

“Dressed to enjoy”:



## FEMINIST TEACHING STRATEGIES IN THE CLASSROOM

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# **A report on the experience of “Making art with condoms”**

- A Workshop on sexuality, which was offered as part of the Sexuality and Education module at the Education Center (UFPE).
- The class:
  - . 38 students - 31 women, 7 men;
  - . Different age group;
  - . Courses of Pedagogy, Social Sciences and other Educational graduations.

# Sexuality in Teacher Education

- **The Brazilian Policy of Education (1997):**  
The National Curriculum Parameters (PCNs) - Sexual orientation as a cross-cutting theme.
- Sexual orientation programs should be organized around three guiding principles:
  1. "Body: Sexuality matrix";
  2. "Gender relations";
  3. "Prevention of sexually transmitted diseases / AIDS" (Altmann, 2001).
- Sexuality is a subject that is currently not included in teacher development (once graduated) or in teacher training.

# The main principals of the workshop

- Sexuality through Eros and eroticism (Hooks, 1999).
- Group as a collective space for spending time together, exchanging ideas and experiences and interacting with one another; where the facilitator assumes the role of listening, caring and mediating (Menezes; Adrião; Mello; Souza, unpublished).
- Feminist Pedagogy: proposing a set of strategies and procedures that must break with the hierarchical relationships present in traditional classrooms.
- Out of the conventional classroom space; use of participatory techniques from *Artpad* (McCarthy; Galvão, 2001) and *Fazendo arte com a camisinha\** (Paiva, 2000).

\* Free translation: “Making art with condoms”.

# The plan of the workshop

MOMENT	TECHNIQUES	AIM
Warm up	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. My name in action (10 min);</li><li>2. Holding hands (5 min);</li><li>3. Sensual ants (10 min);</li><li>4. <b><u>The vampire</u></b> (10 min).</li></ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ice breaker;</li><li>- Building group identity;</li><li>- Introduction of the themes: sexuality and sexual health.</li></ul>
Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Safe sex through drawing and writing (25 min);</li><li>2. <b><u>Making art with condoms</u></b> (25 min);</li><li>3. Group conversations about their sexual experiences (45 min).</li></ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Work about diversity and sexual health;</li><li>- Work about sexuality through a creative approach;</li><li>- Share group experiences;</li><li>- Develop thoughts about feelings and thoughts surrounding sexuality, pleasure, desire, etc.</li></ul>
Evaluation	Conversation about workshop participation (20 min).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Evaluate the relevance (or not of the work).</li></ul>

# The vampire technique (Warm up)

- The vampire technique explored the general difficulty in expressing pleasure in a collective public space (group), which was more apparent among men.  
It may be related to the politic economy of those who give and those who receive pleasure in the scene – the "scream of pleasure", generally related to woman, can be comprehended as a response to sexual performance of man, a way to claim male sexual identity.
- Although, we observed that women used the technique better than men in the group: they enjoyed the space with greater freedom to feel and express pleasure than men. It suggests that these women were acting transgressions of what is expected of them, about sexuality, in a public place.
- Particular features of this public place: the enjoyment of women (versus woman).  
*“There were people who took advantage of the game in order to moan in pleasure” (sic);*  
*“There is one who liked it, and is still biting!” (sic).*

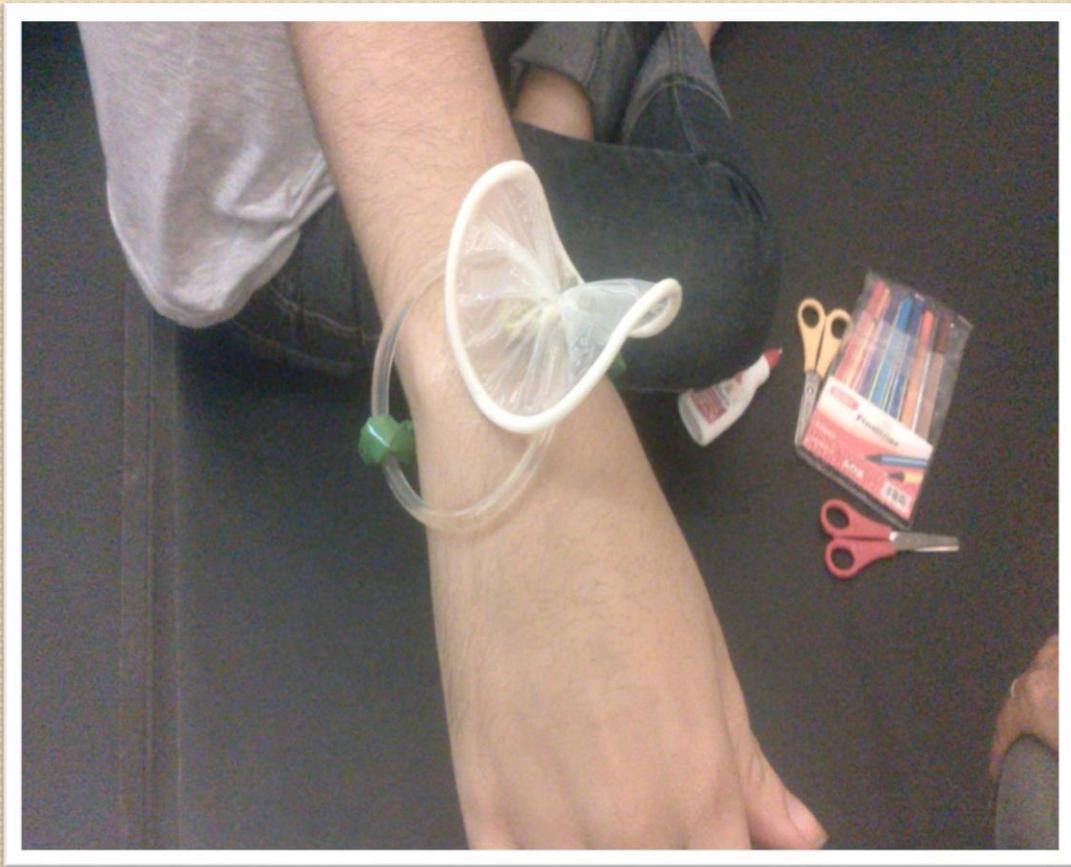


**FINAL PRODUCTION**

## **Making Art with condoms (Development)**

- Group production:

bracelets, necklaces, picture frames, lamp, Sofia (inflatable doll) and "Dress/Dressed to enjoy"



Bracelet



Earring



Fixture (decorative object)



Love gnomes (decorative object)



Sofia (luxury doll)



Dress/Dressed to enjoy

# Sofia: a luxury doll

- A woman said: "*This here is Sofia. As you can see ... she is a luxury doll. She is not for the consumption of all, she is for those moments of deepest caresses ... She makes those cold days hotter ...when you're alone ... for men, right? She is an inflatable doll, she is always with you. She is always there, smiling ...*".
- A man added: "*No headache, right?... No... PMT.*" (group laughs).
- The first participant concluded: "*And there's the best part: she doesn't need a credit card! (group laughs).... Once yours, always yours!*".



# Dress/Dressed to enjoy



- *“We devised a decorative object, right? ... We could have here and in different environments: such as the office, at home, anyway... We called this a piece of art "Dress/Dressed to enjoy" (group laughs). It is this one here, a dress with a yellow tie. We therefore wanted it to be tidy, right ... because we know ... when ... we're in the moment, when we dress/we are dressed to enjoyed, it is important that we're prepared, tidy, right, (group laughs). Well ... all shaved ... (group laughs) all prepared, right, all these tricks to make sure the moment will be pleasant. So we can... look at a person and think ... 'Hmm, it would be good, right ?!'. Dress/Dressed to be enjoyed!"*

# Dress/Dressed to enjoy



- Facilitator asked: *“What do you do if you are not dressed up to the moment”?*
- Other women, members of this group, said: *“Well I guess we find a way to disguise ourselves or turn off the light, shut our eyes, wear perfume...”* (group laughs).

# Reflections

- The social standing of women in the sex scene of a heterosexual couple: as an object (doll), available and willing to meet the demands of a man like "Sofia". She has no problems and is therefore always smiling.
- Women need to be dominated/to be "tamed" in order to "not give one a headache";
- It is important to consider how women take care of their body ("Dress to enjoy"): she has to be 'prepared for sex' by taking care with the smell, waxing and clothing, which is seen as improving personal hygiene, to promote a pleasant sexual encounter. As a result, the woman appears "attractive" enough for sex.

# Final considerations

- In this work, we intend to create an atmosphere that could encourage people to talk about sexuality. It was also important that there was an environment in which people felt comfortable and could discuss stereotypes and prejudices and in the group space (for example, gender).
- Within the group, "the voice of a teacher, single source of authority and responsible for sharing the legitimate knowledge, is replaced by several voices, or rather is replaced by a dialogue in which all are also speakers and listeners, all are able to express distinct knowledge" (Louro, 1997, p.113).
- Feminist intervention was used as a means to enhance the group; an intervention which is qualified as that of political transformation (Almeida, 2013).
- The workshop's aim was that the feminist pedagogy could place the theme of sexuality in the context of training teachers, seeking to address these issues through Eros and eroticism.

# References

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# BACKSTAGE



## Team:

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