GSWS 800-5: METHODOLOGY

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Office hours: TBA
Lecture: Fridays 10:30 - 15:20; SWH 10075

Course Description:
This course is an exploration into the theories, purpose, scope, and strategies for feminist research methods. It is an interdisciplinary seminar with a substantive focus on feminist research in the social sciences.

We will begin by addressing the distinction between methodology and method, and our focus over the semester will often return to questions of knowledge production: what forms of knowledge are perceived to be valid and valuable? Whose voices “count”? And how can we shift unequal power relations by incorporating the knowledge and experience from those who have been historically marginalized?

We will read about and evaluate research design, examining the use of quantitative, qualitative, and historical methods. We will discuss how these methods are employed in different research contexts, by focusing on the methodological and ethical considerations that emerge from the research question. Students will gain hands-on experience conducting interviews and exploring oral history methodologies, from project conception to research output. Students will also read and evaluate graduate-level research methodologies.

The goal of this course is to engage students in an examination of, and conversation about, feminist research methods. Students will gain hands-on experience in designing research methodology and practicing participatory methods.

Educational Goals:
I Demonstrate Advanced knowledge of core concepts and theories.
II Develop transferable professional skills.
For more detailed information please see the GSWS website: http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html

Course Texts and Courseware:
Richa Nagar, 2014, Muddying the Waters, University of Illinois Press.
Readings will be available on Canvas and/or accessed through the SFU Library.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance and participation (25%).
Summary, evaluation, and presentation of academic texts (25%).
Research methodology: application and analysis (50%).