talk about the attitude of black rappers towards the LGBTQA+ community and discuss how LGBTQA+ rappers try to pave their way to the hall of fame. The capstone project will also include some sections that will talk about the psychology of gangsta rappers, hypermasculinity, homosociality, subordinate masculinity and the canonization of the industry as well as discuss the need for regulating the industry and reducing the amount of stereotypes it is actively promoting.

*Keywords: Misogyny, misandry, hypermasculinity ,homosociality, subordinate masculinity, canon, rap canon, Gangsta rap, LGBTQA+*

**Literature review**

The main goal of this paper is to understand how gender stereotypes affect the listeners and if they can lead to grave consequences, it may be the right time to ponder about the regulations of the industry. An article by C.M. West (1995) claims that stereotyped black women often develop eating disorders and mental illnesses because they try to distance themselves from the stereotypical image. For instance, the mammy stereotype portrays black women as “obese, dark complexioned women with African features” but it does not often occur in rap songs whereas the Sapphire and Jezebel stereotypes portray “women who emasculate men with frequent verbal assaults” and “women who are seductive and hypersexual exploiters of men’s weaknesses”. (West, C. M., 1995, p.459,461,462) These stereotypes affect black women so much that they start having psychological issues such as weight loss or anxiety problems because they try to distance themselves from the attributed stereotypes. The article does not talk about rap at all but it shows us that these stereotypes are more than just stereotypes and that they can destroy lives of human beings. According to the article, ”the perpetuation of the Jezebel image reinforces and justifies sexual exploitation. Not only does this image contribute to a sense of shame and reluctance to acknowledge sexual violence in the larger black community, it affirms the myth that black women cannot be victimized due to their wanton sexual nature.”( West, C. M., 1995p.463 ) .

As stated in the introduction, the rap industry depends on the profit and oftentimes rappers who use misogyny in their songs enjoy fame and are considered to be great celebrities and thus are constantly being invited to different shows and programs to tell their stories. As the article by Adams and Fuller states, “Music industry. Like the misogynistic music before it, misogynistic rap has been accepted and allowed to flourish, generating wealth for some of the artists and the music industry as a whole. Lyricists that use misogyny get plenty of air- time on the radio, and their videos are often in heavy rotation on music video television stations (i.e., MTV and BET). Although the expletives are often edited, the misogynistic overtones are overtly clear to the listener. Many of these artists are touted as great celebrities” (Adams, T. M., & Fuller, D. B. 2006, 940-941). Therefore, they become role models for many people. There are some romantic rap singers such as Bah Tee or LL Cool J but they are not popular anymore since their songs are overly sweet and not provocative.

As mentioned before, Adams states that men who insult women in their songs enjoy fame and it is important to understand why black men sing songs where they insult their own women. Rappers like Dr. Dre or Snoop Dogg are popular all across the world because they know trends. Black men sing songs where they insult black women for a reason, although it seems to be quite illogical at first glance. Why would black men insult their counterparts instead of protecting them from the rest of the world? The reason is that by insulting women men feel dominant and oppressive and it makes them feel powerful and violent. The article by J. Keller (Keller, J. 2003) supports my argument by talking about Eminem and his masculine protest. Eminem’s every single fan remembers a period when he divorced his wife Kim and started writing hateful songs about her. In case of Eminem misogynist rap songs help him show that he is a man who can treat women the way he wants to do it. He wants to be masculine to conceal his problems related to unhappy childhood and personal life. In his song “Kim” he talks about how he imagines the killing of his mother and in some other songs he imagines the death of his ex-wife Kim.

There is also this argument that black rappers insult their own girls and women to show that they are successful at least somewhere due to the fact that usually rappers suffer because of alcohol and drug addiction. It is a concealing mechanism that they use to create an image that everything is okay and they have no problems at all. I came across an article “Masculinity ideology among Russian and US young men and women and its relationships to unhealthy lifestyles habits among young Russian men” that discusses the masculinity of Russian men (Levant, R. F., Cuthbert, A., Richmond, K., Sellers, A., Matveev, A., Mitina, O., .& Heesacker, M., 2003). According to the article, Russian men think that a real man is overworking, drinking, smoking and he is the boss in the family and his wife and children should do everything to please him. Turns out that a typical Russian man does not use drugs but instead he has his own problems to solve. No wonder so many Russian rappers reduce women to sexual objects in their songs. The majority of Russian rappers portray women as bitches and sluts who are ready to sleep with every single man they see. For example, a famous Russian rapper Pharaoh sings how he slept with someone else’s girlfriend in a car and she was absolutely disgusting.

Rap has the possibility of affecting young boys and girls whose perception of the opposite gender is just forming. The article by Rachel Sullivan discusses how black and white teenagers perceive rap music and how seriously they treat the messages that the songs try to convey (Sullivan, R., 2003). The article’s main argument is that black teenagers think that rap songs are about trivial things for them such as violence, sex and drugs and often try to imitate rap singers. The majority of black boys try to wear clothes like rappers wear and both black and white teenagers use bad words form the songs in their everyday lives. Sullivan states that if black boys listen to rap songs and try to relate to them because of the historical background, white teenagers try to understand how blacks think and act by listening to their songs. Even white teens who are not into rap songs listen to them because rap songs are being played in cafes, restaurants and public places.

The paper will try to understand the nature of misandry and discuss female rappers’ place in the industry. Women want to show that they can stand up for themselves and protect their own rights and it became obvious with the emergence of third wave feminism to the point where women don’t think of egalitarianism anymore and try to prove that they are better than men. Young and Nathanson discuss the concept of misandry in their article titled “Sanctifying misandry: Goddess ideology and the fall of men”( (Young, K. K., & Nathanson, P.,2010 )). According to the authors, women blame men for everything bad that happens to them and think that men use women to satisfy their desires and nothing else. Women believe that if they are good then men must be bad and there is a need to punish them for their deeds. It is a protective mechanism where women try to save themselves from attacks by men and fight back.

The paper will aim to show that misandry is a protective mechanism which aims to save women from misogyny. Denisova and Herasimenka state that Russian rap songs are very misogynistic and present women as sluts (Denisova, A., Herasimenka A., 2019, April). However, there are some women who challenge this perception by writing violent songs and attacking male performers. There is a Russian female rapper Aziza who decided to become a rapper after her rapper ex-husband wrote a diss track to insult her current husband. (This is my rap scene' Life for the women of Russian hip hop) There are two articles on which the discussion of the canons will be based and both of them are written by Pollock. The first article is called “Differencing the Canon” and it discusses the image of the woman as the Other, the outsider of the canon. Pollock’s second article has to do with the structural representation of the canon, the critique of the canon and the psycho-symbolic investment of the canon where she quotes Sarah Koffman on Freud. Although these two articles do not address rap or music in general, they are helpful in understanding how canonization limits artistic possibilities of people and how much we lose by excluding women from canons.

An article by Matthew Oware titled “Brotherly Love: Homosociality and Black masculinity in gangsta rap music” talks about hypermasculinity and homosociality as a way of expressing brotherly love and establishing the borders of the rap canon. In order to discuss misogyny in rap we should take a look at what constitutes the rap canon and get ourselves acquainted with the psychology of male gangsta rappers.

**Methodology**

The main research methods I have used are called content analysis and surveys. One part of my analysis is based on the articles I have read followed by textual analysis of the songs. The first section of the paper talks about the canonization of the rap industry and elaborates more on hypermasculinity/ homosociality. Pollock and Matthew Oware are the two authors that have helped me shape the discussion of the structure of the rap industry and apply this knowledge to the songs that I have analyzed. The second section looks at various manifestations of misogyny and its layers and tries to assess the seriousness of these songs’ impact. Rap songs by Russian and American rappers were analyzed to show the differences and similarities between these two industries. The third and the fourth sections will look at how marginalized groups (women and LBTQA+) manage to survive in the industry where they are quite often being abused and the analysis of these two marginalized groups will be based on content analysis. The fifth section will look at the two surveys I have created to collect responses from rap listeners. The first survey was sent to the Russian speaking community of Armenia and Russian rap listeners living abroad. The second survey was posted on several rap forums and collected responses from Americans. I have gathered approximately 100 responses from each survey and so the last section will analyze the results and discuss them thoroughly. The main purpose of this section is to either a) prove that rap is harmless and there is no need to put regulations in force or 2) the stereotypical representations of gender in rap music harm the listeners and only regulations can normalize that situation.

**Canonization of rap and Hypermasculinity/Homosociality/Subordinate Masculinity**

The root of the word canon comes from a Greek word kanon, meaning a standard. Canons have been existing for many centuries and they are often created by institutions to show what should be perceived as the best, the traditional and the most significant. When we think about artists it is hard for us to name at least one black artist, we cannot recall the names, we get lost. In the best case scenario some people may name Frida Kahlo (although she was not black) but just because her art has recently become very commercialized as there are several movies about her and clothes designers produce clothes with her paintings on them. However, we remember many white artists such as Picasso, Monet, Magritte, Cezanne and we can recognize their paintings out of a million other paintings. It has mainly to do with institutionalization of the canon because women were supposed to sit at home and look after children while men were actively learning how to draw and were commissioned to represent kings or major events in their artworks. Therefore, we can safely assume that the canon of art consists of white men and women or people of color are simply left out. The same trends and tendencies can be observed in the rap canon. Gangsta rap canon is dominated by black men whose songs revolve around drugs, sex, violence, guns and destroying enemies. White rappers are not left out of the canon but they are not the main members of it because they are not part of the black culture and they have nothing to say about it. Women are left out of the canon and moreover, the canon is a very hostile environment for female singers because by becoming part of the canon they have to either a) become submissive by obeying to rappers and agreeing with them on everything or b) get subjected to negative comments both from rappers and their devoted fans. Black women are treated as second-class citizens because even if they become part of the canon, they are considered to be less likely to produce something “valuable”. That is why there are so many female rappers who marginalize themselves and other women by featuring with male rappers and they usually sing only the hook of the collaborative songs. Less obedient female rappers are simply left out of the canon, they have their own audience, their own listeners but they are not necessarily popular. According to the list of 50 top lyricists created by The Source magazine (the magazine of rap music, culture and politics), there are only three women worthy of that title. The first one is Lauryn Hill (9th place), followed by Queen Latifah (25th place) and Lil Kim (45th place). The rest are men. It means that out of 50 lyricists only three women are considered to be great and the rest are left out. Even the aforementioned three female rappers do not occupy the highest positions.

In her essay Pollock talks about two possible ways of approaching a canon. One possible way is to abolish the canon and let the industry exist without it. However, it is a challenging and time-consuming process because it will take a long time to remove the stereotypes and forget the conventional way of doing things. The second possible option is to include women in the canon but even in that case women risk being misunderstood and underestimated because for male rappers it will be hard to accept that they are equal to women and that women can compete with them. A question arises: “How much do we lose by not including women in the canon? What are we missing out on?” Imagine how many female rappers remain unnoticed just because they are outside of the canon and their voice is not being heard. The industry would become bigger and wider if women had the opportunity to show that they are worth listening to. Imagine how many new opportunities would the industry open up had women been recognized as great artists too.

Unfortunately, it is not happening right now. The entire field of gangsta rap is based on the notion of hegemonic masculinity, a practice according to which men occupy the dominant position in the society and are considered to be better than everyone else. Gangsta rappers are playing into the trope of a “badman”, a man who is invincible and unstoppable and there is no one who can defeat him. Part of the reason why this image is used by black rappers is that it helps them feel that they are successful at least somewhere. Black people had a long history of being enslaved and this genre compensates for their feeling of not being manly or masculine enough. They should be perceived as role-models for other members of the black community, they should be viewed as unreachable and undefeatable individuals so that their fans can look up to them.

This behavior is explained by Sigmund Freud who has created the theory of The Father/Hero which can explain most of the patterns existing in canons. If we take Freud’s framework and apply it to our current discussion, it will turn out that the fans are not interested in the songs written by rappers but simply want to worship the artist. Therefore, when a man listens to rap lyrics two things happen. First of all, he views the artists as a father, a person who is ideal, perfect in every possible aspect and the fan admires him and stays true to him. Then, the fan wants to be like an artist because narcissism kicks in and he thinks to himself “Am I worse than him? I want to be like him!” and that is when so many rap fans start imitating and mimicking their beloved rappers to the point when they start dressing like them, talking like them and behaving like them.

Black women are considered to be more successful than black men because they go to universities and spend more time on their education and this is one of the reasons why rappers insult women in their songs. It makes them feel that although they are less educated, they are more successful. These two reasons in their turn lead to the third reason, the commercialization of misogynistic rap songs. It is a closed loop where the feeling of being less privileged gives birth to hegemonic masculinity and hegemonic masculinity becomes a standard for other unprivileged men and they become the main consumers of this genre and thus rappers know what to sell to boost their sales. Weitzer and Kubrin quote Brother Marquis from 2 Live Crew who said: ‘‘I’m degrading [women] to try to get me some money. ... And besides, you let me do that. You got pimps out here who are making you sell your body. Just let me talk about you for a little while ... and make me a little money’’ (quoted in Collins 2000, 143-144).

Canonical gangsta rappers respect only their family members (be it a man or a woman) and friends who are oftentimes considered to be part of their families but disrespect their enemies and those outside the canon. Prominent American rappers like Kanye West, Tupac Shakur, Snoop Dogg have songs about their mothers where they glorify them and thank them for raising them in such a way that gave them the opportunity to become famous. This narrative can be seen in many songs, where the role of the mother is that of a savior who rescues her misbehaving child from dangers and it is only with her help that a rapper becomes a real man. He becomes famous through her. For instance, in his song “Hey Mamma” Kanye West sings about how his mom helped him earn a fortune and become well known:

**[I guess it also depends though if my ends low](https://genius.com/Kanye-west-hey-mama-lyrics#note-145742)**

**[Second, they get up you gon get that Benzo](https://genius.com/Kanye-west-hey-mama-lyrics#note-145742)**

**Tint the windows, ride around the city and let ya friends know (Hey Mama)**

**[Tell your job you gotta fake em out](https://genius.com/Kanye-west-hey-mama-lyrics#note-79820)**

**[Since you brought me in this world, let me take you out](https://genius.com/Kanye-west-hey-mama-lyrics#note-79820)**

**[To a restaurant, upper echelon](https://genius.com/Kanye-west-hey-mama-lyrics#note-79820)**

**I'ma get you a Jag, whatever else you want**

The rapper is basically talking about the fact that even if he has some financial problems his mother can always rely on him because in 2004 he bought for her Mercedes-Benz CLK500 or as he calls it in this song, Benzo. Even if he loses everything she will still look cool, because she will be riding her car with tinted windows. Kanye’s mom worked as his manager so that’s why he is saying that she can talk about her job with other people but there is no need for her to work because they have everything and he even promises to take her to a fancy restaurant where she will be able to order whatever she wants. Even though he is expressing his love towards the mother, he is still bragging so that his gangsta rapper side can balance his emotional side out.

The same narrative can be observed in Eminem’s song “Mockingbird” where he sings about his love for his daughter:

[**And if you ask me to, Daddy's gonna buy you a mockingbird**](https://genius.com/Eminem-mockingbird-lyrics#note-82013) **[I'ma give you the world](https://genius.com/Eminem-mockingbird-lyrics#note-82013)**

**[I'ma buy a diamond ring for you, I'ma sing for you](https://genius.com/Eminem-mockingbird-lyrics#note-82013)**

**[I'll do anything for you to see you smile](https://genius.com/Eminem-mockingbird-lyrics#note-82013)**

**[And if that mockingbird don't sing and that ring don't shine](https://genius.com/Eminem-mockingbird-lyrics#note-82013)**

[**I'ma break that birdie's neck**](https://genius.com/Eminem-mockingbird-lyrics#note-68652)

**[I'll go back to the jeweler who sold it to ya](https://genius.com/Eminem-mockingbird-lyrics#note-663723)**

**[And make him eat every carat,](https://genius.com/Eminem-mockingbird-lyrics#note-663723)** [**don't fuck with Dad!**](https://genius.com/Eminem-mockingbird-lyrics#note-65752)[**(Ha-ha!)**](https://genius.com/Eminem-mockingbird-lyrics#note-225963)

This song is based on a famous children’s lullaby “Baby don’t Cry”. Eminem is singing about his beloved baby daughter, however he cannot be too soft, otherwise his fans will think that he is weak and too emotional and the notion of hegemonic masculinity will simply vanish. That is why he has to resort to violence. In this verse Eminem makes it crystal clear that he is ready to go as far as possible to make his daughter Hailey happy. He is ready to satisfy all of her wishes to see her smile and if one of his purchases fails to make his daughter happy he will become aggressive and destroy the item or harm the seller for giving him a wrong present for his beloved baby. That way he puts his daughter on a pedestal; she is the only person whose desires he is ready to fulfill.

Russians do have songs about family ties and many rappers rap about the glorification of the mother figure. The lyrics of these songs are translated by me and I tried to stay as close to the original text as possible. One of the most famous Russian rappers Basta raps:

**I know, you know, Mom,**

**I know you believe, Mom**

**You believed and believe in me and that’s a lot**

**And when fate knocked me down**

**Through pain and despair I heard a voice: "Get up, son!"**

Basta,”Mother”

Basta is similar to American rappers in a way that he also perceives his parent as a savior who supported him when everyone turned back on him and she is almost like a god because he hears her voice when he is hopeless and she pushes him to move on.

There are three more extremely popular tropes that make up the gangsta rap canon. They have to do with the concept of homosociality, a way in which same-sex people interact to build purely social relationships.

The first trope is called “friends are family” and rappers use this trope to show that their friends are not just their homies, but they are so dear to them that they are almost like their biological brothers. Kanye West has a song “Family business” where he talks about the role of his friends in his life:

**All my niggas from the Chi, that's my family, dog**

**And my niggas ain't my guys, they my family, dog**

**[I feel like one day you'll understand me, dog](https://genius.com/Kanye-west-family-business-lyrics#note-90896)**

**[You can still love your man and be manly, dog](https://genius.com/Kanye-west-family-business-lyrics#note-90896)**.

What Kanye is trying to say here is that his friends are not only “his people”, but they are also part of something bigger, they are all related to each other and their bond is strong. In the last sentence he says that one can love his male friends without being considered to be gay and it does not affect a man’s masculinity. A Russian rapper Nagora has a song about how there is no difference between a friend or a brother when it comes to obstacles:

**Our bonds are stronger than the rope, stronger than the rope**

**We are brother for brother**

**Let my blood spill beyond the fraternal river**

**AK in one hand, in another grenade**

**Then brother for brother will fight again and again**

Nagora, “Brother for Brother”

It is obvious that the rapper is not talking about his biological brother because it is a colloquial Russian phrase that describes a close, family-like friendship. The singer states that the bond between him and his friend is so strong that nothing can tell them apart and they are ready to fight hard in order to protect each other. When gangsta rappers perform songs about wars or enemies they often state that they do it together with their homies as if violence is the only thing that makes gang members come together and experience a homosocial bond. Nagora is sure that his friendship is strong because he is ready to die for his friend and fight for the protection of his life. Therefore, violence is the only way of reaching the peak of friendship.

The second trope is called “success by association” and it can be considered to be the continuation of the first trope, because here rappers state that their friends are a) their brothers and thus b) people who they can share their wealth with. I would like us to take a look at the song called “Rags 2 Riches” by Lil Flip:

**[Lil' Flip] I push a drop-top**

**[Will-Lean] I push a Maserati**

**[LF] I got five screens**

**[WL] In my black Denali**

**[LF] You know the ladies love us**

**[WL] You know the niggas hate us**

**[LF] We learn to make the money**

**[WL] Don't let the money make us**

At the beginning of the verse each rapper is on his own. Lil Flip brags about his drophead car and his friend Will-Lean is proud of his Maserati car. However, at the end of the verse their voices merge and they do not say “I” anymore, they use “we” or “us”, as if they share women’s love or earn money together. They are not individual rappers anymore, there is a symbiosis between the two because they have the same needs, desires and the willingness to divide their possessions. In order to show the presence of this trope in Russian rap, there is a need to analyze the song of a popular young Russian rapper LSP:

**Here are my guys - they want to eat**

**They want whores - I have all of that**

**Which means they also have what I have**

**And this is my code of honor**

LSP, “Coin”

As it can be understood from the aforementioned verse, the rapper’s friends have some needs and he is ready to fulfill their expectations in order to make them happy. If they want to eat he will supply them with food, he is ready to share his women with them and whatever he owns belongs to them too because he considers it to be his code of conduct. By doing so a rapper can earn respect and show that he is not alone and there are people who share his happiness.

The third trope is called “the lament of lost friends” and it is used by rappers when they write songs about their friends who are gone forever. It is typical of the rap canon because many rappers use drugs and die as a result of drug overdose. When it happens, some rappers feel a strong need to talk about their deceased brothers. The rapper T.I. has a song about his dead friends and there is a part where he talks about one of his friends named Jay Ru:

**You ever seen a nigga go to jail and sleep 'til day 2?**

**Well, that's how sick I was when Jay-Ru**

**Found out the hard way, that wasn't powder that they were tootin'**

**Overdosed on heroin, died at 22**

**If you ain't heard about your daughter, she smile just like you**

**So cute, even resorts to violence like you**

T.I, “Live in the Sky”

Jay-Ru had to go to prison and died there because of drug overdose at the age of 22 leaving his daughter alone. T.I. is so close to the deceased rapper’s family that he knows what his daughter looks like and is aware of how she behaves. The last two lines show us that the rapper is like a member of Jay Ru’s family because he is aware of what is going on there. Even though he is not with his friend anymore, he is survived by his cute daughter and she is an embodiment of him. One of the less prominent Russian rappers 1Kla$ has a song where he grieves the loss of his best friend:

**I close the doors, I close the windows**

**I sit on my knees, I pray for you again**

**Some time ago you were with us**

**But God took you from us, left us in pain and wounds**

**Now everything is in the past, now everything is in the past**

**You were still young, had all your life ahead**

1Kla$ ,“The Death of a Friend”

The rapper wants to isolate himself from the rest of the world in order to grieve the loss of his close friend. He recalls the moments when his friend was alive and they were together but these moments are gone forever and the rapper experiences strong pain because of it. The rapper does understand that everything is in the past and it is probably the right time to move on, but the fact that his friend was so young and had a whole life ahead bothers the rapper.

We can safely assume that there are 4 tropes that gangsta rappers exploit. The first trope is about their love towards blood-related relatives, such as sisters, mothers, and daughters. The second trope is about making friends part of their families and calling them brothers, thus creating an artificial blood connection. The third trope is about the fact that rappers are willing to share their property with their best friends because they value them a lot. The last trope talks about the fact that rappers are not heartless and they also have feelings and therefore they feel down when they lose their friends.

We should not ignore the fact that there is a possibility that these tropes will be subverted in the nearest future. There is a new branch of rap called emo rap and it is widely used by the modern rappers, especially the newcomers. These rappers don’t take the concept of hegemonic masculinity into account, they do quite the opposite. They use the concept of subordinate masculinity (the opposite of hegemonic masculinity), meaning they rap about their weak and emotional sides. Post Malone has a song “Rich and Sad” where he talks about the loss of his beloved woman:

**Ayy, I would throw it all away**

**I just keep on wishin' that the money made you stay**

**You ain't never cared about that bullshit anyway**

**I just keep on wishin' that the money made you stay, ayy**

Gangsta rappers never rap about their readiness to give their belongings up to be with a woman. However, Post Malone changes the direction of the rap industry in a way that he shows that he is ready to get rid of everything he has to bring his woman back because she couldn't care less about his wealth. He is not afraid of showing his emotional side and he is not ashamed of putting his feelings on display. Although Lil Wayne is an old school rapper, he has a song “I Feel Like Dying” about misery where we can see how weak he is when he says: “Only once the drugs are done, that I feel like dying I feel like dying”. The rapper wants to say that he is addicted to drugs so much that without them he is not able to survive because drugs take him to a different world. It is a weakness but he is ready to share it with the listeners. This emo rap movement is also present in Russia. One of the rappers popular among teenagers is Lizer, who has a song titled “Between us” and the parallels are obvious between his and Malone’s songs:

**Every centimeter of your body**

**Will become kilometers between us**

**Tell me these three words that you have wanted to tell for so long:**

**Let's stay friends**

Lizer feels that the woman is trying to push him away and the outcome is pretty clear for him. He predicts that she will most likely friendzone him and prefer to be friends but that’s not what he wants although he knows how she feels about it. In the upcoming sections the paper will explore how rap music has affected those outside the canon but this particular section has drawn the borders of the canon and established what goes inside the canon and what is left out.

**Misogyny in Russian and American rap**

Generally speaking, misogyny can be described as hatred of or prejudice against women. Misogyny has so many layers that it is almost impossible to address all of them in this paper. Misogyny includes but is not limited to sexual objectification, social exclusion and belittlement of women. I am not going to focus on all of these manifestations of misogyny and that is why I will mainly discuss the following patterns of misogyny: a) violence against women b) disrespect of women c) denigration of women who have sex for money d) depiction of women as unquenchable sex machines.

It is important to understand that Russian and American rap songs are not drastically different in the terms of content, but different in terms of audience and stereotypes. Russian rap is not based on ethnic stereotypes and has to do with the collective image of a woman. There are several songs in Russian rap that describe rape or murder of women whereas American rap is full of such songs. American rap has mainly to do with marginalizing women of color, however in Russia almost everyone is white. Russian women can be marginalized based on their personality but not because of their skin color. American rappers use African-American women in their videos and when they use derogatory language and show women of color in their clips the viewer automatically assumes that the song is about black women only. There are three gender stereotypes that exist in African- American reality. The first stereotype has nothing to do with rap music because it describes a black woman who lives with white people and serves them. A Mammy is an African-American obese woman who is ready to sacrifice herself in order for her masters to live the best life possible. The remaining two stereotypes are heavily used in rap videos and constitute a big chunk of what we call misogyny. Jezebel is a woman who is not against having sex with various men and they can use her in order to satisfy their sexual needs. Jezebel is portrayed as a “bad girl” with an overly sexual body who is so seductive that men cannot resist having sex with her. She is reduced to a sex machine and this stereotype justifies having sex with women without their consent because it is automatically assumed that they want it anyways. Sapphire is described as an angry woman who does not have any feelings for men and in the rap industry she is the cold-hearted woman whose life is centered around money and only monetary rewards make her less ignorant or angry. According to C.M.West (1995),the main problem with these stereotypes is that they affect black women so much that they start developing different diseases. Women who get exposed to the Mammy stereotype are likely to develop eating and mental disorders because they don’t want to turn into obese women who live their lives for the sake of making others happy. The Jezebel stereotype reduces women to sex dolls so much that some of them might start developing sexual dysfunctions and as a result repress their sexuality in order not to be victimized by men. The Sapphire stereotype forces women to hide their negative emotions because they do not want to be viewed as hostile or pushy. By repressing their feelings they can end up being angrier than they were before. Taking this into account it is important to understand that American rap industry accepts and reinforces these stereotypes to some extent. If these three stereotypes make women feel down, it means that they are supposed to stress them out even if they appear in rap songs. This section will analyze the main manifestations of misogyny in rap music and the last section of this paper will talk about the survey that aims to assess the level of stress **e**xperienced by African-American women and discuss the possibility of regulating the industry.

The most problematic rap songs are the songs that describe the murder of women, contain violent lyrics or dehumanize women by treating them as disposable objects. In case of regulating the industry this category should be regulated first because it shows the listeners “the true face of a woman” and tells them what should happen to a woman if she misbehaves. In that way such songs might have a huge impact on listeners because they will apply information from these songs to real-life events.

Eminem is one of the rappers whose songs were extremely misogynistic at the beginning of his career. Part of the reason why it happened was because he had a huge scandal involving his wife Kim whom he loved a lot and their break up made him write extremely aggressive songs about her and women in general. The prominent rapper has a song” So Much Better” where he fantasizes about the death of his disloyal ex-partner:

**My life would be so much better**

**If you just dropped dead**

**[I was layin' in bed last night, thinkin'](https://genius.com/Eminem-so-much-better-lyrics#note-2395263)**

**[And then this thought just popped in my head](https://genius.com/Eminem-so-much-better-lyrics#note-2395263)**

**[And I thought, wouldn't shit just be a lot easier](https://genius.com/Eminem-so-much-better-lyrics#note-2395263)**

**[If you dropped dead?](https://genius.com/Eminem-so-much-better-lyrics#note-2395263)**

**[I would feel so much, much better](https://genius.com/Eminem-so-much-better-lyrics#note-2395263).**

The rapper is basically rapping about his girlfriend who cheated on him with other rappers and was trying to deceive him by saying that she had not. And there he is, lying in his bed and thinking about her death and the benefits of it. Then the rappers proceeds with saying:

[**But bitches ain't shit, I'd rather leave a bitch in a ditch**](https://genius.com/Eminem-so-much-better-lyrics#note-2373905)

**[I got 99 problems and a bitch ain't one](https://genius.com/Eminem-so-much-better-lyrics#note-2371387)**

**[She's all 99 of 'em, I need a machine gun](https://genius.com/Eminem-so-much-better-lyrics#note-2371387)**

**[I'll take 'em all out](https://genius.com/Eminem-so-much-better-lyrics#note-2371387).**

By using the following lines Eminem wants us to know how disappointed he is and that his intentions are not just wild dreams and fantasies. He has come to realize that bitches are disposable objects and you can dump their bodies into ditches because they are troublemakers and their lives are valueless. Therefore, he can take their lives. Eminem is deliberately citing famous lyrics by other rappers in this verse. "Bitches ain't shit" was a song by Eminem's mentor Dr. Dre, and "99 Problems but a bitch ain't one" is the refrain from a big 2004 hit by Jay-Z. By citing them he pays respect to the prominent rappers of the canon and shows that he is not the only person who thinks that women are of no value.

One of the most aggressive songs written by Eminem is called “97 Bonnie & Clyde”, and the lyrics of the song can definitely make the listener feel uncomfortable:

**C'mon Hai-Hai, we goin' to the beach**

**Grab a couple of toys and let Dada strap you in the car seat**

[**Oh, where's Mama? She's takin' a little nap in the trunk**](https://genius.com/Eminem-97-bonnie-and-clyde-lyrics#note-15481130)

**Oh, that smell? Dada must've runned over a skunk**

**And Mama said she wants to show you how far she can float**

**And don't worry about that little boo-boo on her throat**

**It's just a little scratch, it don't hurt**

**Dada made a nice bed for Mommy at the bottom of the lake**

**Here, you wanna help Dada tie a rope around this rock? (Yeah)**

**We'll tie it to her footsie then we'll roll her off the dock**

**Ready now, here we go, on the count of free**

**One, two, free, whee**

**There goes Mama, spashin' in the water**

The entire song is about how Eminem killed his wife and it thoroughly describes the process of getting rid of the woman’s body. He loved her but she preferred to be with a different man and that’s why he decided to kill her. The most bothering thing about this song is that he is not going to do it alone. His baby daughter is his assistant and because of her young age she does not realize what has happened to her mother. When she smells something rotten in the air the rapper explains to her that it is because of the stinky skunk he hit some time ago or when she sees the motionless body of her mother she thinks that the mommy is sleeping tight without realizing the real course of events. She is the person who helps the father dump the mother’s body into the water. Many people get divorced nowadays and find new partners but it does not mean that one partner should kill another. One can consider this song to be a guidebook for men whose wives cheat but many people don’t take Eminem’s songs seriously because oftentimes his alter-ego is the one who raps. Eminem has an alter-ego that helps him reveal his dark side to the listeners. The name of the alter-ego is Slim Shady and he appears in Eminem’s songs whenever the rapper wants to be violent and cruel. It is hard to accuse Eminem of violence when you know that although he is the one who raps, he is possessed by a different identity.

A rap group called NWA has a song titled “One Less Bitch” where he sings about killing all the problematic women he knows:

**The bitch tried to gank me, so**

**I had to kill her**

**Yeah, straight hittin'**

**Now listen up and lemme tell you how I did it**

**Yo, I tied her to the bed, I was thinking the worst**

**But yo, I had to let my niggas fuck her first yeah**

**[Loaded up the forty-fo', yo](https://genius.com/Nwa-one-less-bitch-lyrics#note-1271298)**

**[Then I straight smoked the ho](https://genius.com/Nwa-one-less-bitch-lyrics#note-1271298)**

So NWA is rapping about a girl named Clara who was a prostitute and NWA was her pimp. Their collaboration ended when she decided to steal something from him. He decided to shoot her dead but before that she was raped by his friends. NWA also mentions a woman named Vicky whose husband was an attorney but she cheated on him with NWA and when she wanted to reveal her secret to the husband the rapper killed her too. This song is extremely violent because NWA sees no other option other than killing women who did something wrong and he does not give them a second chance or let them go.

The second category has to do with men who disrespect women by dating them and not having feelings for them. They do not think that women should be loved and treat everyone like bitches and hoes. Camron and Lil Wayne have a song called “Suck it or Not” where several lines describe their attitude towards women:

**But you won't hear words like "Marry me" (what, marry me?)**

**Only thing you gonna hear is, "suck it or not**

The rappers are not thinking about having serious relationships with women and even if a woman wants to have a future with them they care only about fulfilling their sexual desires.

Lil Wayne also has a song titled “Love Me” where he raps about the lifestyle of women who surround him:

[**Uh, real nigga, fuck these haters**](https://genius.com/Lil-wayne-love-me-lyrics#note-18881268)

**These hoes got pussies like craters**

**Can't treat these hoes like ladies, man**

**Pussy, money, weed, codeine**

The women that he is surrounded with have had so many partners that their vaginas resemble craters, they are dangerous and ruined just like their owners. Their vaginas are almost like traps, because once you fall into them your life will become problematic. That is why he does not even consider them to be ladies, they are hoes for him and it does not go beyond that. They don’t earn his respect because they care about sex, drugs and money and there is nothing moral about them. Although the rapper is talking about a specific group of women, the song still diminishes the importance of women who lead such lifestyles.

Jay-Z has a song called “Big Pimpin” where he raps:

**[You know I thug 'em, fuck 'em, love 'em, leave 'em](https://genius.com/Jay-z-big-pimpin-lyrics#note-8901534)**

**[‘Cause I don't fuckin' need 'em](https://genius.com/Jay-z-big-pimpin-lyrics#note-8901534)**

**[Take 'em out the hood, keep 'em lookin' good](https://genius.com/Jay-z-big-pimpin-lyrics#note-14557)**

**[But I don't fuckin' feed 'em](https://genius.com/Jay-z-big-pimpin-lyrics#note-14557)**

Jay-Z's approach to dating women is quite simple- he sleeps with them and then leaves them because he can exist without these women, it is not a big deal for him. He gets acquainted with these women in neighborhoods and shows them what a good life is by taking care of their appearance because they are supposed to have sex with him. However, he does not take care of their basic needs and he is not willing to pay for their meals. He positions himself as a free man who does not need women and who is ready to spend money only in case it makes them prettier.

The third category of songs describes women who are ready to have sex for presents or money and oftentimes rappers are not against doing that. Sapphire stereotype is present here in a way that in his song “Hottest In The City” Ty Dolla $ign raps about the presents a woman can receive if she does everything right:

**I might have to flex her, bust a Rollie on a bitch**

**Promised her a Tesla if she swallow all the kids**

The rapper is ready to give the woman he has sex with expensive presents if she is ready to have oral sex with him. She does not do it for pleasure purposes only, she needs a Rolex watch and a Tesla and he is ready to give that to her. The verse is an attempt to show off that he has so much money that trading luxury cars for sex is nothing to him.

French Montana has a song named “Pop That” featuring Lil Wayne who raps about the desire of women to receive presents:

**[Bitch! Stop talkin' that shit](https://genius.com/French-montana-pop-that-lyrics#note-926171)**

**[And suck a nigga dick for some Trukfit](https://genius.com/French-montana-pop-that-lyrics#note-926171)**

Trukfit is a clothes brand whose owner is Lil Wayne so he is willing to give some of his designer clothes to her if she does a good job at satisfying him. He shuts her up because her conversations are not interesting for him and commands her to work hard to receive expensive clothes.

Sometimes female rappers who are often on the hook in male rappers’ songs reaffirm these stereotypes and show that they are not against being stereotyped. It probably has to do with the fact that it is hard to survive as a rapper if you are a woman and sometimes they have to collaborate with famous male singers to earn money.

**You want head nigga? Well I want bread nigga**

**Or pay my lights, gas, heat, or rent instead nigga**

In this particular song J.R. is the main rapper and Cardi B raps only a small part of the song. She says that if a man wants to have sex with her he should consider the fact that she is hungry and wants to eat. He also has to cover her living costs or pay her utility bills and only in that case she will have sex with him.

The last category of misogyny has to do with women who are overly sexualized and reduced to body parts. It is reminiscent of the Jezebel stereotype where the image of a black woman with voluptuous forms plays the central role. Gangsta rappers prefer to see women as certain body parts and in their songs they rap about their sexual experience with women without discussing love or affection for them. Trey Songz has a song titled “Animal” and the video features many twerking and semi-naked dark-skinned women who look obedient and flirt with the rapper:

[**I'ma bring my anaconda**](https://genius.com/Trey-songz-animal-lyrics#note-11572623)

**Gonna get to, get to your forbidden fruit**

**Turn the bed into a jungle**

[**I'm Tarzan, you be my Jane up in this room**](https://genius.com/Trey-songz-animal-lyrics#note-11526859)

**Girl, you know I'm finna hunt ya, yeah**

**You the one I been preyin' on**

The rapper is not talking about her smartness or personality. Instead he sees only the sexual aspect of her and he wants to have an intercourse with her. He compares his penis to an anaconda and the bedroom to a jungle and by doing so he talks about his animalistic desires. He is the hunter and she is his helpless prey so his dominant position will let him get what he dreams of anyways.

In his song “No Mediocre” T.I. states that the girl he chooses to have sex with should be of a high class otherwise he won’t have sex with her.

**[Right hand in the air, I solemnly swear](https://genius.com/Ti-no-mediocre-lyrics#note-3311742)**

**[I never fuck a bitch if she don’t do her hair, no more](https://genius.com/Ti-no-mediocre-lyrics#note-3311742)**

**[You won’t get no dick if it’s a bush down there](https://genius.com/Ti-no-mediocre-lyrics#note-3311896)**

**[Girl, I should see nothing but pussy when I look down there](https://genius.com/Ti-no-mediocre-lyrics#note-3311896)**

[**Hey, come fuck with a nigga, what better to do**](https://genius.com/Ti-no-mediocre-lyrics#note-3327725)

The rapper cares only about certain body parts of a woman and he is not interested in exploring different sides of her. He is not ready to engage in coitus with a woman who does not have a certain hairstyle or whose body is hairy because he is disgusted by it. This part of the song is like an instruction of what a girl is supposed to do and what she should look like in order to win T.I.’s heart. Therefore, he reduces her to body parts and thinks that there is nothing better to do than to have sex with him and he is adamant that he is not going to change his opinion regarding women’s appearance.

When an African-American rapper wants to show that a woman is perfect and worthy of love or attention, he is likely to use a light-skinned girl in his video. The same thing happened in Ty Dolla $ign’s video for a song “Or Nah”, where Ty Dolla $ign used a relatively light-skinned model and the entire song is about asking a woman if she is ready to have sex with him. The imperative tone is absent from the song and many lines are written in the form of question sentences.

**Do you like the way I flick my tongue or nah? (Or nah)**

**You can ride my face until you're drippin' cum (Drippin' cum)**

**Can you lick the tip then throat the dick or nah? (Can you do it please?)**

**Can you let me stretch that pussy out or nah?**

### 

### He is not the dominant male figure anymore because the girl is of a different caliber. He is the one who wants to know whether the girl enjoys having oral sex with him. He is ready to do everything possible for her to be satisfied. He asks her if she is willing to do the same thing with him. He politely asks her if she would let him have sex with her and he is so nice because the girl is like an exotic fruit, something he can’t have on a daily basis. It can be called colorism (discrimination based on skin color) because even black people are of slightly different skin tones. Some of them are lighter, some of them are darker and the light-skinned ones are considered to be beautiful and privileged. According to Whitney Frierson (2019), “For example, light skin can work as social capital for women of color. Lighter-skinned black women are more privileged in areas of education, income, and spousal status than their darker-skinned counterparts”.

These categories are present in Russian rap too but they are perceived differently because there are no stereotypes attached to them. Russians don’t sing songs about people of color because it is not inherent in Russian culture. They sing about women in general or “bad women” but there is nothing way too specific about their songs.

The first category that describes violence is present in Russian rap. Some rappers are extremely aggressive when they rap about women and they sing songs about discarding them or raping them. A prominent Russian rapper LSP has a song where he raps about raping a girl:

**I honestly don’t even remember what is in my joint**

**Bombay, Tussin, Bacardi, I don’t even know what is in my Sprite.**

**This bitch also doesn't know what is in her Sprite.**

**She screams “Stop!”, But I don’t have enough;**

**I rip off her dress.**

LSP, “Madness”

The rapper is extremely drunk and he is under the influence of drugs. He has mixed everything he could, Bombay which is a gin, Tussin which is a cough syrup used by drug addicts and Bacardi, a rum. He is also drinking Sprite and both of them don’t remember what is in it. However, when he approaches the girl she asks him to stop but he does not listen to her and undresses her.

The next song that I would like to discuss is performed by Big Russian Boss who is a fictional character. The rapper Igor Seravin, who is known as Big Russian Boss, wears a beard and expensive gangsta clothes so it is hard to take his songs seriously. He is like Russian Eminem in a way, his alter-ego takes over him. However, it does not change the fact that some of his lyrics are extremely violent.

**Today, as always, I woke up in a big house.**

**Morning was good, but it didn’t go as planned.**

**On the way to the bathroom I tripped over the iPad.**

**Three sluts blocked my path in the corridor.**

So Big Russian Boss wakes up and his morning is spoiled by the fact that he falls over his iPad, then he complains that the gardener is way too noisy and the breakfast is not tasty. He gets fed up with everything and decides to start throwing everything out of the window.

**Bitch decided! I’ll throw it all away.**

**First, naked sluts fly out of the window.**

**Then all these computers and consoles for stupid people**

**I’ll throw out the iPad from the kitchen, I used it to cut fish.**

Big Russian Boss, “IGM”

He places his computers and gaming consoles above women because he decides to destroy them first, that is how useless they are. Only then he decides to throw the rest of his belongings out but at first he makes sure that the bitches are gone. He also prefers to brag about his wealth just like American rappers do as he sings about his big house, modern gadgets and women. Although the song can be considered to be a parody of American rap and its “coolness”, the song might not be taken seriously by Russian listeners because the rapper wears a fake beard, sunglasses and clothes that Arab Sheikhs’ wear and that is why he looks cartoonish and funny. He is also known for changing his voice on purpose and his “artificial” voice sounds rude and brutal.

Russians have songs where male rappers sing about their disrespect of females and lack of feelings for them and this brings us to the second category. A teenage Russian rapper Pharaoh has a song called “5 Minutes Ago”, famous for these two lines:

**Five minutes ago I fucked your bitch in a Mercedes**

**I saw her-she is so disgusting.**

Despite the fact that he had an intercourse with her in a car, he thinks that she is disgusting and he is not impressed with her skills. He calls her a “bitch” as many rappers do and it automatically shows us the attitude of male rappers towards certain women. Some rappers even use the word “bitch” to address their male opponents because this insult makes the enemies look immoral and weak. Kendrick Lamar even used the word “bitch” in the song “Be Humble” when he was trying to talk to himself. However, more often than not the word “bitch” is used by both Russian and American rappers to diminish the importance of women. He also raps “your bitch” which means that she is the property of his opponent, she belongs to him.

There is a Russian rapper LSP who was discussed in the previous section and in his song “Coin” he sings about sharing bitches:

**I will call models: a brown-haired one and a brunette**

**How will we share them? Flip a coin!**

The rapper commodifies women, he views them as objects that can be used and shared without their own consent and the coin decides which guys will get one of these girls. These lines show how much the rapper disrespects women because he does not even let them take part in the decision-making process.

There are songs in Russian rap where women are portrayed as people who place money above all. Thrill Pill has a song where he raps about greedy women:

**This bitch wants my money**

**Work in bed baby**

**I spin the shit right on the bed, baby**

**This happens every day of the week**

**In my house, like in a hotel, a bitch wants money**

**This bitch wants my money**

**She loves not me, but a couple of my songs**

**Father told me: "Every bitch has her own price tag"**

**Another hoe will come, I know her goals (I know)**

**You are a snake, I do not believe you**

**This bitch wants money (go)**

Thrill Pill, Morgenshtern, Kreed, “Sad Song”

The rapper perfectly understands that the woman he is with wants his money and does not love him but loves his fame. In order to earn money she should work hard in bed and satisfy the rapper. He also remembers the conversation with his father who once told him not to trust bitches because they only care about money and they are venomous snakes.

There are also many songs where women are portrayed as sexual machines who want to have sex 24/7.

**She doesn't tell me to slow down**

**She is my Kim, my Kim**

**In sexy lingerie**

**We are immersed in the process**

**Like Nemo for three thousand leagues**

**She is dancing on my dick**

Pika, “On my D\*ck”

In the video we can see a twerking girl who tries to seduce the viewer. The entire clip shows her twerking so we don’t get to see the real side of her. The rapper couldn't care less about it. She reminds him of Kim Kardashian and he is swept off his feet when he sees her body in sexy underwear. For him singing about a sexy woman is boasting, she is the indicator of his coolness. There is nothing romantic about their relationship. He only wants to have sex with her.

A Russian rapper Morgenshtern has a song about how a girl wants to have sex with him but he is against it:

**This bitch is a Pennywise, what a mouth**

**She eats my kids, yummy-yummy**

**This bitch wants sex but I will not fuck her**

Morgenshtern, “Pennywise”

So the rapper compares the girl to a character named Pennywise from the movie called “IT” based on Stephen King’s horror novel. She has a huge mouth and that is why she resembles Pennywise and she is ready to swallow everything after having an oral sex. However, even though she wants him so much he is not going to have sex her because he is not interested in doing so. This song can remind the listener of “Love Me” by Lil Wayne because he compares female genitals to craters and by doing so he dehumanizes women. Morgenshtern compares women to monsters and by doing so questions their humanity.

**Misandry in Russian and American rap**

We have already taken a look at the rap canon and how it excludes female rappers from its structure or in some cases even if it accepts them it restricts their freedom. Those female artists who want to be famous and recognizable often collaborate with prominent male rappers to gain respect from their audiences and sing only the melodic hook of the song and therefore they do not really get to rap. However, there are some courageous female rappers who try to challenge the dogmas of the rap canon by expressing their disapproval of the values cherished by rappers. Some of the female rappers mock male rappers and their beliefs but some of them sing threatening and violent rap songs. This in its turn gives birth to misandry, a concept that describes prejudice against and dislike of men and this section will discuss how female rappers make use of it.

The song that aimed to blow the rap canon up was “Roxanne’s Revenge” by Roxanne Shante (1984). The song is a response to “Roxanne, Roxanne” by a band called UTFO, where they sang about a girl Roxanne who was approached by the three members of the band on the street. Every member would walk up to the girl and brag about his skills or pretend to be the best but she was so tired of their pick up lines that she fooled them and did not show up for a date. Roxanne Shante was a young girl when she heard this song and although it was not addressed to her she decided to record a rap track where she mocked these self-confident rappers and that is how “Roxanne’s Revenge” was born:

[**I met this dude with the name of a hat**](https://genius.com/Roxanne-shante-roxannes-revenge-lyrics#note-6755848)

[**I didn't even walk away, I didn't give him no rap**](https://genius.com/Roxanne-shante-roxannes-revenge-lyrics#note-6755865)

**But then he got real mad, and he got a little tired**

**If he worked for me, you know he would be fired**

**His name is Kangol, and that is cute**

**He ain't got money, and he ain't got the loot**

In the original song performed by UTFO, a rapper named Kangol was the first to approach Roxanne on the street. Roxanne Shante diminishes the importance of the rapper by saying that he has a name of a hat, that is how little he means to her, so little that she doesn't even bother to memorize his name. She does not pay attention to him by ignoring his persona and she does not even change her location, as if he does not exist at all. He is so uninteresting for her that she would not even hire him and she concludes the verse by saying that he is broke, meaning he is not a successful rapper who is able to earn some money. Therefore, the listener realizes that Kangol is a boastful person who knows how to tell fairy-tales to women but there is nothing real about his words. Roxanne Shante manages to address every single rapper of the band and diss all of them:

[**Well, let me tell you somethin' else about the Doctor, too:**](https://genius.com/Roxanne-shante-roxannes-revenge-lyrics#note-6755908)

**He ain't really cute, and he ain't great**

[**He don't even know how to operate**](https://genius.com/Roxanne-shante-roxannes-revenge-lyrics#note-6755910)

**He came up to me with some bullshit rap**

**But let me tell you somethin'; don't you know it was wack**

Roxanne then tries to show the real face of a rapper named Doctor Ice who was the member of the band UTFO. The line about him not knowing how to operate is very interesting in a way that it might have two explanations. The first definition probably describes his incompetence as a rapper and is a reference to his nickname. Roxanne wants to say that he is not good at what he does because his rap is bullshit and it is wacky. It can also mean that he cannot flirt with women because the word “operate” is used by rappers when they refer to picking up women. She basically insults him twice in one line by saying that he is a bad rapper and a bad man.The entire song is about the greatness of Roxanne as a rapper and how the three members of the UTFO band are worse than her. The entire song is a celebration of her persona where she tries to make them understand that they mess with the wrong woman. Interestingly enough, Roxanne Shante has had a long, successful career that started with "Roxanne's Revenge," whereas the guys from UTFO were basically one-hit wonders.

One of the rappers who has a song that attempts to challenge the structure of the canon is Nicki Minaj. Minaj has many songs where she takes on the role of an obedient woman and reaffirms the already existing stereotypes and therefore “Lookin’ Ass” is an exceptional song in a way that it aims to offend men although it is not typical of her. However, this particular song mocks boastful men and tries to show how stupid canonical gangsta men look in their attempt to seem cool:

**[Look at y'all smokin' ass niggas](https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-lookin-ass-lookin-ass-nigga-lyrics#note-2789887)**

**[After every pull, niggas start chokin' ass niggas](https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-lookin-ass-lookin-ass-nigga-lyrics#note-2789887)**

[**Nigga-nigga**](https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-lookin-ass-lookin-ass-nigga-lyrics#note-2790206)

**Look at y'all bitch ass niggas**

[**Stop lyin' on your dick ass niggas**](https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-lookin-ass-lookin-ass-nigga-lyrics#note-2790124)

[**Nigga-nigga**](https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-lookin-ass-lookin-ass-nigga-lyrics#note-2790206)

**Look at y'all lookin' ass niggas**

[**Stop lookin' at my ass ass niggas**](https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-lookin-ass-lookin-ass-nigga-lyrics#note-2789915)

**[Look at y'all lyin' ass niggas](https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-lookin-ass-lookin-ass-nigga-lyrics#note-2790209)**

**[Talkin' 'bout "It's paid off" but it's financed, lyin' ass nigga](https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-lookin-ass-lookin-ass-nigga-lyrics#note-2790209)**

[**Bunch of non-mogul ass niggas**](https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-lookin-ass-lookin-ass-nigga-lyrics#note-2790251)

In this particular verse Minaj combines all the actions and habits that are considered to be cool and manly by men and tries to show them that they look lame and stupid and there is nothing impressive about their behavior. Smoking is considered to be one of the habits that defines “a real man” and even though men realize that smoking kills and harms their health,they do not give it up because it makes them feel dominant and masculine. However, Minaj says that men are faking it because they do not even know how to inhale and exhale the smoke, they start choking and it shows that they cannot do even the most basic thing professionally. Although many rappers use the term “nigga” to talk about their hoods and gangs, Minaj gives the word a different flavor. She uses the term “nigga” to describe a canonical man who brags all the time but is miserable and funny. The phrase “nigga-nigga” comes up every time after she mocks a man and it almost sounds like an insult. The gangsta canon includes many men who view women as a method of entertainment and having sex with them boosts their ego and makes them more self-confident. However, Minaj uses the phrase “stop lyin on your dick” to show her disapproval of men who have frequent sexual encounters and she does not want them to perceive her body as a sexual object because she is more than that, she is a rapper who forces them to take their masks off. In the last part of the verse she addresses one of the most popular tropes present in gangsta rap and rap in general and it has to do with bragging about money and financial opportunities. Many rappers center their songs around money, cars, diamonds and expensive apartments because it makes them feel powerful and successful. However, Minaj doubts the fact that they are that successful and claims that they are broke and that is why they are liars. It is fascinating to see how she gradually deconstructs the canon brick by brick by removing all the popular tropes and showing that they do not make a man look cool or impressive. In one part of the song Minaj raps “I am rapin you niggas” and by saying that she shows that she is in a higher position. Gangsta rappers indicate that they are powerful by singing about raping women because it means that they can get what they want. Minaj tries to be as close to the canon as possible by using these stereotypical representations of what a canonical rap singer should look like. Some male rappers sing about having sex with women against their will because they want to show that they can get anything they want and no one can say no to them. However, a man who is raped by a woman might be perceived as a “pussy” because he is so weak that he cannot push her away and escape. Minaj is a dominant figure and even men have to bow down to her, otherwise she will destroy them.

There are so few women in Russian rap that you can count them on fingers. However, some female rappers try to invert or destroy the canon by writing diss tracks about men. A rapper named Aziza became a rapper only after her ex-husband who was a rapper insulted her new husband in one of his songs. Aziza felt that it was too much for her to handle and she decided to show her famous ex-husband Guf that she could protect her family with the help of rap. Although the number of dislikes under the YouTube video outnumbers the amount of likes, she did a good job at showing who her ex-husband is:

**You messed with my people, and crossed the line**

**This dirty song won't get away with you**

**My husband will come to you in your countryside**

**And lay your impudent face on the tiles**

**After all, this song is your black mark;**

**Your last messenger, as if it were Israfil.**

**Where is your gangsta, boy?**

**You're just a loser - nothing more.**

**In the new album, there is the same picture again:**

**That you are a dangerous rude man and a gangsta boy.**

**You're a coward, because you only fought in Mortal Combat!**

Aziza, “Supreme”

Akin to the rappers that were discussed at the beginning of this section, Aziza tries to destroy the successful image of her husband by telling his fans who he really is. She treats this song as revenge because he will be punished for his words and this song is like the angel of the final judgement Israfil. Her song is a black mark on his reputation, a bullet, an opportunity for everyone to see what kind of person he is and start judging him. Her song is a threat because her current husband will come and destroy the prominent rapper. This verse can reveal a lot about Russian gender roles because a woman wants a man to beat her enemy up, she cannot do it on her own. Guf wants to be seen as a canonical gangsta rapper but his ex-wife is not so sure about it, she thinks that there is nothing special about him and that is why she asks him “where is your gangsta, boy?”. Aziza reminds me of the “friends are family” trope, because she is ready to protect people whom she loves at any cost. Guf has a huge fan base in Russia and Aziza had to be risky enough to come up with a track like this. Gangsta rappers are not supposed to be afraid of anything, they are unstoppable and invincible, otherwise they will not be taken seriously. However, Aziza mocks the fact that Guf only tries to look brutal and invincible but in reality he is only good at playing computer games. As it turns out in the next verse, he could not protect his wife when they were attacked on the street.

A new school rapper Mozee Montana has a track “Not Bad for a Girl” which aims to deconstruct the rap canon present in Russia. In America there are several prominent female rappers but in Russia it is almost impossible to become a female rapper because rap fans are not supportive of that initiative.

**I know that you want attention**

**You gotta bite the throats of young girls**

**But the squad has already given me the task.**

**I do not give a fuck about the reputation**

**I do what I can myself, do the way I can**

**And I myself can say that I fucked here with everyone**

**After all, calling me a whore is just a classic!**

Mozee Montana, Masha Hima, Emelevskaya, “Not Bad for a Girl”

This song is useful in a way that it shows us the structure of the rap canon in Russia. Male rappers are securing the canon and female rappers are victims of these blood-thirsty vampires because as soon as they enter the stage they are being attacked by male rappers and their fans. However, she has the task of inverting the canon and her squad (she raps this song with two female rappers, Masha Hima and Emelevskaya) supports her decision. She is a courageous young woman because her reputation is not of great importance for her and she tries to pave her way to the scene. Then she comments on how male rappers brag about having sex with many women and she thinks that it is easier said than done because she can say the same thing about herself, words are just words. However, if a man talks about his sexual encounters with women he is considered to be cool but if a woman says it she is a whore. By rapping the last line of the verse she tells us how illogical and flawed the canon is and how it favors one gender over another.

It is hard to classify a female rapper as a rapper who sings only misandrist songs because nowadays female rappers have to survive and they usually do so by collaborating with famous male rappers. Therefore, they cater to male rappers’ needs and their authentic voice gets lost. Some rappers try to show how unfair or ridiculous men are but then reaffirm to the already existing stereotypes. Although Nicki Minaj has a song where she mocks gangsta men, she also has songs where she behaves like a stereotypical woman:

**[I'm lookin' for a nigga to give some babies](https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-barbie-dreams-lyrics#note-15164441)**

**[A handful of Weezy, sprinkle of Dave East](https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-barbie-dreams-lyrics#note-15164441)**

**[Man, I ain't got no type like Jxmmi and Swae Lees](https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-barbie-dreams-lyrics#note-15162387)**

**[But if he can't fuck three times a night, peace!](https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-barbie-dreams-lyrics#note-15162387)**

Nicki Minaj, “Barbie Dreams”

Minaj is reaffirming the Jezebel stereotype because although she has some moral values, she is a sex machine. She wants to have children and she wants to find a husband like Wezzy and Dave East because both of them are exemplary fathers for their babies. She does not have any preferences in choosing a partner for life but if he cannot satisfy her sexual desires she does not need him. How can a fan take Minaj seriously when in “Lookin Ass” she blames men for having too much sex but in “Barbie Dreams” she says that she wants a man who can have sex all day long? She creates a dissonance and her real attitude towards these issues is unclear.

Emelevskaya who sang “Not Bad for a Girl” with Mozee Montana and Masha Hima has some songs where she sings about how men obey her and how she chooses not to satisfy their desires but she also has some songs where she prefers the role of an obedient woman:

**Rumors say - I have loose morals, but if you love me - I will turn into a Puritan**

**Do not leave me, do not exchange for these bitches**

**I know your pin code, you are turned on**

**You touch my waist with your finger**

**And I'm happy today, you know**

**That you touched me a little bit**

The main message of this song is that she is going to change herself completely for the sake of being with the man she loves. Even though she is not a modest and shy girl, she is ready to become pure in order to date him. He is surrounded by many women but she asks him not to choose them and she calls them bitches, thus stereotyping women of her own gender just because he might choose them, not her. His touches make her happy and they make her day.

Misandry exists in rap culture but it is a small part of it. Many listeners do not believe female rappers who sing offensive songs about male rappers because their attitude towards them is not consistent and changes depending on circumstances. Some women write diss tracks but then start collaborating with male rappers and change their image and some of them try to be brutal but become obedient when needed. That is why their misandrist songs are not taken seriously by large audiences and are considered to be deviations from the role they are playing rather than premises for the development of a whole new genre.

**Homophobic slurs in rap songs**

The opening section of the paper talked about how gangsta rap canon has created the trope of a “real man” and whoever falls outside the scope of the canon can be subjected to marginalization. The industry has created an image of a hypermasculine man who can earn a lot of money, sleep with many women and surround himself with his bros and homies. Gay people are not included in the canon because they are considered to be weak, feminine and lack agency. They are almost like women, because they are ready to have sex with other men and thus they can be reduced to objects, except straight black men do not want to have sex with them. They represent the Other and might be viewed as a threat to the canon as they show that a man can still be a man without looking masculine and no one can take that from him. They prove that a man is a man without using drugs or hanging out with homies and a man is a real man even if he does not wear cool gangsta clothes and sleep with ten women a day. Gay people challenge the notion of who a real man is and thus there is a constant need for gangsta rappers to keep them under control and suppress the newly developing branches of gay rap.

DMX has a song “Where the Hood At” where he demonstratively shows his attitude towards gay people:

[**Last I heard, y'all niggas was havin' sex with the same sex**](https://genius.com/Dmx-where-the-hood-at-lyrics#note-431168)

[**I show no love to homo thugs**](https://genius.com/Dmx-where-the-hood-at-lyrics#note-820665)

**Empty out, reload and throw mo' slugs**

**How you gonna explain fuckin' a man?**

**Even if we squash the beef, I ain't touchin' your hand**

**[I don't fuck with chumps](https://genius.com/Dmx-where-the-hood-at-lyrics#note-334675)**

**[For those who been to jail, that's the cat with the Kool-Aid on his lips and pumps](https://genius.com/Dmx-where-the-hood-at-lyrics#note-334675)**

[**I don't fuck with niggas that think they broads**](https://genius.com/Dmx-where-the-hood-at-lyrics#note-820666)

**Only know how to be one way, that's the dog**

DMX showcases his homophobic attitude towards gay people by saying that he does not love homosexuals and that he would kill all of them without feeling bad about it. He continues the song by saying that he will never ever shake the hand of a gay man’s hand even if they are close friends or acquaintances because he considers it to be disgusting. He states that he cannot relate to trans women because it is not natural and in the last sentence of the verse he says that he cannot even be gay because it is impossible for him. He wants to be viewed as a hypermasculine male with natural instincts and preferences who is repulsed by the idea that people of non-traditional sexual orientation may exist at all. The most interesting and bizarre thing about this song is that in the closing verse of the song he talks about having sex with a man but he does it to assert his dominance, which is a paradox:

**[Since we all right here, you hold my dick while he suckin' it](https://genius.com/Dmx-where-the-hood-at-lyrics#note-22531)**

**[Motherfucker, don't you know you'll never come near me?](https://genius.com/Dmx-where-the-hood-at-lyrics#note-22531)**

**[Shove your head up your ass, have you seein' shit clearly](https://genius.com/Dmx-where-the-hood-at-lyrics#note-22531)**

**[Never heard that D be runnin', because D be gunnin'](https://genius.com/Dmx-where-the-hood-at-lyrics#note-22531)**

**[I beat my dick and bust off in your eye so you can see me comin'](https://genius.com/Dmx-where-the-hood-at-lyrics#note-22531)**

This verse describes a scene where the rapper demands one of the men to hold his penis while the second man is giving him oral sex. He plans to kill them after the rape but before doing that he wants to ejaculate in a man’s eye so that he can experience the rapper’s hatred with his own eyes. In the first part of the song the rapper stated that he hated homosexuals, but in the last part of the song he actually became one of them (even if he does not want to admit it) and the idea is ridiculous. However, the rapper is doing so not to receive sexual pleasure, but to punish them and torture them before shooting them with a gun. He treats them as if they are “prison bitches”, a term used to describe imprisoned submissive gay men. Here he uses the last verse to show that he is the dominant one and he is the real man who can treat feminine men the way he wants.

Eminem is also famous for his homophobic slurs and one of the most scandalous songs is the song “Criminal”, where the prominent rapper raps that:

[**My words are like a dagger with a jagged edge**](https://genius.com/Eminem-criminal-lyrics#note-20905)

**[That'll stab you in the head, whether you're a fag or lez](https://genius.com/Eminem-criminal-lyrics#note-11132161)**

**[Or a homosex, hermaph or a trans-a-vest](https://genius.com/Eminem-criminal-lyrics#note-11132161)**

[**Pants or dress,**](https://genius.com/Eminem-criminal-lyrics#note-11132192) **[hate fags? The answer's yes](https://genius.com/Eminem-criminal-lyrics#note-20684)**

**[Homophobic? Nah, you're just heterophobic](https://genius.com/Eminem-criminal-lyrics#note-20684)**

**[Starin' at my jeans, watchin' my genitals bulgin' (Ooh!)](https://genius.com/Eminem-criminal-lyrics#note-666935)**

**[That's my motherfuckin' balls, you'd better let go of 'em](https://genius.com/Eminem-criminal-lyrics#note-666935)**

Eminem starts off by saying that his words are so sharp that they might injure people but he does not care about it because if a person is lesbian, gay, hermophrodite or transvestite the rapper will detsroy him/her and he does not even care what the person is wearing, he will not get bogged down in these details. He openly states that he hates gay people and whoever tries to accuse him of insulting the LGBTQA+ community is wrong because he is not homophobic but the accusing people are heterophobic because they try to go against natural laws. Then the rapper describes an imaginary homosexual looking at his pelvic area and the rapper assumes that his sexual organ is so desirable that gay men want to look at it with passion in their eyes. Although this song insulted many LGBTQA+ activists, Eminem says that he himself is not homophobic and his alter ego Slim Shady is the one who raps. According to the rapper, this song is about the collective feelings of people towards gay individuals and has nothing to do with his point of view.

Many American gangsta rappers hate homosexuals but they experience positive feelings when it comes to female homosexuality. Many men fantasize about two girls making out with each other and it is oftentimes reflected in hip hop songs. Kanye West has a song “Don't’ like” where he sings about two females kissing each other:

**[(Ayy!) Girls kissin' girls, ‘cause it's hot, right?](https://genius.com/Kanye-west-chief-keef-pusha-t-big-sean-and-jadakiss-dont-like1-lyrics#note-755246)**

**[(Ayy!) But unless they use a strap-on, then they not dykes](https://genius.com/Kanye-west-chief-keef-pusha-t-big-sean-and-jadakiss-dont-like1-lyrics#note-755246)**

Kanye claims that two girls kissing each other is sexy and they are pleasant to look at whereas as soon as they start wearing strap-ons they lose their attractiveness immediately. A girl with a fake penis is not a hot girl anymore, she is a homosexual girl and the rapper is not supportive of that idea. This verse is a representation of a “male gaze” that examines women and their bodies while they are playing with each other and having fun in a sexual way. As soon as one of the girls turns into a man with the help of a strap-on the male gaze cannot be satisfied anymore and it gets lost, thus leaving the spectator with nothing. The verse states that sex can take place only if a penis and vagina are involved and it does not recognize other forms of sex, which is troubling for many gay people.

Due to the fact that Russia is a male-dominated country, people from the LGBTQA+ community are not welcomed there. There have been situations when gay people were beaten up or killed in Russia and Russia is not as open-minded and tolerant as America is. Russians do not have rap songs where they fetishize two women making out with each other but they do have songs dedicated to the hatred of gay people. They occasionally rap some lines in their songs about their hatred of gay men. Russians do not rap about lesbians since they are absent from the discourse of Russian music.

**Suddenly again penetrate into these stories**

**Where someone trusts someone who looks like a normal dude**

**But in fact a fag**

Kasta,”About Max”

The word fag can be understood in several ways. The first way of interpreting this song is that a fag is someone who betrays normal people and lies to them. A fag is used by Russians to talk about unpleasant and bad men and that is what this song might be addressing. The word fag might also cast light on gender norms in Russia, because nowadays due to the fact that there are many tomboys and girly boys that it is really hard to tell who is a girl and who is a guy. The singers might be singing about the fact that nowadays it is easy to hide who you are so when they trusted a normal looking guy it turned out that he was gay, meaning not normal at all.

A rapper named Noganno has a song where he talks about getting rid of gay people:

**At the monument in the square fags were hanging out**

**We are orderlies: brass knuckles, bats**

Noganno, “Superhero”

In this song he talks about a group of gay people who were standing near a monument and he also talks about his own gang who was there to punish this gay people for being gay and so he experienced the desire of beating them up with knuckles and bats and it's like a call to action. The rapper considers himself to be an orderly so he's trying to get rid of harmful beings by destroying them with weapons and the tone of the song makes the listener think that Noganno is proud of himself .

A Russian rapper named Yarmak became popular after he shot a rap video where he mocked feminine men:

**Yes, what is it? It seems the gender is not weak**

**But lately - men are like women**

**Walking like a chick - now everyone calls it “fashion”**

**There you have a democracy of action, here you have freedom**

**What kind of men are those? I would break their hands**

**How can a dude wear ugg boots instead of sneakers**

Yarmak, “Pidarasiya”

This song is a vivid example of Russian gender norms. The most interesting thing about this particular song is that its title speaks for itself. The word “pidoras” in Russian is a slang word with disrespectful overtones used to describe gay people and “Rossiya” is how Russians call their country. Thus, the title of the song means gay Russia. In the video the viewer can see many girly men with fancy bags, tight jeans and small dogs. The rapper is the one who looks masculine because he is wearing loose jeans and a hoodie. In one scene he enters a public bath and girly men look at him, smile and start discussing him while he goes out of the bath house with a disgusted face. In the verse presented above the rapper sings about the fact that many men in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus are feminine and he threatens them by saying that he would like to break their hands. The entire song is about who a real man is and according to the rapper a man was created with a glass of beer but when he offers girly men the drink they reply that they want to drink martini. He says that if a Russian man wants to drink he will drink until he gets wasted. He also mocks feminine men by saying that one day they might start having periods and turn into women. In the last scene of the video we can see how he enters the room of a record producer and we cannot see his face because his back is facing the rapper. Then the rapper sees his face and the record producer looks extremely feminine. The producer says “you are mine” but the rapper punches him and goes out of the room. After listening to the song it becomes clear that for Russians heteromsaculinity is tied to nationalism and they view homosexuality as a threat to Russian identity. By talking about democracy of action and freedom the rapper is most likely referring to America because America is famous for promoting equality and protecting gay people.

**Survey results**

After examining misogyny and misandry in rap music there is an urgent need to understand these concepts’ impact on people who are affected by their presence in rap music. Two surveys were created, one in Russian and one in English and they were posted on different websites to collect responses from the target audience. The survey in English was posted on Rap Genius forum (<https://genius.com/rap-genius>) and Rap-Royalty forum (<http://www.rap-royalty.com/forum/forum.php?s=1293ef2edfad03eabf3063497bb1631c>), disseminated through Facebook groups that discussed rap music and also posted under misogyny/misandry/rap subreddits. I have managed to get 120 responses. This is the list of survey questions:

1)What is your gender?

2)How old are you?

3)How often do you listen to rap music?

4)What matters to you more, the beat or the lyrics? Maybe both?

5)Do the rap songs you listen to offend men or women?

6)If possible, describe gender stereotyping in music that you have encountered so far.

7)What is your attitude towards such songs? Do they make you feel unfairly stereotyped ?

8)If you listen to rap songs that verbally abuse men or women, what is the main reason behind it?

9)Should the field be regulated in order not to hurt anyone's feelings?

When answering the first question, 70% of the participants indicated that they were male. Although the rap forums, Reddit and the Facebook groups are used by both men and women living in America, only a small number of women chose to participate in the survey. This might indicate that women are still so absent from the canon of rap music that they do not even think that such surveys are worth filling in. The majority of the respondents (80%) were 18-30 years old and 19% indicated that they don’t really like rap music and listen to it occasionally while 53 % stated that they listen to rap music on a regular basis and the rest (28%) preferred to listen to rap music several times a week. When listening to a rap song the vast majority pays attention to both the lyrics and the words (65%), while 20% of participants indicated that words were the most important thing for them and the remaining participants chose melody over lyrics. The participants almost unequivocally (90%) indicated that rap music affects mostly women and this is the list of their encounters with gender stereotyping:

1)Males rap about female sexuality and competition with males.

2)Women are weak, only care for money. Men should be strong, aggressive and dominant.

3)Calling women derogatory names or sexually objectifying them.

4)Seeing women as vessels for sex, objectification of women's bodies (not a stereotype but it’s very common), talking about women wanting men's money and calling them gold-diggers.

5)Objectification of women, men often split into two categories; violent men and cowards.

6)Women referred to in degrading terms - calling them 'bitch' and 'whore', sex described using violent terminology, casual descriptions of rape and abuse.

7)There's lots of lyrics based on insulting the mother or girlfriend of someone else, e.g. by saying she's a slut or describing sexual acts with her; when it's about men, they are insulted by saying they're gay.

8)For example objectification of the women, in rap music women often play the role of ornament, which surrounds man, as the complement of his status. We can see in many clips how women presented in the same range with money and pretty cars.

Half of the participants indicated that they do not pay attention to derogatory language used in rap songs, while 29% stated that they do not feel objectified and only 21% felt objectified and affected by the lyrics. There was a question addressed to people who realize that rap songs objectify women (and occasionally men) but continue listening to them. The question was trying to understand the reason behind it. The collected responses were as follows:

1)Feeling of superiority (not just about women but about everything).

2)In the given context of a song, usually those insults are well reasoned or they are just empty talk to make the song more dramatic. Either way, when the artist says "I amma hit that bitch" I don't think women should feel insulted, neither when he says "shot the ni\*\*a dead" "cut the snitch, he gotta get a stitch" "cut these tools" "all this man hating me cuz I get that ass" no men should feel insulted.

3)Some songs are good even if they are offensive. A lot of songs I listen to have homophobic lyrics and I have a close friend how is bisexual. I do not agree with offensive lyrics but I can still enjoy the songs.

4)If it's a part of a greater lyrical trend, I'll keep going, but if it's just basic and repetitive I won't listen.

5)When listening to these songs, the parts where verbal abuse are present last for like a few seconds out of the 3-5 minute duration of the song, therefore it is quite bearable.

The last question was about the regulation of the field and although 46 % thought that the field should not be regulated at all, some people preferred to give different responses, such as:

1)I think the ethical answer should be yes, but we must remember that music is an art and also a form of expression, so it would be hard to regulate opinions.

2) This has issues with free speech/article tic freedom etc.

3)I think regulate is a big word maybe just call people out on it and raise awareness of why it's wrong.

4)Not sure because sometimes it is about specific women, for example. It is a hard question, but a good one to think about.

5)It's hard to put a cap on freedom of expression but it's equally bad to continue objectifying, degrading and attacking people.

6)If anyone gets offended they should just stop listening to it. It doesn't matter what you do, you will always hurt someone's feelings.

7)I don't think regulating rap music is going to make sexism and gender stereotypes go away, I'd rather see more educational stuff with young people and in general on how those stereotypes are harmful that maybe also talk about how they manifest in popular culture.

8)I think people should not undergo this kind of provocation. I'd like not to see these kinds of lyrics, but regulation also means limiting the writer's right of sharing their thoughts.

9)It is a genre of freedom, everyone can say what they want. If a person gets hurt by it, then it's their choice not to listen to it.

10)I think there is no need for regulation from above. It is the affair of the market and relevant industry.

Since the survey was mostly filled in by men, such responses were expected because songs that insult women are not supposed to hurt their feelings. The responses indicate that men do not think that the industry should be regulated because they do not want to limit the artists’ choice and their main suggestion for people who are affected by such songs is to stop listening to rap music . However, it is hard to achieve because these songs are so popular that people who do not even listen to them can hear them everywhere and there is almost no escape from it.

The survey in Russian was posted on a website called Pikabu where users can discuss various topics, sent to the students of the Slavonic university of Armenia because they speak Russian and some of them listen to Russian rap and posted on two rap forums (hip-hop.ru and rapforce.net).The questions were almost the same (except for one question where they were asked about their preference for Russian and American music) and I have managed to collect 100 responses. When answering the question about gender distribution, the participants indicated that 53% was male and 47% female. The majority of the respondents (78%) indicated that they were from 18 to 30 years old and 60% listened to rap several times a week. Approximately 80% of the participants indicated that Russian rap music insults both men and women and 67% were not offended by rap music.

People have indicated that they listen to rap music for the following reasons:

1)I like it and I couldn't care less about the words.

2)Rap is not rap without dissing people.

3) Aggressive rap calms me down and makes me feel better.

4) Freedom of speech exists and therefore no one can tell rappers what to sing.

5) Rappers insult bitches and sluts but the listeners who do not identify with bitches should not be offended.

The question about regulations revealed that 69% of people thought that regulations were not necessary and the rest thought that only rap songs about violence and racism should be banned. When discussing rap music on forums there were several people who started insulting me when I tried to explain the concept of misogyny and misandry to them. They stated that the despised America and that they did not want American values to penetrate Russia and affect people living in the country. Their behavior can be linked to Yarmak’s song and nationalism because it sheds light on the fact that some Russians perceive tolerant and liberal people as a threat to Russian identity. Survey results reveal that the majority of women are absent from the American rap canon whereas according to the Russian survey the distribution is equal. African-American women living in America feel marginalized and stereotyped and that is why their voice is absent from many discussions. Women living in Russia are not stereotyped based on their appearance and that is why they do not hesitate to express their opinion regarding misogyny and misandry. When a Russian woman watches a rap video produced in Russia she sees twerking or half-naked girls but she does not associate her own life with the life of these girls. However, when an Afro-American woman watches a rap video she is likely to associate herself with women shown in rap videos because of the three stereotypes present in African-American reality. I think that there is a strong need to regulate American rap because it can be really harmful for women of color or make them feel depressed. Although the majority of Americans who took the survey came to the conclusion that regulating the industry is wrong, we should keep in mind that the survey was mostly completed by men and they do not care about the regulations because rap music does not offend them. Russians do not care about regulating the field because Russian rap insults “bitches” or “sluts” but has nothing to do with ordinary women unless they associate themselves with these two words

**Limitations**

Due to time constraints I was able to question approximately 100 people for each of my surveys which is not enough taking into account the fact that both of the countries are big. When creating the survey in English I did not include a question about the ethnicity of the participant so I am not sure who exactly took the survey. It was also impossible for me to find a single scientific article analyzing Russian rap so I had to carry out research myself.

**Suggestions for future research**

There is a strong need to look deeper at how Russian rap echoes stereotypes and prejudices existing in the country. Even though I tried to look for scientific articles on Google Scholar, JSTOR or Ebsco I could not find a single article analyzing Russian rap. It can also be useful to create a more detailed survey for American participants and ask them questions about their ethnicity. Obviously, the precision of the project depends on the number of questioned participants and questioning as many people as possible might give life to more detailed papers in the future. It might also be useful to question people of the LGBTQA+ community to get a better understanding of their attitude towards homophobic slurs. One thing to look at is how emo rap is changing the rap canon and making it more romantic and softer because nowadays singers like Post Malone are becoming more and more famous. Due to time constraints this paper tried to cover as many fields as possible but these suggestions should be paid attention to in order to shed light on the fact that rap music is not just a combination of beats and rhyming words.

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