

# FEMINIST RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

Semester 2, 20 credits

*Please note that this outline is indicative as of Summer 2023 and is subject to change.*

## Convenor:

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## Who should take this module?

All taught MA students (except for year 2 GEMMA students)

Research students new to CWS often find the module helpful and should discuss with their supervisor whether to participate.

## Description and Aims:

This module is primarily designed to familiarise students with a variety of methodologies (ways of assessing and theorising research practices) within women's studies, while also introducing some key methods (tools for acquiring and analysing data). The module prepares students for their dissertation and helps develop skills for further research.

We emphasise: a) interdisciplinarity; b) culturally specific research, and the challenges of working across cultures and languages; c) situating the researching self; d) critical engagement with textual and qualitative methods; e); the identification of research topics and appropriate methodologies for a diverse range of projects.

## Learning Outcomes:

After successfully completing this course students will be able to:

- Identify salient research questions, and applicable methods and theories to respond to these questions
- Produce an appropriate ethics form, and critically reflect on ethical considerations in research
- Demonstrate reflexivity in their learning process
- Plan in outline an M-level research project
- Deal with primary and secondary material across a range of academic and popular sources, critically assessing their strengths and limitations in investigating gender issues
- Utilise traditional and digital methods of information retrieval and bibliographic resources for research purposes
- Discuss and engage with mono- multi- trans- and inter- disciplinary research methods and methodologies within feminist research
- Demonstrate an understanding of cultural and historical specificity.

### **Indicative Programme:**

- Week 1: Approaching Feminist Research
- Week 2: Reflexivity in Research
- Week 3: Conducting Interviews
- Week 4: Digital Methods and Media Sources
- Week 5: Sisterhood in Action (SiA) conference events
- Week 6: Ethics in Research: Theory and Practice
- Week 7: Critical Reading, Textual Analysis
- Week 8: Visual Analysis
- Week 9: Gender in/and Translation
- Week 10: Literature Review: choosing and working with sources
- Week 11: Assessment Prep

### **Assessment:**

All students except GEMMA students:

1. A reflexive journal (2000-2500 words)
  2. A research proposal (1500-2000 words)
- Total word count for both components (3500-4000)

GEMMA students

1. A reflexive journal (2000-2500 words)
  2. A literature review (1500-2000 words)
- Total word count for both components (3500-4000)

### **Indicative Reading:**

- Abu-Lughod, Lila. (2008). *Writing women's worlds. Bedouin stories*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Anzaldúa, Gloria. (1987). *Borderlands/La frontera: The new mestiza*. San Francisco: Spinsters/Aunt Lute.
- Bendix, Daniel, Müller, Franziska, & Ziai, Aram (Eds.). (2020). *Beyond the Master's Tools?: Decolonizing Knowledge Orders, Research Methods and Teaching*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- Booth, Wayne, Colomb, M, & Williams, Joseph M. (2008). *The Craft of Research* (3rd Edition ed.). Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.
- Buikema, Rosemarie, Griffin, Gabriele, & Lykke, Nina. (2012). *Theories and Methodologies in Postgraduate Feminist Research: Researching Differently* (Vol. 5). London, UK: Routledge.
- Denscombe, Martyn. (2003). *The Good Research Guide: For Small-scale Social Research Projects* (4th ed.). Berkshire, UK: Open University Press.
- Hesse-Biber, Sharlene Nagy. (2011). *Handbook of feminist research: Theory and praxis*. London, UK: SAGE publications.
- Letherby, Gayle. (2015). Gender-sensitive method/ologies. In D. Richardson & V. Robinson (Eds.), *Introducing Gender and Women's Studies* (pp. 76-94). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Magnusson, Eva, & Marecek, Jeanne. (2015). *Doing Interview-based Qualitative Research: A Learner's Guide*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

- Mounzer, Lina. (2016). War in translation: Giving voice to the women of Syria. *The Literary Hub*.
- Parameswaran, Radhika. (2001). Feminist media ethnography in India: Exploring power, gender, and culture in the field. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 7(1), 69-103.
- Ritchie, J., & Lewis, J. (Eds.). (2003). *Qualitative research practice: A guide for social science students and researchers*. London: Sage.
- Stacey, Judith. (1991). Can there be a feminist ethnography? In S. B. Gluck & D. Patai (Eds.), *Women's words. The feminist practice of oral history*. New York and London: Routledge.