

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Monsoon Semester (July -December 2017)

School: School of Human Sciences

Programme with title: MA Gender Studies

Semester to which offered: Semester-3

Course Title: Feminist Research Methods (FRM)

Credits: 2

Course Code (new): SHS202823

Course Code (old): SHS202823

Type of Course: Core

Course Coordinator and Team: Lovitoli Jimo

Email of course coordinator: lovitoli@aud.ac.in

Pre-requisites: Having done the course Introduction to Research Methods

Aim:

This course continues with the issues and debates from the IRM course. We will turn to feminist problematizations and elaborations of the basic research paradigms presented in the earlier course: The course will introduce students to feminist critiques of and debates about research methodologies across the spectrum of disciplines in the natural and social sciences as well as in the humanities. Beginning with criticisms regarding the exclusion of women as subjects of (and in) research, the debate has shifted to what feminist research that includes women might look like. There is a consensus that what makes research 'feminist' is not the specific research *methods* that are deployed (i.e. the techniques of gathering evidence), since these are neither new nor specific to feminist research. Rather, what distinguishes feminist scholarship are the *methodologies* (i.e. theoretical approaches to research) and *epistemologies* (theories about and approaches to knowledge) that are used.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules and Readings

Module 1: What is Feminist Research?

- Harding, Sandra. 1987. "Introduction: Is There a Feminist Method?" In S. Harding (Ed.), *Feminism and Methodology* (pp. 1-14). Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Pp. 1-14
- Reinharz, Shulamit. 1992 "Introduction." In *Feminist Methods in Social Research*. New York: OUP. Pp. 3-18.

Module 2: Feminist Critiques of Science: Who, What & Where are 'Women'?

- Martin, Emily. 1991. "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypes," *Signs*, Spring 16 (3): 485-501..
- Caroline and Filippo Osella (2006), "How to make a Man?", in *Men and masculinities in South India*. New Delhi: Anthem Press. Pp. 29-52.
- Maria Mies (1991). Women's research or Feminist Research? The debate surrounding feminist Science and methodology. In Mary Margaret Fonow and Judith A Cook (eds.), *Beyond Methodology: Feminist Scholarship as Lived Research*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Pp. 60-84.

Module 3: Method, Methodology, and Epistemology

- Harding, Sandra. 1987. "Conclusion: Epistemological Questions." in *Feminism and Methodology: Social Science Issues*, edited by Sandra Harding. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Harding, Sandra. Pp. 181-190.
- Joan Acker, Kate Barry and Johanna Esseveld. (1991). Objectivity and truth: Problems in doing feminist research. In Mary Margaret Fonow and Judith A Cook (eds.), *Beyond Methodology: Feminist Scholarship as Lived Research*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Pp. 133-153.

Module 4: What Are Feminist Methodologies? How to Do Feminist Research?

- Klien, Renate Duelli. 1983. "How To Do What We Want To Do: Thoughts about Feminist Methodology," *Theories of Women's Studies*, edited by Gloria Bowles and Renate Duelli Klein. Boston: Routledge and Kegan Paul. pp. 88-104.
- DeVault, Marjorie. 1996. "Talking Back to Sociology: Distinctive Contributions of Feminist Methodology." *Annual Review of Sociology* 22(1996):29-50.
- Bora, Papor. 2010. Between the Human, the Citizen and the Tribal: Reading Feminist Politics in India's Northeast," in *International Feminist Journal of politics*. Taylor and Francis. 12:3-4. Pp. 341-360.

Module 5: Feminist Standpoint Epistemologies

- Rege, Sharmila. 1998. "Dalit women talk differently: A critique of 'difference' and towards a Dalit feminist standpoint position." *Economic and Political Weekly*, (October 31):39–46.
- Tezenlo Thong, 'To raise the savage to a higher level': The westernization of the Nagas and their Culture', *Modern Asian Studies*, 46,4 (2012). Pp. 893-918.
- Mohanty, Chandra Talpade (2003). "Under Western Eyes: Feminist scholarship and colonial discourses," pp. 17-42, In *Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*. New Delhi: Zubaan.

Recommended

- Gopal Guru, "Dalit Women Talk Differently"
- Collins, Patricia Hill. (2004). learning from the outsider within: the sociological Significance of Black feminist thought. In Sandra Harding's (ed.), *The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader: Intellectual and Political Controversies*. New York: Routledge. Pp. 103-126.
- Hekman, Susan. 1997. "Truth and Method: Feminist Standpoint Theory Revisited." In *The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader: Intellectual and political controversies*, Ed. By Sandra Harding. London: Routledge. Pp. 225-242.

Module 6: Listening To and Hearing Women's Experiences

- Sharmila Sreekumar (2009). "Introduction," in Scripting live: Narratives of 'Dominant Women in Kerala. Orient BlackSwan Pp. 1-
- Reinharz, Shulamit (1992), *Feminist Methods in Social Research*. New York: OUP. "Feminist interview Research." Pp. 18-45, "Feminist Ethnography", pp. 46- 75, "Feminist Oral History", pp. 126-144, "Feminist Content Analysis." Pp. 145-163. "Feminist Case Studies." Pp. 164-174 (**Any two**)
- Richa Nagar, "Collaborating across borders: Moving beyond Positionality

Recommended

- Joan Scott (1992), "Experience", in Judith Butler and Joan W. Scott (Eds.) *Feminists Theorize the Political*, New York: Routledge. Pp. 22-40.

Suggested Readings:

- Haraway, Donna. 1988. "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective." *Feminist Studies* 14(3):575-600.
- Minnich, Elizabeth Kamarck. 1990. "Partial Knowledge,' in *Transforming Knowledge*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press: 147-176.
- Harding, Sandra. 1993. "Rethinking Standpoint Epistemology: What is "Strong Objectivity?" in *Feminist Epistemologies*, edited by Linda Alcoff and Elizabeth Potter. New York: Routledge, pp. 49-82.

- Gloria Bowles, Renate Duelli Klein and Taly Rutenberg (1983). Selected annotated bibliography of articles on theories of women's studies. In Gloria Bowles and Renate Duelli Klein (eds.), *Theories of Women's Studies*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul. Pp. 229-268.
- Donna Haraway (2004). *Situated Knowledges: The science question in Feminism and the privilege of partial perspective*. In Sandra Harding's (ed.), *The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader: Intellectual and Political Controversies*. New York: Routledge. Pp. 81-102.
- Nancy C.M. Hartsock (2004). *The feminist Standpoint: developing the ground for a specifically Feminist Historical materialism*. . In Sandra Harding's (ed.), *The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader: Intellectual and Political Controversies*. New York: Routledge. Pp. 35-54.
- Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 1996. "How to Build a Man" pp. 127-135 in *Constructing Masculinity*, edited by Maurice Berger, Brian Wallace and Simon Watson, London and New York: Routledge Press.
- Alison M. Jaggar (2004). *Feminist Politics and Epistemology: The standpoint of women*. In Sandra Harding's (ed.), *The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader: Intellectual and Political Controversies*. New York: Routledge. Pp. 55-66.
- Mohanty, Chandra Talpade (2003). "Under western Eyes Revisited: feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist struggle," pp. 221-252, In *Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*. New Delhi: Zubaan.
- Judith Butler, "Contingent Foundations" *
- Judith Stacy, "Can there be a feminist Ethnography?"
- Kamala Visweswaran, "Histories of feminist Ethnography".

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

S.No	Weightage	Date/period in which Assessment will take place	Assessment
1	40%	5-October-2017	Assesment 1
2	40%	5-November-2017	Assesment 2
3	20%	6-November-2017	Assesment 3