

How to Design Feminist Research

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Course Description: This course is designed for students who are designing research and want to integrate feminist standpoints or who wants to design research within a feminist theoretical framework. This is not a course that only focuses on techniques but also on the theoretical background of feminist research including the epistemology, critiques, and feminist perspectives. Students do not need to be familiar with the field of feminist studies to attend this course. Anyone who is interested in the field of feminist studies and who wants to do research in this field is welcome to enroll in the course. Students may have the opportunity to see examples of feminist research studies in different fields. The course is structured around seminars with researchers working on feminist methodologies.

Learning Objectives and Planned Outcomes

- Participants of this course will have an opportunity to:
 - Explore various aspects of feminisms and research including different research theories, feminist theories, feminist critiques of mainstream understanding of science and scientific research.
 - Discuss research methods within the perspective of feminist methodology
 - Engage in discussions with feminist researchers who will be invited to present research studies with feminist methodology

Course Text:

- Caroline Ramazanoglu with Janet Holland, *Feminist Methodology: Challenges and Choices* (London: SAGE Publications, 2002)
- Corrine Glesne, *Becoming Qualitative Researchers*, Pearson, 2016

Course Requirements:

- Class Participation and Class Discussion (not graded): Participation makes all learning experiences more meaningful, thus it is suggested to complete the readings.
- Each week there will be a 30 -40 minutes discussion about various feminist research studies.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	10/5	Key themes and debates in feminist epistemology and methodology	Differences between feminist approaches, from radical feminism to liberal feminism, socialist feminism etc.
2	10/12	How to design feminist research? What is evidence?	Implementing different methodologies and methods in relevant empirical and theoretical contexts.
3	10/19	Subjectivity, Reflexivity, and Positionality in Feminist Research	To provide an overview of feminist research/interpretive methods, and of key debates among feminist scholars regarding feminist research and methodology Guest Speaker: Tebessüm Yılmaz “Feminist solidarities and allyship as practices of critical self-reflexivity”
4	10/26	Critique of Science, Positivism and Feminism	Distinguish between different methods of data collection. Guest Speaker: E. Yılmaz
5	11/02	Introduction to Queer Methodology and Queer Ecologies	Binary oppositions, normativity and the neglect of intersectionalities within the mainstream LGBT movement. The aim of this course is for students to understand and evaluate queer theory and interdisciplinary queer studies in both a general and historical framework. Panel Discussion: Özge Özdemir. Feminist Critique in Literature Sevcan Tiftik- Queer Feminist Perspectives and Methods in Turkish Literature
6	11/09	Feminist Pedagogies	Guest Speaker: Gülşah Aykaç – Feminist Pedagogies in Architecture Education

7	11/16	Researcher's Positionality and Issue of Objectivity in Feminist Research	<p>Discussing current feminist debates from a philosophical perspective based on classical texts</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Emek Ergün</p> <p>"Feminist Research in Translation: Studying Border Crossings in Transnational Feminisms"</p>
8	11/30	Participatory Research and Ethics	<p>Archival Practices</p> <p>Guest Speaker:</p> <p>Ezgi Saritaş "<i>Challenges of the archive (for a non-historian) in feminist and queer research</i>"</p> <p>Leyla Bektaş: "Collecting the (her)story of an informal settlement: Memory, experience, observation"</p>
9	12/07	Feminisms in Resistance	<p>Discussing art as a form of feminist resistance</p> <p>Panel Discussion:</p> <p>Guest Speaker: - Şirin Erensoy- Documentary as a Feminist Method(ology)</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Melis Cin - Elif Dastarlı Feminist Art, Feminist Resistance</p>
10	12/14	Interviews, Ethnography, Archive Analysis, Participatory Implementation, StoryTelling	<p>Providing students with hands on experience</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Gizem Sivri</p> <p>Feminist criminology's contributions to the field and how classical criminology's theorems of female criminality have been overturned:</p> <p>Practices of women's incarceration, on the ways in which women's imprisonment is perceived</p>

Suggested readings:

- Ahmed Sara, (2000). 'Whose Counting?', *Feminist Theory*, 1, 1: 119-125.
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58ad660603596eec00ce71a3/t/58becc80f5e2314a50d19ecf/1488899200957/Whose+Counting.pdf>
- Anderson, E. (2020). Feminist Epistemology and Philosophy of Science. *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL
<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2020/entries/feminismepistemology>
- Crenshaw, K. (2013). Demarginalizing the intersection of race and sex: A black feminist critique of antidiscrimination doctrine, feminist theory and antiracist politics. In *Feminist legal theories* (pp. 23-51). Routledge.
- England, K. (1994). Getting personal: Reflexivity, Positionality and Feminist Research. *The Professional Geographer* 46(1): 80-89
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/227706307_Getting_Personal_Reflexivity_Positionality_and_Feminist_Research
- Glesne, C. (2016). Field Relations: Researcher Roles, Rapport and Reflexivity” (Chapter 5) in *Becoming Qualitative Researchers*, Pearson.
- Glesne, C. (2016) . But Is it Ethical? Considering what is “Right”” (Chapter 6) in *Becoming Qualitative Researchers*, Pearson.
- Haraway, D. (2020). Situated knowledges: The science question in feminism and the privilege of partial perspective. In *Feminist theory reader* (pp. 303-310). Routledge.
- Harding, Sandra. “Is There a Feminist Method?” *Feminism and Methodology*, *Social Science Issues*. Ed. Sandra Harding. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1987. 1-14.
<http://rzukausk.home.mruni.eu/wp-content/uploads/harding.pdf>
- Harding, S. (2013). Rethinking standpoint epistemology: What is “strong objectivity”?. In *Feminist epistemologies* (pp. 49-82). Routledge.
- Hesse-Biber, S. (2012). Feminist Approaches to Triangulation: Uncovering Subjugated Knowledge and Fostering Social Change in Mixed Methods Research. *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, 6(2), 137–146. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1558689812437184>
- Hesse-Biber, Sharlene & Leavy, P. & Yaiser, M.L.. (2004). Feminist approaches to research as a process: Reconceptualizing epistemology, methodology, and method. *Feminist Perspectives on Social Research*. 3-26.
- Mies, M. (1979). *Towards a Methodology of Women's Studies*. The Hague : Institute of Social Studies
- Ramazanoglu, C., & Holland, J. (2002). *Feminist Methodology: Challenges and Choices*. Sage Publications, London
- Wolf, D. (1993). Introduction: Feminist Dilemmas in Fieldwork. *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, 13(3), 1-8. Retrieved March 23, 2021, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3346740>