gsws 399-4: gender, sex and numbers

quantitative

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Office hours: TBD
Lecture: Fridays, 9:30-13:20;

Course Description:
In an era when “Big Data” rules, a critical engagement with the production, collection, and analysis of data (of all kinds) is ever important. This course examines the how and why of quantitative data from a feminist perspective. Students will be introduced to quantitative measurements and their uses, especially within social justice movements and policy circles. With an emphasis on feminist empiricist and critical quantitative methods like stats-n-action, students will make use of basic statistical concepts and methods and conduct basic census and survey data analysis. Through an exploration of topics like smart cities, economic justice, population change, and tools used to address urban liveability (safety, housing, transit), students will learn to interpret and evaluate quantitative data.

Students will become conversant in a feminist analysis of quantitative datasets and measurement. Students will understand how to use and explain basic statistical concepts and methods. Students will interrogate the benefits and limits of disaggregated data through census and survey data analysis activities. Students will use an intersectional feminist lens to interpret and analyze the role that quantitative data plays – or can play – in transformative justice.

Educational Goals:
- I Display disciplinary knowledge of core concepts of gender and sexuality.

For more detailed information please see the GSWS website: http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html

Course Texts and Courseware:
- Various content (journal articles, memoirs, podcasts, etc.) available online and/or via SFU library databases.
- Exercises handed out in class.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
1. Attendance, participation, in-class exercises (25%)
2. Datawalk activity and analysis (20%)
3. Analytical papers (20%)
4. Data analysis project (35%)

Prerequisite: 30 units

The Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies encourages clarity of thought and expression and good writing. Students will be evaluated on these skills in all courses given by the Department. In addition, the Department will follow Policy T10.02 with respect to “Intellectual Honesty,” and “Academic Discipline” (www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching)