GIRL BOSS: PRIVILEGE, POWER, & RESPONSIBILITY

BROWN BAG SERIES

•

CAROL HAY

FRIDAY, November 11th, 12:30 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.
REGISTRATION for zoom
https://bentley.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0vdOmqpjgoGtGifMr-ViRpUQ7NOHkfW8m9
Or in person – Adamian Academic Center, room 254
Please rsvp to Gail Sands, gsands@bentley.edu

At the height of the #MeToo movement, a statue of a little girl with pigtails was temporarily installed to face down the iconic charging bull on Wall Street. Feisty and unapologetic, this Fearless Girl is representative of a brand of feminism, popular in certain corporate and professional circles, that I refer to as *Girl Boss Feminism*. Girl Boss Feminists are often professionally and financially successful—they lean in at work, they capitalize on the platitudes they've heard since childhood assuring them that girls can do anything, they assume everyone else can do the same. Understanding women's empowerment as the success of individual women, not the collective betterment of all women, Girl Boss Feminism claims a victory every time a woman makes it in a man's world. Corporate women's leadership events are Girl Boss Feminism. "Girls Rule, Boys Drool" is Girl Boss Feminism. Anyone who makes money selling an uncritical fantasy of a feel-good sisterhood is likely a Girl Boss Feminist. Anyone who makes money selling a conception of female beauty that congratulates itself on its "inclusivity" or "diversity" is probably a Girl Boss Feminist. Anyone who makes money hocking self-help platitudes that celebrate women's intuition and self-empowerment is in all likelihood a Girl Boss Feminist. This feminism talks the talk of championing women's empowerment, but it does so without ruffling feathers, reassuring everyone that the status quo won't be interrupted in any significant way. Any feminism worth our time, I'll argue, needs to do more.

Professor
Department of Philosophy
University of Massachusetts Lowell

BENTLEY UNIVERSITY
Hoffman Center for Business Ethics