GSWS 800-5: METHODOLOGY, OR TOOLKITS FOR FEMINIST RESEARCH

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Office hours: TBA
Seminar: Fridays 10:30 – 15:20; AQ 5027

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 from project conception to research output. Applications include: examining census data, analyzing public space, conducting interviews, and interpreting and representing findings. 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:
For more detailed information please see the GSWS website: http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/courses/Educational_Goals.html

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

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